

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

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REMOTE (online) MEETING

PRESENT WERE:

Cllr J Blundell
Cllr S Criswell
Cllr C Dolby
Cllr T Hulme
Cllr D Potter
Cllr T Sansom

Cllr D Skeggs
Cllr D Smith
Cllr R Sutton (In the Chair)
Cllr C White
Cllr G Wooster

Mrs P Bryant, Parish Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: There were no members of the public present.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from.
Cllr R Woolway – work commitment/lambing

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

3. **PUBLIC FORUM**

It was proposed by Cllr Wooster, seconded by Cllr Criswell and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to close the meeting for a period of time to allow members of the public to participate in an open forum. The meeting closed at 19:32 and was reconvened as there were no members of the public present.

4. **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) **PLANNING APPLICATION**

20/02407/FUL Parkhall Nurseries and Garden Centre, Parkhall Road, Somersham PE28 3HW
Construction of a horticultural storage building

It was proposed by Cllr Sansom, seconded by Cllr Wooster and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to recommend no objection. The proposal is in keeping with the business and will not affect neighbouring properties.

b) **PLANNING APPROVED**

20/02174/HHFUL 24, Bishops Road, Somersham PE28 3HP
Single storey side and rear extensions. Changing front roof from flat to pitched. Cladding of existing front projection.

20/01903/HHFUL 33, The Paddock, Somersham PE28 3JU
To erect a white PVCu framed conservatory to the rear of the property

20/02070/HHFUL 34, Grange Road, Somersham PE28 3JX
First floor side extension over the existing double garage

c) **PLANNING CONSULTATION**

Sunnica Energy Farm: Statutory consultation. Response due by 29 January 2021

It was proposed by Cllr Wooster, seconded by Cllr Potter and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to approve. Cllrs agree is a good use of the sun's rays and land for grazing sheep.

d) PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

HDC Planning Department – email from Laura Pearson in response to the Parish Council’s complaint on an officer delegated decision for 20/01092/FUL Beeches Stables, Parkhall Road.

The Chairman commented, he felt the only thing left to do is go to the ombudsman.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2020

Cllr Sansom asked for his surname spelling to be corrected on the list of attendees.

With the amendment, the Minutes were proposed by Cllr Potter, seconded by Cllr Sansom and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be a true record of events. The Minutes will be signed by the Chairman as soon as practical in the current lock-down situation.

6. POLICE REPORT

Emailed to Councillors:

- i. Weekly Policing Updates

7. REPORT FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEVE CRISWELL

Cllr Criswell reported he was still immersed in COVID-19 issues.

There are 32,500 people shielding in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, all those shielding should have received a letter by now from the Government.

The County Hub is up and running as are the various community volunteer COVID groups.

Cllr Criswell was pleased to see the excellent community letter from Katie Ixer, TimeBank Co-ordinator again, so many thanks to her.

The infection rate in Huntingdonshire is slightly below national figures but Somersham and neighbouring villages are slightly higher. This is likely to be community transition locally rather than any other factor.

Cllr Wooster said a simple supplement of Vitamin D aids battling off COVID-19, Cllr Criswell agreed.

The Chairman asked for a letter of thanks to go to Katie Ixer from the council for her work. This was agreed.

Wheatsheaf Crossroads - Progress is going well with the Wheatsheaf design and they are trying to accelerate the process.

Flooding – There was a lot of flooding issues just before Christmas and a list is being drawn up of the main affected areas.

The Environment Agency reported the highest water table level since 1998.

People are aware a lot of ditches need cleaning out and there are a lot of riparian owners who are responsible to sort this out. Focus for first part of work is where homes were flooded.

8. PARISH CLERK’S REPORT Inc.

a. Matters Arising Report & Updates:

Community Notice Board issue – ‘Stop New Normal’ COVID-19 posters, Piers Corbyn – are being posted on the community noticeboard. The posters are being removed because the parish council cannot endorse or be seen to endorse any political activist or party (LGA 1986 s2).

Mr M Tyers will also remove any political material found on parish council property.

Millennium Pavilion – work has been recommended to update the fire alarm system following a bi-monthly service check, this has been accepted.

Lake sea containers - Cllr Potter asked for an update on work to replace the lake area sea containers, he is concerned at the bird nesting season and work on trees. The Clerk confirmed she had attended a site meeting earlier today with the contractor and Groundsman, all work will be kept to a minimum with the hedge trimmed down to 6 meters and two dead trees removed, all will be done in line with the relevant Countryside Act dates 1st March – 31st August.

Somersham4U Newsletter – Cllr Wooster asked what was happening with SOM4u? The Clerk stated the newsletter was still on hold due to the pandemic and there were no community activities to report. Cllr Wooster will check the newsletter emails.

b. Correspondence emailed to councillors:

- ii. RSN online – updates
- iii. CAPALC bulletin & NALC CEO bulletins
- iv. Mr M Ellis – email on the lack of fibre broadband in Somersham – response received via Cllr Criswell
Cllr Potter stated he feels he could find 60 – 70 people willing to sign up to faster broadband. It was agreed this would be a good idea when possible ie after lockdown and a low or no Government ‘tier’.
- v. M & G Charibond dividend £1.80

9. **FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT including: -**

- a. The Monthly Accounts – The accounts were proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Potter and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be accepted.

10. **HIGHWAY MATTERS including Public Footways - Repairs/ Maintenance**

- a. Highway repair/maintenance matters – no matters were reported.

Cllr Hulme commented the A1123 Earith will apparently be downgraded from A road to a B, is this correct? Cllr Criswell replied saying CCC have started investigations to do that, but any changes must be agreed by Secretary of State, it is early days yet.

Further Cllr Criswell said this was instigated by CCC and not central government as suggested by Cllr Hulme. Discussion was held on the loss of the highway budget with Cllr Criswell stating the overall budget from Government may be reduced by £250k not for that road specifically but generally.

b. Email correspondence –

- i. Highways Service Stakeholder Survey – The Chairman recommended Cllrs reply individually.
- ii. Somersham SID data and locations

11. **NOTICES & MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

No matters were raised by Councillors.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.30 pm by Zoom conferencing.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 20:06

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Richard Sutton, Chairman

ACCOUNTS	11th January 2021	Vat		TOTAL	
ACCOUNTS	Salaries	£0.00	£7,241.80	£7,241.80	Bacs
LGSS	Pension Fund	£0.00	£479.94	£479.94	Bacs
NEST	Pension Fund	£0.00	£286.63	£286.63	DD
HMRC	Tax & NI	£0.00	£2,225.22	£2,225.22	Bacs
E-ON	electricity	£5.01	£100.21	£105.22	Bacs
Benchmark Electrical	Faulty light - replaced	£19.00	£95.00	£114.00	Bacs
M Murray signs	Funding sponsor sign	£6.00	£36.00	£42.00	Bacs
QVS	Sockets/flex	£13.99	£69.97	£83.96	Bacs
	Timers	£4.19	£20.97	£25.16	Bacs
Huntingdonshire DC	Residual bin weekly collections	£0.00	£184.60	£184.60	Bacs
Cambridgeshire ACRE	Annual membership	£9.50	£47.50	£57.00	Bacs
CCL Supplies	Cleaning materials	£4.91	£24.55	£29.46	Bacs
ESPO	Gas	£4.33	£86.62	£90.95	Bacs
Viking Direct	Refreshments/replacements	£5.96	£66.76	£72.72	Bacs
S Godfrey	Nordic Walking	£0.00	£70.00	£70.00	Bacs
Mrs P Bryant	Zoom - expenses refund	£2.40	£11.99	£14.39	Bacs
Warren Access	Versalift hire	£72.00	£360.00	£432.00	Bacs
Cole & Day	Fuel 1st - 16th December 2020	£9.20	£46.04	£55.24	Bacs
SLCC	Membership - Mrs P Bryant	£0.00	£347.00	£347.00	Bacs
Pear Technology	Digital mapping annual support	£50.00	£250.00	£300.00	Bacs
	TOTAL		£206.49	£12,050.80	
				£12,257.29	

Electronic payments					
BT Business	Qtr			£0.00	DD
Talk Talk Business	01487 841359 & internet -	£5.60	£28.00	£33.60	DD
Talk Talk	CIC-01487 840266 -			£0.00	DD
Microsoft Online	Monthly computer software - 18 Nov - 17 Dec 2020	£0.00	£31.60	£31.60	DD
Siemens	Printer lease rental -			£0.00	DD
Carphone warehouse	K Ixer - mobile contract payment	£1.25	£6.25	£7.50	DD
Giifgaff	P Bryant - mobile contract payment - due	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	DD
	M Tyers - mobile contract payment	£1.25	£6.25	£7.50	DD
Huntingdonshire DC	Sea Container - Rates - January 2021	£0.00	£48.00	£48.00	DD
				£0.00	DD
	Norwood Building - rates	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	DD
	Millennium Sports Facility - Rates	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	DD
SSE	Electricity - Multi sports area - QRT 4			£0.00	DD
	Electricity - Lake sea container - Qtr 4			£0.00	DD
	Electricity - Norwood Building - QTR 4			£0.00	DD
	Electricity - Library - QRT 3 & 4			£0.00	DD
	Electricity - Millennium Sports Facility - QRT 4			£0.00	DD
				£0.00	DD
	TOTAL		£8.10	£120.10	12
				£128.20	

Optimum Card		December/20			
Katie Ixer	Timebank supplies	£0.00	£6.00	£6.00	Card

	Giff Gaff payment	£0.00	£6.00	£6.00	Card
Penny Bryant					
BrightPay	BrightPay connect - December 2020	£0.56	£2.82	£3.38	Card
LGSS	DBS checks	£0.00	£45.00	45	Card
CD Tiles	Tiles for Millennium Pavilion	£0.00	£88.00	£88.00	Card
Zoom	Annual subscription	£22.90	£114.49	£137.39	Card
DVLA	Kubota vehicle registration - admin fee	£0.00	£0.50	£0.50	Card
Amazon	Staff Christmas gift vouchers	£0.00	£95.00	£95.00	Card
	Monitor	£15.00	£74.99	£89.99	Card
	Laptop bags & cables	£0.00	£53.44	£53.44	Card
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£38.46</u>	<u>£486.24</u>	<u>£524.70</u>	<u>£524.70</u>

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