



## **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on  
**Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

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

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

### **SPC01/25/26 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS**

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Barrell.

### **SPC02/25/26 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **SPC03/25/26 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **SPC04/25/26 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

**It was AGREED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **SPC05/25/26 - PUBLIC FORUM**

One member of the public was present, but had no issues to raise at this point.

### **SPC06/25/26 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

She had nothing further to report.

Cllr Jousiffe asked about the Tilbury to Bramford Pylons and whether the route had been confirmed, to which Cllr Oakes stated that the route was not yet definitive.

### **SPC07/25/26 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

### **SPC08/25/26 - CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the bank account for the Land Trust was due to be changed by Lloyds from a Treasurers Account to a Business Account. A bank charge would be made monthly of £4.75.

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 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 was £74,658.20.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Mar)	£324.73
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Mar)	£32.30
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Apr)	£7.20
HMRC	PAYE to end 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	£92.40
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting (Playing Field / Churchyard)	£380.00
SALC	Payroll Service for 6 months	£54.00
SALC	Membership Renewal	£365.40

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £1,256.03 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

No receipts had been received.

d) **DONATION TO MOTHER & BABY GROUP**

The Clerk reported that she had received figures of income and expenditure from the lady who ran the Mother & Baby Group, which she had shared with members.

Members stated that whilst they wished to support the group they could not contribute towards costs if any profit was being made and further confirmation and more in depth figures might be helpful.

Cllr Wright reported that the group only consisted of Somersham Mums. He stated that he had asked for a spreadsheet with all costs on.

Cllr Jousiffe confirmed that the Land Trust had paid for the first month of hall hire for the group.

Members felt that paying for the hall hire would be the best way forward, term by term.

Cllr Caston proposed that the Parish Council pay for the hall hire for the Summer Term with Cllr Jousiffe seconded – **All AGREED.**

**It was AGREED:** That the Clerk liaise with the Village Hall and ask for invoices to be sent to her for the hall hire.

f) **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – MINOR CHANGES**

The Clerk reported that section 5 – Procurement, had been slightly amended in 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11

**It was AGREED:** That the Financial Regulations be approved.

**SPC09/25/26 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None had been received.

**SPC10/25/26 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

None had been received.

### **SPC11/25/26 – V E DAY CELEBRATIONS**

It was noted that the church bells would be ring at 6.30pm on the evening of VE Day. Also, a quiz and lunch had been suggested.

### **SPC12/25/26 – VILLAGE SIGN**

Cllr Rook reported that he had approached three companies in relation to a quote for the refurbishment of the village sign. One company, 'Sign of the Times' had quoted £390 which included collection, sandblasting, priming and re-painting of the sign and delivering it back to the village.

**It was AGREED:** That Cllr Rook accept the quote and confirm carriage costs.

### **SPC13/25/26 – PLAYING FIELD WORKS - BOUNDARY**

Cllr Caston reported that he had been in touch with Community Payback, who could help with these works and he would liaise with them further.

### **SPC14/25/26 – SOMERSHAM BOOK**

Emma Lister reported that there was nothing to report other than a meeting was due to take place in April to move the project forward.

### **SPC15/25/26 - REFURBISHMENT OF PAVILION**

An update had been received from Terry Fordham on the project. Emma Lister reported that a meeting was due to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> April in order to move the project forward. Funding had been considered from The National Lottery and CiL at the District Council.

### **SPC16/25/26 – NOTICEBOARD**

Cllr Rook reported that he had spoken again with the Community Shop, who had confirmed they did not wish to have a wall mounted noticeboard on the side of the shop.

Emma Lister had circulated options to the Parish Council prior to be meeting.

Cllr Rook stated that he would look into other options/locations and would report back to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

### **SPC17/25/26 – NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

The following information had been received:

#### **January 2025:**

**Somersham** – 1 violence, 1 burglary, 1 drugs

**Offton** – 1 theft

**Willisham** – No reported crimes

**Flowton** – No reported crimes

**Mid Suffolk South & West Area** – 80 crimes = 41 violence, 6 criminal damage, 8 Anti-social behaviour and 7 drugs.

### **SPC18/25/26 – OTHER ATTENDED MEETINGS**

None had been attended.

**SPC19/25/26 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- Clerk's Appraisal due.

**SPC20/25/26 - 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, 7<sup>TH</sup> May 2025 at 7pm** (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting).

The meeting finished at 8.28pm

Chairman: ..... Dated: .....