



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Parish Council meeting** held at the Village Hall, Somersham on **Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: J Rook (Chair)
S Wright
S Barrell

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
District Cllr A Marriot

SPC45/26/27 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received from Cllr Jousiffe and Cllr Caston, which were approved.

SPC46/26/27 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC47/26/27 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC48/26/27 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th MAY 2026

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair.

SPC49/26/27 - PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public was present. She raised the following matters:

- Confirmation had been received from the Manager of the Community Shop, Becky Jones, that the picnic benches had been ordered and were due for delivery the week before Wheelie Fun Day.
- Many residents had complained about the current state of the railings along the Channel.

Cllr Rook explained that the Parish Council had investigated the re-painting of the railings but to no avail as they were not the property, or responsibility, of the Parish Council which made carrying out any works difficult.

SPC50/26/27 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Newly elected Cllr Gary Keogh was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

SPC51/26/27 – 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 her report and highlighted the following points:

- Local Government Reorganisation

- New Recycling Collections in Suffolk
- Gateway 14
- Stowmarket Armed Forces Day Celebrations – 27th June 2026
- Mid Suffolk Youth Council
- Tye Lane Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund
- Pride in Your Place
- Council Procurement Processes
- Bramford Solar Farm: Verdant Energy
- Domestic abusers to be evicted under new housing law
- Reminder: Pet owners urged to take care when using flea and tick treatments to help protect our waterways

SPC52/26/27 – 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 26th May 2026 was £78,092.43.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (May)	£308.35
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (May)	£32.75
Somersham Village Hall	Mother & Baby - Hall Hire	£48.00
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	£360.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £749.10 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) BANK RECONCILIATION

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

SPC53/26/27 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC54/26/27 – PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted:

Ref: DC/26/00928 - Householder Application - Erection of an extension to the front elevation on the first floor - 7 Princes Gardens, Somersham - **Granted**

SPC55/26/27 – PLANNING COMMENTS TO BE RATIFIED

None.

SPC56/26/27 – PAVILION PROJECT

There was nothing to report.

SPC57/26/27 - FLOODING

Cllr Rook reported that he had spoken with the resident on Springfield Road who updated him on the repair work for the culvert.

She stated that she had received quotes and was due to have builders to her property later in the week.

He explained that the County Council Highways Department had confirmed they would pay for the works if it could be evidenced that they had paid for the original culvert installation in the past. Minutes in the archives would be searched in order to locate the evidence required.

SPC58/26/27 – SOMERSHAM 25TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

It was noted that the Somersham Book continued to take shape, with more volunteers offering to help. A formal sub-committee had been set up as part of the Community Association.

SPC59/25/26 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

No report had been received.

Cllr Rook reported that gravel had been stolen from outside the Duke of Marlborough Pub.

SPC60/26/27 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

No meetings had been attended.

SPC61/26/27 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Additional members of the Parish Council were needed – Cllr Rook would speak to residents
- Confirmation that a Welcome Pack had been produced for new residents that had moved into the village

SPC62/26/27 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 1st July 2026.**

The meeting finished at 7.55pm.

Chairman: Dated: