



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Parish Council meeting** held at the Village Hall, Somersham on **Wednesday, 1st July 2026 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

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

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk

SPC63/26/27 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

No apologies from Parish Cllrs had been received.
Apologies had been received from District Cllr Marriott.

SPC64/26/27 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wright declared an interest in item 10 on the Agenda.

SPC65/26/27 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC66/26/27 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD JUNE 2026

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair.

SPC67/26/27 - PUBLIC FORUM

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

- Wheelie Fun Day –

Members were reminded that it was the Wheelie Fun Day at the weekend, which was a huge event for not only the village but for the area.

- Ditch – Springfield Road

A resident from Springfield Road was present and again reported on the issues with the ditch / culvert at the rear of her property. She had sent an email to the Parish Council prior to the meeting which explained that she had asked a builder for an estimate on the repair of the damaged headwall in the culvert behind Springfield road, but unfortunately the builder would not quote for the works as the land was not the resident's.

As mentioned at a previous Parish Council meeting ownership of the land needed to be confirmed and the best way would be for the archives to be visited and to look back at historical documents which would include Parish Council minutes.

The resident explained that the grill on the pipe was believed to be installed between 1986 and 1992.

It was noted that the previous County Cllr, Kay Oakes, had agreed to look into the archives but due to her losing her seat in the recent elections that would not now happen.

The Clerk stated that anyone could request to view archived documents, which would be housed at The Hold in Ipswich. Cllr Barrell explained the process to the resident on how to order and view the documents.

SPC68/26/27 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

The County Councillor was not present and a report had not been received.

SPC69/26/27 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

The District Councillor was not present. Her report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

SPC70/26/27 – CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Tom Hitchcock who had explained that he and his wife, last year, had started up the U12 football team in the village and this year had started up an U9 team in the Sunday league. The new team was mainly made up of children from the village and as it was a younger age group different sized goals had to be purchased for the team, as the U13s goals were too big, which would last them for 3 seasons (u9,u10,u11).

He explained that the cost was £267.81 and requested whether the Parish Council would pay for the goals from the CIL money available.

It was AGREED That the Parish Council pay for the goals at the cost of £267.81. **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 25th June 2026 was £77,530.11.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (June)	£308.15
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Jun)	£33.70
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th July	£231.20
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	£530.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,103.05 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

SPC71/26/27 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS - DC/26/01972 - Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following approval of Outline ((Hybrid) Planning Application DC/22/06288 dated 09/05/2024 Town and Country Planning (Development Planning Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) details to be considered for Appearance Scale and Layout for proposed construction of 15 small warehouse units on Phase 2/Plot15. This reserved matters submission provides the layout and elevations for warehouse Units 15 to 30 on Phase 2/Plot 15. The design adopts the architectural language and

material palette of Port One, with layout, scale and appearance following the principles established by, and being entirely consistent with, the outline part of the hybrid permission. The proposals extend Port One in a visually coherent and cohesive manner - Port One Business and Logistics Park, Bramford Road, Little Blakenham

Cllr Wright explained that the application was due to the amended size of the buildings, but felt that the development as a whole was too large for the area in which it was situated.

Members agreed to object to the application and stated that their objection should be worded as 'previous objection still stood despite revision of plans'.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council objected to the application. **Clerk to action.**

SPC72/26/27 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None.

SPC73/26/27 – PLANNING COMMENTS TO BE RATIFIED

None.

SPC74/26/27 – DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH

Cllr Wright reported that the Duke of Marlborough staff were in the process of seeking quotes from Cadent to lay gas main pipes to the pub.

The quotes would be for two supplies with one being domestic and then one downstairs for the pub. Two new boilers would be fitted.

Cllr Wright stated that the Parish Council may be approached for a contribution towards the cost.

Members asked about other options such as a tank or solar. Cllr Caston commented on what the kW would be for gas and then oil and wondered whether savings would be made. If they were then he would be in favour.

Cllr Wright confirmed that all options were being considered and looked into.

SPC75/26/27 – PAVILION PROJECT

There was nothing to report.

SPC76/26/27 - FLOODING

There was nothing to report.

SPC77/26/27 – SOMERSHAM 25TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

It was noted that progress continued to be made with many people becoming involved.

SPC78/25/26 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

April 2026:

Somersham – 2 anti-social behaviour
Offton – No reported crimes

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – 1 burglary

Mid Suffolk South & West Area – 76 crimes = the four most noted crimes being - 35 violence, 11 anti-social behaviour, 6 thefts and 6 criminal damage.

SPC79/26/27 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

None had been attended.

SPC80/26/27 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Battery may soon need to be replaced for Speed Indicator Device
- Cherry Tree in front of Village Hall had 'disappeared' – a memorial tree
- WhatsApp Village Community Group chat

SPC81/26/27 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 2nd September 2026.**

The meeting finished at 8.29pm.

Chairman: Dated: