



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 5th February 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: J Caston (Chair)
S Wright
P Jousiffe
S Barrell

In Attendance Clerk – Mrs J Blackburn
County Cllr K Oakes
District Cllr A Marriott
One Member of the Public

SPC196/24/25 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Hallett, Cllr Rook and Cllr Hodson.

SPC197/24/25 – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Following the resignation from Cllr Hallett as Chair, Cllr Wright proposed that Cllr Rook be appointed as Chair and Cllr Jousiffe seconded. All Agreed.

SPC198/24/25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC199/24/25 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC200/24/25 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2025

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC201/24/25 - PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public was present, Ann Williams.

She spoke in relation to past and future flooding of the village and in particular around her home. She explained that she had sent out letters to various authorities asking for help and future management of possible flooding and reported that she had received several responses.

It was confirmed that any future management would be down to Suffolk County Council and asked that she be informed of any information received moving forward.

Cllr Oakes reported that a Section 19 report was due to be put together in May, the findings of which would be sent to her. She explained that the report would be from the Flood and Resilience team and would be officer based. She confirmed she would share the report as soon as it had been received.

Ann explained further that the pipe from the culvert stretched in a straight line under the village towards the Channel, following the ditch line (28 metres in length), which needed to be taken into consideration.

On a different note, Ann reported that she and her husband had many photographs of the village over the years, which could be used for the Somersham Book if they were needed. **Clerk to inform Emma Lister.**

SPC202/24/25 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Oakes’ report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

She had nothing further to report.

SPC203/24/25 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Marriott’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

She had nothing further to report.

SPC204/24/25 - CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported that an email had been received in relation to a new Mother and Baby Group being set up in the village of which the lead person had asked for a financial contribution.

Following a brief discussion members asked the Clerk to ascertain how much hiring the hall would be for the Group. On the receipt of that information then a decision could be made.

It was AGREED: That this item be put onto the next Agenda for decision. **Clerk to action.**

b) TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting the Council’s current financial position and the balance in the accounts as of 30th January 2025 was £79,725.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (Jan)	£324.73
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Jan)	£37.10
Great Bricett PC	Contribution to Ink Cartridge (Clerk’s Printer)	£27.15
S&DCA	Professional Services (Pavilion Project)	£420.00
Suffolk Tennis Courts (K J Thorpe Ltd)	Tennis Court Refurb (Deposit - 40%)	£3,648.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Feb)	7.20
Suffolk Cloud	Website Hosting	120.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £4,584.18 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

No receipts had been received.

d) BANK RECONCILIATION

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

e) **DONATION TO THE LINK**

Members discussed the information on the accounts of The Link, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members were keen to support The Link as it was a vital part of the village and the community and agreed to a donation.

SPC205/24/25 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC206/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

SPC207/24/25 – FLOOD MANAGEMENT

This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

SPC208/24/25 - VILLAGE SIGN

Cllr Caston reported that he had tried to lift the sign from its post, in order to refurbish it, but had been unsuccessful. He explained that it would have to be approached differently, possibly using scaffolding.

Members agreed to leave the sign until the drier and warmer weather.

SPC209/24/25 - PLAYING FIELD WORKS - BOUNDARY

There was nothing to report.

SPC210/24/25 – SOMERSHAM BOOK

There was nothing to report.

SPC211/24/25 - REFURBISHMENT OF PAVILION

There was nothing to report.

SPC212/24/25 – NOTICEBOARD

There was nothing to report.

SPC213/24/25 – NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

November 2024:

Somersham – 1 violence

Offton – 1 possession of weapons, 3 criminal damage and 1 anti-social behaviour

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – 1 violence

Mid Suffolk South & West Area – 67 crimes = 26 violence, 12 criminal damage, 6 Anti-social behaviour, 6 thefts and 4 shoplifting.

SPC214/24/25 – OTHER ATTENDED MEETINGS

Cllr Jousiffe reported that he had attended a Tennis Club meeting where a small committee had been formed, led by John Hutchinson, in relation to the refurbishment of the courts.

SPC215/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- VE Day Celebrations – 8th May 2025

SPC216/24/25 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting of the Parish Council Meeting, would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 5th March 2025**.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm.

Chairman: Dated: