



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Councillors: J Rook (Chair)
T Hallett
P Jousiffe
S Barrell

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

SPC217/24/25 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Wright and Cllr Caston.

Cllr Hodson had resigned from the Parish Council prior to the meeting.

SPC218/24/25 – APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Jousiffe proposed that Cllr Caston be appointed as Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Cllr Barrell –
ALL AGREED

SPC219/24/25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC220/24/25 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC221/24/25 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2025

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC222/24/25 - PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public was present, Emma Lister.

She reported that any VE day celebrations could be published on a national map which would give more publicity of any events. She explained that many ideas had been discussed around the village with particular residents organising events.

Cllr Rook stated that he would make contact with those residents to commence talks between interested parties.

Emma also reported that the Somersham Book plans continued.

SPC223/24/25 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

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

Cllr Jousiffe asked Cllr Oakes what the feeling was for Devolution, to which she explained that the Conservatives were in support of it although they were not supportive of the cancellation of elections this year.

SPC224/24/25 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

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

She briefly went through the main topics of her report, which included Devolution.

SPC225/24/25 - 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 26th February 2025 was £74,840.72.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The following payments were to be authorised:-

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Jennie Blackburn | Clerk’s Pay (Feb) | £324.73 |
| Jennie Blackburn | Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Feb) | £32.30 |
| CFB IT Solutions | Mailbox Hosting (Mar) | £7.20 |
| Tom Hitchcock | Grass Cutting (Playing Field) | £60.00 |

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £424.23 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

No receipts had been received.

d) BUDGET MONITORING

It was AGREED: That the Budget Monitoring Report be approved.

e) DONATION TO MOTHER & BABY GROUP

The Clerk reported that the lady running the group had the hall for three hours at £8 per hour.

Cllr Jousiffe reported that the Land Trust, of which he was a Trustee, had agreed to cover the first month’s costs for hall hire.

Cllr Hallett confirmed that the lady asked group members to make a donation at each meeting.

Whilst members were in support of the group, it was felt that they should not be donating if the lady was profiting at all from donations made.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk liaise with the group organiser as to her income and outgoings before a final decision could be made. **Clerk to action.**

f) APPOINT THE INTERNAL AUDITOR – 2024/25

It was AGREED: That Trevor Brown CPFA be appointed as Internal Auditor for 2024/25

g) EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024/25

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council would be subject to an External Audit for 2024/25 as their expenditure for the year had exceeded £25,000.

SPC226/24/25 – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

a) INTERNAL AUDIT CONTROL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

It was AGREED: That the Internal Audit Control and Risk Management Arrangements be approved.

b) STANDING ORDERS

It was AGREED: That the Standing Orders be approved.

c) PUBLICATION SCHEME

It was AGREED: That the Publication Scheme be approved.

d) DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY

It was AGREED: That the Document Retention Policy be approved.

e) DATA PROTECTION POLICY

It was AGREED: That the Data Protection Policy be approved.

SPC227/24/25 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC228/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

SPC229/24/25 – V E DAY CELEBRATIONS

This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting under Public Forum.

SPC230/24/25 - VILLAGE SIGN

There was nothing to report.

SPC231/24/25 - PLAYING FIELD WORKS - BOUNDARY

There was nothing to report.

SPC232/24/25 – SOMERSHAM BOOK

This had been mentioned earlier in the meeting under Public Forum.

SPC233/24/25 - REFURBISHMENT OF PAVILION

Emma Lister explained that updated drawings from the Architects were being awaited upon. She added that Somersham 1st Team were currently top of the division and were doing very well.

SPC234/24/25 – NOTICEBOARD

There was nothing to report.

SPC235/24/25 – NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

December 2024:

Somersham – 1 violence, 1 criminal damage

Offton – 2 burglary

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – No reported crimes

Mid Suffolk South & West Area – 75 crimes = 31 violence, 20 criminal damage, 6 Anti-social behaviour and 6 thefts.

SPC236/24/25 – OTHER ATTENDED MEETINGS

Cllr Rook reported that he had attended the 'Devolution' meeting online of which the recording would be shared with all Clerks in due course.

Cllr Hallett reported that he had attended the Community Association meeting earlier in the week.

SPC237/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Sally, a former resident of Somersham from 1964 until 2007 had passed away recently aged 101. She had been a member of the Parish Council in the past. Her funeral was due to be held on Friday, 7th March 2025
- Heroes of the village – page in website

Cllr Rook wished to thank Cllr Thomas Hallett for his time as Chair of the Parish Council. He had worked very hard on behalf of the Parish Council and for the community and therefore thanked him for all his efforts and support.

SPC238/24/25 - 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, 2nd April 2025**.

The meeting finished at 8.33pm.

Chairman: Dated: