



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 8th January 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: T Hallett (Chair)
J Caston
S Wright
P Jousiffe
S Barrell
R Hodson-Gibbons

In Attendance Clerk – Mrs J Blackburn
District Cllr A Marriott

SPC176/24/25 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Rook and County Cllr Oakes.

SPC177/24/25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC178/24/25 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC179/24/25 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER 2024

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC180/24/25 - PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public was present, a resident. She wished to share her concerns in relation to possible flooding adjacent her property due to high water in the ditch.

The resident had been in touch with the Parish Council and had attended a meeting a year ago following the flooding of her property in the extreme storms that had taken place.

She explained that a year on the same problems had occurred with the water levels of the ditch and reaching dangerous levels. Whilst no part of the ditch was her responsibility, herself and her husband often cleared debris from the ditch in order to try to alleviate the issues and stop flooding occurring once more. She confirmed that some residents in neighbouring properties were elderly and so they were not able to clear their part of the ditch.

The resident reported that she had tried many times to speak with other residents in order to form a plan, to work together, to stop the issues, but unfortunately these had been unsuccessful with little interest. She therefore asked the Parish Council if they would be able to adopt the ditch in order to help maintain it.

A general discussion took place and whilst Members expressed their sympathy for the situation, they stated that they would not be able to become involved with the ditch as the risks would be too great for

a small Parish Council. The best way forward would be to approach the County Councillor in order to ask for a Drainage Engineer to have a look at the ditch and also the pipe within the ditch to see what options would be best moving forward.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Clerk liaise with the County Councillor.

SPC181/24/25 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

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

SPC182/24/25 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

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

She briefly went through the main points from her report as follows:

- Amber Cold Weather Alert
- Devolution
- The role of District, Town and Parish Councils
- New Government Housing Targets
- Mid Suffolk’s Joint Local Plan
- Changes to Fast Track Planning Approval Process
- New Council Powers to Increase Housebuilding and Infrastructure
- Funding to Prevent Homelessness and Help Rough Sleepers off the Streets
- Reminder – Reforms to the Right to Buy Consultation
- New Business Growth Service Announced
- Consultation: Reforms to The Bathing Water Regulations 2013 – Closes Soon
- Public Health Updates – Flu / Covid

SPC183/24/25 - CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported that an email from a resident had been received and circulated about anti-social behavior from youths in the village. An update from the resident stated that the Police had become involved.

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 6th January 2025 was £80,519.43.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Dec)	£324.73
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Dec)	£32.30
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Jan	£108.40
S&DCA	Professional Services (Pavilion Project)	£288.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Jan)	£6.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £759.43 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

No receipts had been received.

d) **FINAL BUDGET FOR 2025/26**

It was AGREED: That the Final Budget for 2025/26 be approved.

e) **PRECEPT FOR 2025/26**

It was AGREED: That the Precept of £18,422 for 2025/26 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

f) **DONATION TO THE LINK**

Members discussed the information received in relation to costs for The Link. They stated that income information would be useful. **Clerk to action.**

SPC184/24/25 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC185/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

SPC186/24/25 – VILLAGE SIGN

Members agreed that the village sign needed some refurbishment.

Cllr Caston reported that he had found someone who would be able to bead blast the sign for £100. Once cleaned arrangements could be made for it to be repainted.

He confirmed that he would be able to take the sign down in order for the works to be carried out.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Caston accept the quote of £100.

SPC187/24/25 - PLAYING FIELD WORKS - BOUNDARY

Cllr Caston reported that some cutting back had been carried out but due to a burglary works had come to a halt, but would resume as soon as possible.

SPC188/24/25 – SOMERSHAM BOOK

There was nothing to report.

SPC189/24/25 - REFURBISHMENT OF PAVILION

There was nothing to report.

SPC190/24/25 – NOTICEBOARD

It was noted that the Community Shop members were not in agreement for a noticeboard to be fixed to the outside wall of the shop, therefore plans for a stand-alone noticeboard should be pursued.

SPC191/24/25 – EMERGENCY PLAN

It was noted that Cllr Hallett had carried out a lot of initial work with the Emergency Plan.

A general discussion took place where it was stated that the plan was becoming too involved with risk assessments and training needing to take place, which was not what was first proposed.

It was felt that all that was needed was a list of residents in the village who had the required skills for any emergency that could happen, who could be called upon to help.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Clerk and Cllrs keep a list of residents who had skills that could be called upon if needed.

That work on the Emergency Plan should not be continued.

SPC192/24/25 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

A report had not been received.

SPC193/24/25 – OTHER ATTENDED MEETINGS

No meetings had been attended.

SPC194/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Barriers opposite the village hall, on the roadside, had been smashed – report.

SPC195/24/25 - 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 February 2025**.

The meeting finished at 9.01pm.

Chairman: Dated: