

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

At the Millennium Sports Pavilion, The Trundle, Somersham PE28 3JS

www.somersham-pc.gov.uk

PRESENT WERE:

Cllr B Bruce
Cllr A Chapman
Cllr N David
Cllr C Dolby

Cllr D Potter (in the Chair)
Cllr D Skeggs
Cllr D Sutton
Cllr R Woolway

Mrs I Healiss, Executive Officer
Mrs J Turney, Deputy Clerk

Seats Fifteen (15), Councillors Present Eight (8), Vacancies Six (6), Quorum Five (5).

IN ATTENDANCE

County & District Councillor, Cllr Steve Criswell
District Councillor, Cllr Charlotte Lowe
Two (2) members of the public.

455/2/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received and approved from Cllr Sansom - Illness

456/2/25 PARISH COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made

457/2/25 PUBLIC FORUM

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Dolby and unanimously RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 19:30 for a period of time to hold a public forum.

A member of the public raised concern regarding proposed development on Parkhall Road, further to literature being received from a potential developer. Concerns included: -

- increased water levels,
- road access,
- the width of the proposed footpath
- and effects to local wildlife.

Possible development had been presented to the Parish Council last May, and the Council initially raised concern regarding road access due to the nearby railway bridge and lack of visibility. No planning applications have been as yet submitted, and as such the Council and local residents are unable to make formal comment. This site was submitted as part of the HDC local plan 'call for sites'

last year and Huntingdon District Council 'RAG' (red, amber green) rated the site as unacceptable during the initial filtering process.

Cllr Lowe introduced herself as the Conservative Party County candidate for the upcoming May elections. Cllr Criswell will be standing down this year.

The meeting reconvened at 19:46

458/2/25 REPORT FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR STEVE CRISWELL

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was changed in December of last year by the Government, making it easier to get planning permission. The housing target in Huntingdonshire was 800 houses per annum and is now 1200 houses per annum, an increase of 51%. The five-year land supply will be problematic as HDC are in a "tilted balance" - in favour of developers as opposed to the planning process. HDC are now a year short of housing supply.

The green bin charge will come before the scrutiny committee in April. The scheme has not yet run for a full twelve (12) months, but so far is showing a profit. Dry recyclable waste falls under responsibility of the District Council and therefore waste from Somersham is sent to Waterbeach, not Northern Ireland.

459/2/25 CO-OPT A NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR.

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Skeggs and unanimously RESOLVED to accept Julia Drury as a newly appointed Parish Councillor in her absence.

460/2/25 PLANNING MATTERS

a) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/02116/FUL	Land At Rosefield, Parkhall Road, Somersham Change of use of land for the stationing of two mobile homes and four touring caravans to include establishment of hardstanding and fences on a temporary or permanent basis (part retrospective.)	14/2/25
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It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Dolby and RESOLVED to object to this application due to over development of the site There were six (6) votes in favour and one (1) against.

25/00111/HHFUL	14 Ibbott Crescent Somersham Huntingdon PE28 3JP Erection of garden room.	19/2/25
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It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Dolby and unanimously RESOLVED to support this application with no objection. The garden room has already been erected.

b) PLANNING APPROVED

24/02165/TREE	44 High Street, Somersham, PE28 3JB T1 Robinia in front lawn: fell close to ground level Reason: tree is decayed at the base and in the main stem up to approx. 3 metres G1 3x Lime at side of front garden: remove epicormic growth up to 5m crown lift to 5m over neighbouring car park and remove major dead wood Reason: to allow inspection of lower stems, tidy appearance and improve access in neighbouring car park G2 2x Sycamore at side of front garden: reduce laterally over car park by 2 - 2.5m and sever Ivy at base Reason: to improve access in neighbouring car park T2 Elm on front boundary: remove low	24/1/25
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branch back to main stem at 4m Reason: to clear overhead cables T3 Lime on front boundary: reduce to pollard at 3.5-4m Reason: to clear overhead cables and to manage in the future as a pollard in line with other Lime trees on front boundary T4 Sycamore in back garden: sectional fell close to ground level Reason: tree is heavily decayed at the base and leans over neighbouring garden

461/2/25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2025

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Bruce and RESOLVED as approved. There were six (6) votes in favour and one (1) abstention due to absence.

462/2/25 POLICE REPORT

- Neighbourhood Safety Emails
- Police Report – noted by Councillors

463/2/25 EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- i. CAPALC bulletin & NALC CEO bulletins
- ii. Neighbourhood Alerts
- iii. Cambridgeshire ACRE bulletins and updates
- iv. Huntingdonshire DC – press releases and updates.
- v. Free One Leisure Sports sessions at the Norwood Field in April 2025.
- vi. Aesop's Theatre presents 'The Gingerbread Man' – free pantomime at the Millennium Pavilion on 23rd March 2025. This will be advertised in due course.
- vii. Invitation to apply for the net zero villages application (solar panels and heat source pumps.) The application will be completed by the 28th February deadline.
- viii. HDC Land supply and housing meeting update on 13/2/25 (online). Cllr Skeggs will attend.

464/2/25 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT MATTERS

- i. Monthly Accounts. (Appendix One)
The monthly accounts were proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Bruce and unanimously RESOLVED as approved.
- ii. Budget for Quarter 3 2024 – 2025.
The budget for Quarter 3 2024 – 2025 was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously RESOLVED as approved.
- iii. Huntingdon District Councils Precept Notification Band D charge. Noted.

Thank you for your Notified Precept of:	£271,089
Tax Base for Area (Equated number of Band D Properties)	1425.4
Band D Charge (to cover Local Council Precept)	£190.18

- iv. Christmas Lights Update: Monies received for the Christmas Lights 2024



- Collection boxes, bucket donations, and other donations £1235.42
Draw tickets sales £2198.63 (including Sum-up payments.) Noted.
v. Councillor Quarterly risk assessments (due for completion by 28th February) - ongoing.

465/2/25 FURTHER COSTS TO COMPLETE THE CAR PARK EXTENSION PROJECT AT THE NORWOOD FIELD (ORIGINAL PLANNING APPLICATION 23/01883/FUL.)

JPT Design Planning submission costs - £200 + Vat
Council Fee – TBC (but will be similar to previous)
Parking report - £1500 + Vat
Tree survey/report/landscaping - £930 + Vat
Total CIL money to be received for the project = £15,480.90.

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr David and unanimously RESOLVED to agree the additional costs, subject to a revised quote first being received by the contractor. This matter will be revisited at the next meeting.

The Executive Officer was asked to approach the Scout group regarding the possibility of erecting the new scout hut further onto the Norwood field, and any update regarding fundraising.

The Executive Officer was asked to query with the architect if the existing tree survey report will suffice.

466/2/25 REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND LOCALISM WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON 27TH JANUARY 2025

Cllr Sutton offered a report from the Environmental and Localism Working Party. A meeting was held on the 27th January. The net zero application for funding solar panels and air source heat pumps at the Millennium Pavilion is ongoing. Failing lights at the Norwood Building/Millennium Pavilion will be replaced with LED counterparts as a matter of course. A survey to gauge interest for a possible Eco Event in the village has been included in the S4U Newsletter this month. It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Skeggs and unanimously RESOLVED to change the name of the Working Party to 'Environmental Working Party'.

467/2/25 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2025

Cllr Potter offered a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. It is hoped that the plan will be completed in the next eighteen (18) months. The Design Code report and Housing Needs assessment are underway, and a questionnaire (for residents to offer opinion) is currently being formulated. An article explaining how to complete the survey will be included in the S4U Newsletter. Members of the Steering Group recently went round Somersham with the author of the design code report.

468/2/25 AGREE FOR THE SOMERSHAM CARNIVAL TO USE THE NORWOOD PLAYING FIELDS ON SUNDAY 22ND JUNE AND SAT 28TH JUNE (PROPOSED EVENTS AS PER PREVIOUS YEARS.)

It was proposed by Cllr Woolway, seconded by Cllr Dolby and unanimously RESOLVED for the Carnival to use the Norwood playing field on Sunday 22nd June and Saturday 28th June.

469/2/25 PARISH COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IN THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY CELEBRATIONS ON THURSDAY 8TH MAY 2025

Somersham Town Band have agreed to play 40's/50's music at The Cross between 6pm and 7pm on the evening of 8th May. The Cross will be decorated in bunting and hand-held flags will be made available.

470/2/25 MEMORIAL ROSE AND PLAQUE AT THE NATURE RESERVE (IN MEMORY OF JENNY PENFOLD)

It was proposed by Cllr David, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously RESOLVED to agree a memorial rose and plaque at the Nature Reserve in memory of Jenny Pinfold, as presented in the report (disseminated prior to the meeting.)

471/2/25 HIGHWAY MATTERS INCLUDING PUBLIC FOOTWAYS - REPAIRS/ MAINTENANCE

1 Parkhall Road, Somersham

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025-255

The alternative route for vehicles is via High Street, Feoffees Road, Norwood Road, The Trundle. The Order is made to facilitate drainage improvements and associated works which are being carried out on or near this highway and it will come into operation on 3 February 2025 and continue until these works have finished or on the 2 August 2026 whichever is the earlier.

It is anticipated that these works will be carried out between 3 February 2025 and 14 March 2025.

2 Somersham Road B1040, St Ives Road B1040, Wheatsheaf Road, Woodhurst and The Heath, Somersham

(TEMPORARY 40MPH & 30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2025-225

The Order is made to facilitate junction improvements and associated works which are being carried out on or near this highway and it will come into operation on 17 February 2025 and continue until these works have finished or on the 16 August 2026 whichever is the earlier.

It is anticipated that these works will be carried out between 09:30hrs and 16:00hrs 17 February to 18 February 2025.

3 Footpath Between Pennway and The Paddock (Footpath from the Paddock to Homestead, and Footpath from Pennway to Homestead.

24/7 works between 17/3/25- 5/4/25

Works – gas mains replacement – working on behalf of Cadent Gas.

472/2/25 REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Sutton offered thanks to the Parish Council on behalf of the Victory Hall Management Committee for the removal of two sports tables from the community room.

The film night last week was successful.

Cllr Chapman advised that there will be a quiz at the Library on 22nd February, in conjunction with the Church. The SNRG are having some issues applying for charitable status. Further to a member sadly passing away last year, a request for a memorial bench at the nature reserve will be made to the Parish Council in due course.

Cllr Skeggs left the room at 21:17

473/2/25

NOTICES & MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Potential of the S4U Newsletter being digital only.

Ongoing problem of flooding at the Pocket Park (footpaths) making it impassable. The Deputy Clerk will contact the landowners for an update regarding the repair/replacement of the pump.

The next meeting of Somersham Parish Council will be on Monday 10th March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Millennium Pavilion, The Trundle, Somersham, PE29 3JS.

There being no further issues the meeting was closed at 21:22 hours.

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Chairman



ACCOUNTS from 8th Jan to 31st Jan 25

		Vat	Net	TOTAL	Cost Centre
Payroll	Salaries	£0.00	£8,063.59	£8,063.59 Bacs	Salaries -17th Jan 2025
Pension payments	Pension Fund	£0.00	£1,972.80	£1,972.80 Bacs	Jan-25
HMRC	Tax & NI	£0.00	£2,834.79	£2,834.79 Bacs	HMRC - Jan 2025
CAPALC	Code of Conduct training Bill Bruce 24thOct 24	£0.00	£40.00	£40.00 Bacs	Training
CCL Supplies	Annual service - nappy bin 23rdDec 24	£42.00	£210.00	£252.00 Bacs	Millennium
Cole & Day	Tractor fuel 1stDec to 15thDec 24	£8.87	£44.36	£53.23 Bacs	Kubota
Fenland Fire LLP	Annual fire extinguisher service 11thDec 24	£49.50	£247.50	£297.00 Bacs	Norwood
HDC	Back dated excess bin weight charge 20thDec 24	£0.00	£62.10	£62.10 Bacs	Maintenance
HDC	Excess bin weight charge 1stJan 25 to 31stMar 25	£0.00	£197.60	£197.60 Bacs	Maintenance
M Tabrett	Tai Chi 3 x sessions Dec 24	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00 Bacs	Changing Lives
Microshade VSM	Monthly fees 14thJan 25	£59.06	£295.30	£354.36 Bacs	Office
Pear technology	Technical support&software update to 31stDec 25	£52.00	£260.00	£312.00 Bacs	Office
R Adams	Strength&Balance 4 x sessions Dec 24	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00 Bacs	Changing Lives
Suprclean	December cleaning at Millennium Pavilion 31Dec 24	£0.00	£225.00	£225.00 Bacs	Millennium
Victory Hall	Strength & Balance 4 x sessions Dec 24	£0.00	£88.00	£88.00 Bacs	Changing Lives
Victory Hall	Tai Chi 3 x sessions Dec 24	£0.00	£33.00	£33.00 Bacs	Changing Lives
Victory Hall	Timebank Christmas coffee morning 18thDec 24	£0.00	£22.00	£22.00 Bacs	Timebank
Cambs ACRE	I Healiss annual renewal fee 15thJan 25	£0.00	£86.40	£86.40 Bacs	Office
Human Capital Dept	Retained HR monthly fee 8thJan 25	£15.80	£79.00	£94.80 Bacs	Office
HDC	Lottery license annual fee 8thJan 25	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00 Bacs	Admin
NALC	I Healiss course 'Attracting young talent to Parish Councils'	£7.00	£35.00	£42.00 Bacs	Training
Notice Board Company	Church notice board 14thJan 25	£178.71	£893.53	£1,072.24 Bacs	Notice boards
SLCC	I Healiss Community Governance study day 5thFeb 25	£10.20	£150.00	£160.20 Bacs	Training
Suprclean	March24 cleaning at Millennium Pavilion 30Mar 24	£0.00	£160.00	£160.00 Bacs	Millennium
Cole & Day	Tractor fuel 1stJan to 15thJan 25	£9.30	£46.48	£55.78 Bacs	Kubota
PSK Installations	CCTV call out and repair 15thJan 25	£26.00	£130.00	£156.00 Bacs	CCTV
M Greaves	Christmas Lights expenses Dec 24	£0.00	£235.35	£235.35 Bacs	Xmas Lights
Lion Containers	Sea container - 50% cost re Mens Repair Café	£2,433.70	£12,168.49	£14,602.19 Bacs	Localism
Cole and Day	Tractor tyers x 2	£88.20	£441.00	£529.20 Bacs	Kubota
Royal British Legion	Remembrance Day wreath 16thDec 24	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00 cheque	War memorial
		£2,980.34	£29,411.29	£32,391.63	£32,391.63

ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

Talk Talk Business	01487 841359 & internet Jan25		N/A	DD	Administration
EDF	Electricity - Multi sports area - Jan25 in credit		N/A	DD	Multi sports area
British GasLite	Electricity - Lake sea container - 5thJan25		N/A	DD	Lake area
British GasLite	Electricity - Norwood Building - 5thJan25		N/A	DD	Norwood Building
British GasLite	Electricity - Library - 5thJan25		N/A	DD	Library
British GasLite	Electricity - Millennium Sports Facility - 30th Jan25	£168.59	£320.00	£488.59 DD	Millennium
British GasLite	Gas - Millennium Sports Facility - 30thJan245		N/A	DD	Millennium
British GasLite	Electricity - multi sports area -		NA	DD	Multi sports area
Scottish Power	Gas - Norwood Building Jan24		N/A	DD	Norwood Building
YU Energy	Street lighting - standing charge - Jan25 in credit		N/A	DD	Street lighting
YU Energy	Street lighting - electric	£10.00	£200.10	£210.10 DD	Street lighting
BrightPay / Stripe	Licence key for 6 employees Jan 25		N/A	DD	Payroll software
HDC	Lake area sea container rates Jan25	£0.00	£58.00	£58.00 DD	Administration
HDC	Millennium Sports sea container rates 23/24	£0.00	£34.00	£34.00 DD	Administration
Ethos	Quarterly Printer usage 10thSep 24 to 9thDec 24	£36.89	£184.47	£221.36 DD	Adminstration
Unity Trust Bank	Bank service charge	£0.00	£16.05	£16.05 DD	Administration
Ethos	Printer useage quarterly rental and service 10thJan to 9th Apr 25	£159.80	£798.99	£958.79 DD	Norwood Building
Source for Business	Millennium Pavilion water 6 monthly bill		N/A	DD	Millennium
Source for Business	Library water 6 monthly bill		N/A	DD	Library
TOTAL		£375.28	£1,611.61	£1,986.89	£1,986.89

LLOYDS CARD 16th Jan 24

Giffgaff	6 x £6 plus 1 x £10	£7.66	£38.34	£46.00 CARD	
Adobe	Monthly charge re pdf format change	£0.00	£16.64	£16.64 CARD	
Bookwhen	Monthly Paypal fee	£3.80	£19.00	£22.80 CARD	
Lloyds Corporate card	Monthly card fee	£0.00	£3.00	£3.00 CARD	
Lidl	Timebank Christmas coffee morning supplies	£0.00	£13.23	£13.23 CARD	
Tesco	Timebank Christmas coffee morning supplies	£0.00	£28.05	£28.05 CARD	
Tesco	Timebank Christmas coffee morning supplies	£0.00	£11.10	£11.10 CARD	
Morrisons	Timebank Christmas coffee morning supplies	£0.00	£9.00	£9.00 CARD	
Zoom.com	Annual subscription to Zoom	£0.00	£129.90	£129.90 CARD	
AMAZON UK	Replacement office landline phones	£11.67	£58.32	£69.99 CARD	
	eGift card - staff Xmas bonus x 1	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00 CARD	
	eGift card - staff Xmas bonus x 5	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00 CARD	
	Prime Business basic plan	£19.00	£95.00	£114.00 CARD	
TOTAL		£42.13	£541.58	£583.71	£583.71