



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 5th June 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: T Hallatt (Chair)
J Rook
S Wright
R Hodson

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
County Cllr K Oakes

SPC49/24/25 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Caston, Cllr Barrell, Cllr Jousiffe and District Cllr Marriott.

SPC50/24/25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC51/24/25 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC52/24/25 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st MAY 2024

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 1st May 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC53/24/25 - PUBLIC FORUM

Two members of the public were present and raised the following points:

- Proposed Pylons – would be added to the next Agenda
- A resident who used to live in the village had won a prize at the Chelsea Flower Show
- Verges in the village had been mowed when should not have been – Cllr Oakes will look into this

SPC54/24/25 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

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

Cllr Oakes reported that the County Council had submitted a letter which stated their strong objection to the proposed Pylon project asking for off shore or underground options to be looked at. She explained that the National Grid had wanted the project in place by 2030 but it was felt that the more likely date would be 2034. It had been confirmed that by 2034 the cost of the pylons would equal that to the underground option so National Grid’s explanation that pylons were less expensive that would then not be the case.

SPC55/24/25 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Marriott was not present at the meeting. Her report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

SPC56/24/25 – 25TH ANNIVERSARY ‘THE STORY OF SOMERSHAM’ BOOK

Emma Lister was present at the meeting and explained that next year would be the 25th Anniversary of the ‘Story of Somersham Book’ and it had been thought that it would be nice to put together another book to mark the occasion. Ideas such as interviewing the people who had commented in the previous book and providing updates had been discussed.

The initial step would be to set up a Working Group and decide who would co-ordinate the various contents of the book.

A brief discussion took place around whether the younger generations would prefer information online and how popular a physical book would be.

Funding was also discussed with the County Councillor stating that she would be happy to contribute.

The Parish Council were all in favour of the concept and would welcome more information at future meetings.

SPC57/24/25 - CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was on the Agenda.

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 5th June 2024 was £82,403.97.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (May)	£314.10
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (May)	£32.30
Tennis Club	Annual donation	£1,000.00
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting (PF / CY / FP)	£440.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,786.40 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

SPC58/24/25 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC59/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

SPC60/24/25 - REFURBISHMENT OF PAVILION

It was AGREED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

SPC61/24/25 – NOTICEBOARD – COMMUNITY SHOP

There was nothing to report.

SPC62/24/25 – EMERGENCY PLAN

There was nothing to report.

SPC63/24/25 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

March 2024:

Somersham – 1 public order

Offton – No reported crimes

Willisham – 1 violence

Flowton – No reported crimes

Mid Suffolk South & West Area (Claydon and Copdock area) – 72 crimes = 40 violence, 6 Public Order, 14 Anti-social behaviour and 6 thefts.

The annual crime figures were received and would be published on the website.

SPC64/24/25 – OTHER ATTENDED MEETINGS

None had been attended.

SPC65/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

No matters were raised.

SPC66/24/25 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting, the Annual Parish Council Meeting, would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 3rd July 2024**.

The meeting finished at 8.29pm.

Chairman: Dated: