

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Held at the Millennium Sports Pavilion, The Trundle, Somersham
On Monday 29th October 2018 at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT WERE:

Cllr J Blundell	Cllr A Sansom
Cllr S Criswell	Cllr D Skeggs
Cllr C Dolby	Cllr R Sutton (in the Chair)
Cllr K Hawkins	Cllr C White
Cllr P McCloskey	Cllr G Wooster
Cllr D Potter	

Mrs P Bryant, Parish Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed new councillors to the Parish Council and all councillors introduced themselves.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from:
Mervyn Greaves – attending a funeral in Yorkshire
Anthony Hulme – in Edinburgh

2. PARISH COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

It was proposed by Mr Criswell, seconded by Mr McCloskey 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 7.34 pm and reconvened at 7.40 pm.

Matters discussed were: Miss Minter spoke about the Victory Hall and the need for Parish Councillor representatives.

4. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES

The Clerk reported there are 2 vacancies and she has received applications for co-option from:
Ray Woolway
Nartasha Ruffell

It was proposed by Mr Hawkins, seconded by Mr McCloskey to co-opt both candidates, this was agreed by a unanimous vote.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

a) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

18/02041/TREE Somersham House Rectory Lane Somersham PE28 3EL
T1 – Cedar – 15% Crown thin – Reason: Lost large limbs, alleviate weight while preserving shape.

Councillors responded via email due to the short time frame and resolved to recommend no objection. It was proposed by Mr McCloskey to formally approve the application. This was agreed.

18/00840/FUL Legacy Park Chatteris Road Somersham
Change of use of land to provide four additional gypsy/traveller pitches with day rooms and gym/store
2 letters of objection



It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr White to object to this application on the same grounds as the Highway Agency and the Environment Agency responses plus the applicant is living on site without legal permission and not completing the conditions originally set out which should have been followed through by Planning Enforcement. This was agreed by 10 votes for and 1 against. *SEE Appendix 1*

18/01923/FUL Baptist Chapel High Street Somersham
Upgrade outbuilding to form new kitchen, enlarge rear extension and create new side extension to provide safe access upstairs. Re-order interior of the church.

It was proposed by Mr Hawkins, seconded by Mr Wooster and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to recommend no objection. The work largely affects improvement of the outbuildings. Councillors request planners ensure the improvements take fully into account appropriate disabled access as access at present is inadequate.

18/02033/HHFUL 2 Pinfold Lane Somersham
Single storey extension to rear of building

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Potter and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to recommend no objection. The extension is to the rear of the property and is in keeping with the building design.

18/02144/FUL 1 Colne Fen Farm Chatteris Road Somersham
Proposed pig rearing units and associated anaerobic digestion plant.

It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr Hawkins and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to recommend no objection. This appears to be a well-presented case; the pig rearing units will be in the right location and well off the main road.

b) PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED

16/00239/FUL Parkhall Farm, Parkhall Road, Somersham
Erection of stables

18/01223/FUL Storage container, Oak Acres Farm Parkhall Road Somersham
Change of use and extension to form two dwellings

18/01714/HHFUL 9 Butts Close Somersham
To clad the existing facing brickwork to the house with 'Fortex' by Freefoam, in Storm Grey colour

c) PLANNING CONSULTATION

Joint Minerals & Waste Local Plan to 2036 – response due Wednesday 31st October 2018. Nearest site – Land at Colne Fen

Cllr Criswell explained the document has not gone out to public consultation yet but the county is asking for the Parish Council's opinion.

It was proposed by Mr Criswell, seconded by Mr White and RESOLVED by 8 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention to recommend objecting to the land at Colne Fen. *SEE APPENDIX 1*

PLANNING MATTERS: The Chairman updated council on comments from Development Control. It has been confirmed all planning correspondence in future will come out via email so hard copies will not get mislaid in the post.

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER 2018

At the request of Mr Criswell, the following amendment was made to the Minutes:

Page 48/18, Item 12 V, para 2 – amend first sentence to read 'Mr Criswell thought traffic lights would cost £300k and if each parish council put in money it is unlikely, they would reach £300k and there was no alternative funding available.'

The Minutes were proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr Criswell and RESOLVED by 9 votes for and 3 abstentions. Abstaining councillors were either newly co-opted or not present at the meeting.

7. POLICE REPORT

Emailed to Councillors:

- i. Neighbourhood Watch Alerts

8. REPORT FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR S CRISWELL

Cllr Criswell commented on the rights of way disagreement at the Chapel Field allotments. The matter is still ongoing, and he is mediating between the parties. In law the Allotment Association can stop up footpaths that aren't rights of way and walkers are challenging that.

The Chairman queried a couple of points with Cllr Criswell:

- There is a sign in St Ives car park which says people may use the park & ride carpark, is this correct? Cllr Criswell said he sees no reason why this is not correct.
- Also, there was a notice about staff being asked to take 3 days holiday over Christmas, will Cllrs be doing the same? Cllr Criswell said this condition is within their terms of employment however, it only applies to staff and it would be up to councillors to decide their work pattern.

9. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT Inc.

Matters Arising Report & Updates:

Correspondence emailed to councillors:

- ii. RSN online – weekly updates
- iii. Cambridgeshire Local Councils Conference 2018 Friday 23 Nov 2018 9.30am – 3.45 pm
- iv. Christmas Tree Festival Committee – invitation for the Parish Council to display a tree. Confirmation due by Monday 22nd October 2018

10. FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT MATTERS including: -

- a. **The Monthly Accounts** – The accounts were proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Criswell and agreed by all councillors present with 1 abstention. *SEE APPENDIX 3*
- b. **Finance Working Party Meeting set for 7th November 2018**
- c. **Purchase of a replacement grit bin for Lakeway** (funds available in the maintenance reserve)
 - i. Option 1 - Slimline bin (160 ltrs -as currently) £148.19 + vat plus fixing kit £24.16 It was proposed by Mr Criswell, seconded by Mr Blundell and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to purchase a like-for-like replacement Slimline bin.
- d. **Purchase of a grit bin for Parkhall Road/Warners Drove: Orbistor** (capacity 800 ltrs) £352.10 + vat, (funds available in the maintenance reserve) It was proposed by Mr Wooster, seconded by Mr Criswell and **RESOLVED** by 10 votes for and 1 abstention to purchase the grit bin.
- e. **Grant Application from MAGPAS for £200** – copies provided to councillors (Currently there is no money in the budgeted reserve for this, but it could be precepted for 2019/2020) It was proposed by Mr Hawkins, seconded by Ms Skeggs and **RESOLVED** by all councillors present and 2 abstentions to precept £200 for this in 2019/2020

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS including Public Footways - Repairs/ Maintenance

- i. **Community Gritting scheme** – Volunteers Winter 2018-2019. Forms to be returned by end of October 2018

As there were no further volunteers prepared to join the scheme, it was agreed Martin Tyers would continue to be the councils operative.

- ii. **Email – R Wells** – request to change the name of Bishops Yard to avoid confusion with Bishops Road. It was generally agreed this was a Post Office delivery problem and Mr Wells should follow this up with them.

It was proposed by Ms Skeggs, seconded by Mr Potter and **RESOLVED** by 10 votes for and 1 abstention to write stating; the council does not think the change of name is necessary plus Bishops Yard is a historic name and in place prior to Bishops Road.

iii. **Request for work to trim back the trees off the highway at St Ives Road by College Farm – cost to be confirmed.**

Highways will not complete this type of work on verges. Mr Criswell confirmed highways only trim trees which are dangerous. It is believed the trees were planted by the parish council many years ago and this is quite possible. The trees are interfering with clearance of the ditch and in due course will be a problem for vehicles/pedestrians.

It was agreed to defer this item to the next agenda

Other Highway Reports

Mr Potter asked Mr Criswell about the Wheatsheaf crossroads safety situation. Mr Criswell said there is no pattern to the accidents whatsoever from the stats and a lot of the people involved are local.

Mr Wooster said the pavements along the High Street need repair/ are sloping in areas. Mr Criswell will take this forward to Highways.

12. STREET LIGHTING inc repairs

There was nothing to report

13. PARISH PATHS OFFICER - Request from Mr G Brown (current P3 officer) for Mr R Fabb to take on the responsibilities of Somersham's P3 Officer (although this position no longer exists officially with county)

Since the publication of the agenda Mr Fabb has confirmed he is not interested in taking on the role.

It was agreed to take to this to the Personnel WP and consider Terms of Reference are implemented in the same manner as the Tree Officer role.

14. TREE AUDIT RE-SURVEY QUOTE FOR PARISH TREES

- a. £1350 + vat for the survey
- b. £350 + vat for a PDF copy

Funds in the ear marked reserves are £2015

It was proposed by Mr Criswell, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to proceed with the survey and to purchase the electronic PDF copy.

15. REPORTS FROM SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES & REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **The Norwood Playing Field/ Norwood Building**
There were no matters to report
- b. **The Victory Hall Management Committee**
 - i. Draft Minutes 9th October 2018
 - ii. The Clerk confirmed the lease plan has been delivered to the architect to update in accordance with the revised lease
- c. **Friends of Somersham Local Nature Reserve (SNRG) & Somersham Lake**
 - i. Request from Angling Club to complete work to Crack Willows at the Lake £1100 (by Mr S Blackwell) – This is part of the work identified in a successful funding bid by the Angling Club

Report from Mr McCloskey *SEE APPENDIX 2*

d. Community Library

Report from Mr McCloskey *SEE APPENDIX 2*

e. Millennium Sports Facility

The next SSLA meeting is on 20th November 2018

f. Somersham & Pidley Time Bank

Apple Day – This was a very successful community event run in conjunction with the SNRG on 7th October 2018.

g. Communication Working Party

- i. Communication & Engagement Strategy – to note
- ii. To Accept a Report on Parish Councillor email communications

Report from Mr McCloskey *SEE APPENDIX 2*

h. Christmas Lights Working Party

- i. Notes from the Working Party meeting on 3rd October 2018. The next meeting is on 31st October 2018.

i. Community Roadwatch Logger (SID)

Emails received from Community Roadwatch on 23 October & 24 October 2018. Matters arising:

- In response to the email dated 23 October, the Council recognise the generosity and community support of Mick George Ltd and Red Tile Windfarm in sponsoring the monitoring equipment (SID).
- In answer to the email dated 24 October, it was proposed by the Chairman for Mr McCandless to send a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to Masons in regard to their HCV flouting the 7.5 tonne weight limit through the centre of Somersham. This was agreed by all councillors present with 1 against.

j. Environment Working Party

- i. Proposal for working group to discuss new lighting schemes for the Norwood Building & Millennium Pavilion plus possible energy schemes

The Clerk will send the information to Mr Potter, Mr Sansom, Ms Skeggs and Mr Sutton to consider prior to the next meeting where they will report back to the Council.

k. Reports of External Meetings Attended by Parish Councillor’s

No meetings were reported.

16. YOUTH CLUB & UPDATE ON STAFF MATTERS

It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded Mr Criswell and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to take the meeting into Closed Session. The meeting closed at 9.01 pm and was reconvened at 9.05 pm.

The Clerk reported two Youth Worker positions have been filled by Sacha Rayner & Imogen Boulter. Sacha Rayner & Teresa Clark attended Designated Safeguarding Officer Training on 22nd & 23rd October 2018

All Youth Workers have completed online safeguarding training except for the new employees who will do so shortly.


Finally, it was agreed to give Millie Prior the opportunity to step up a level and assist Teresa Clark on a trial basis until the end of the winter term, this will not be at the same level as Miss Morgan, but it still comes with more responsibility.

It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr Criswell and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to increase Miss Prior’s pay scale from SVP 14 to SCP 18 with immediate effect as she is now the Assistant Youth Leader.

17. NOTICES & MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Millennium Pavilion on Monday 26th November 2018 at 7.30 pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06 pm.



 Dick Sutton, Chairman
 26/11/18
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18/00840/FUL Legacy Park Chatteris Road Somersham

Change of use of land to provide four additional gypsy/traveller pitches with day rooms and gym/store

Somersham Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:

1. The proposal is contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 100, in that it is inappropriate development in a flood risk area. The Council therefore fully supports the reasoning provided by the Environment Agency in their letter of objection dated 18 October 2018.
2. Previous planning conditions set in earlier approved applications relating to this site have not been implemented by the applicants and the Council has concerns this will be a continuing trend unless Planning Enforcement is more timely and proactive in their approach.
3. Somersham Parish Council fully supports the comments made by Cambridgeshire County Council, West Highways Division in their objection response letter dated 18th October 2018 regarding vehicular access and the construction of the access.

Joint Minerals & Waste Local Plan to 2036 – response due Wednesday 31st October 2018. Nearest site – Land at Colne Fen

Somersham Parish Council strongly objects to the site put forward by Bletsoes for a mineral quarry at Colne Fen, Chatteris Road, Somersham.

Quarry traffic is having a severe negative impact on the lives of Somersham residents, particularly on the B1050 Chatteris Road, Somersham on their way through to Colne, Earith and Bluntisham.

The Lafarge and Hanson quarries off Chatteris Road were closed in favour of Block Fen, where access to the primary road network is more accessible and appropriate. Hanson's still have consent to remove residual material for a further 12 months in Somersham, but actual quarrying ceased a number of years ago. Bletsoe's use of the terms 'operational' and 'existing' are inaccurate and not factual.

The expectation that Somersham residents will have to suffer the extended impact of quarrying activity and numerous HCV movements is unacceptable. There was considerable opposition from residents over the development of irrigation lakes nearby which created numerous additional HCV movements and this is likely to prolong the unpopular impact of HCV traffic for a further 2 to 3 years. All quarrying activity beyond that, is totally unacceptable.

Somersham Parish Council expects their concerns to be taken into consideration during the creation of the new Draft Plan.



REPORT FROM SNRG for the PC Meeting on 29 Oct 2018:

The Angling Club has gained all the necessary permission to stock the lake with 300 Tench and the SNRG is still planning to create a new Floating Island and Tern raft. Plans to plant new Norfolk reed along the Lake edges will help bio-diversity and improve water quality; it is hoped that a bid to the Angling Trust added to Club monies will fund these projects. A large amount of timber has also been secured for the construction of new fishing platforms. However, poaching is still an ongoing concern around the lake and the possibility of installing CCTV is being considered to counter this. Grants are also still being sought to help fund the proposed willow tunnel and a sky watching platform on the Station Fields in addition to refurbishing around the Sewter's Pond area.

There is a pressing need to re-coppice willow and other overhanging trees and replant with wild flowers on the banks around the lake and the work of bundling up barley straw to go into the lake as a blue-green algae deterrent is to be added to the Working Party's routine summer management plan. Similarly, the trees on the island are to be cut down to discourage visiting cormorants.

You should note that the Nature Walks, and Short Health Walks are now well-established and take place on the 1st Tuesday and the 3rd Tuesday of every month respectively; all are welcome to use this free facility. Additionally, until the end of the year, the County Council Forest Schools Team will be running Forest School Leader Level 3 Training in the County Council owned wooded area. This is aimed at Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Home Education Providers.

As ever, our Working Party meets on the first Sunday by the Springfield gate at 09:30 where all are welcome to help keep our community asset healthy and in good shape.

REPORT FROM FOSL for the PC Meeting on 29 Oct 2018:

Its been a busy time of year at FOSL with an Anniversary party recently where Friends and volunteers were invited to celebrate the 15 years of providing services to Somersham as a Community Library since October 2003. They also recently completed the Summer Reading Challenge with 34 young participants receiving a certificate and medal. Somersham Primary School and the Whitehall School are still making their regular visits to the Library in a move to encourage reading from the earliest of ages. Best of all, 'Story Time' for the under 5's is back every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:00, that welcome break where you're encouraged to sit with your child and join in with the theme of the day enjoying the rhymes and art work, and it's free. There will also be a Christmas celebration on Saturday 22nd December after which the library is closed for the holidays until 3rd Jan 2019 but the regular Sunday Morning drop-in will take place on the 9th December before it returns again too on the 13th and 27th January 2019 respectively.

REPORT FROM THE COMMS WP for the PC Meeting on 29 Oct 2018:

The next Edition of S4U (Dec/Jan Issue) is being compiled as we speak and should hit the streets by the last week in November 2018.

ages	Salaries	0.00	6358.64	6,358.64	Bacs	Salaries
SS	Pension Fund	0	671.97	671.97	Bacs	Pension
ST	Pension Fund	0	126.48	126.48	DD	Pension
MRC	Tax & NI	0	1713.17	1713.17	Bacs	HMRC
alters	Replacement printer	118.63	593.16	711.79	Bacs	Admin
CC	National Conference	49	365	414	Bacs	Trainin
ing Payments	Plastic aprons	0.67	3.37	4.04	Bacs	T Bank
Adams Rehab	Seated exercise	0	120	120	Bacs	C Lives
mbs CC	Youth Club crafts	0	69.17	69.17	Bacs	Youth C
og Environmental	Floating wetland module etc	303.22	1516.1	1819.32	Bacs	Angling
arren Access	Versalift hire	72	460	532	Bacs	C Light
PO	Gas - Aug	2.43	48.56	50.99	Bacs	Norwo
IMC	Hall hire - September	0	174	174	Bacs	Youth C
	Hall hire - September - Tai Chi	0	31.5	31.5	Bacs	C Lives
K Installations	New microwave link - Electronic access	160	800	960	Bacs	Nor B/l
ntingdonshire DC	Lottery Registration	0	20	20	Bacs	Admin
obs & Dandy	Ballast	10.19	50.97	61.16	Bacs	Mainte
on Energy	Electricity	4.06	81.16	85.22	Bacs	Street l
ing uments	Stationary	5.04	25.22	£30.26	Bacs	Admin
mbs CC	Pidley Road- Project 16209	0	5000	5000	Bacs	LHI Sch
llins Farm	Bailer twine	3	15	18	Bacs	Angling
	Bales of straw	0	65	65	Bacs	Angling
Richards Ltd	Draw tickets	14.87	74.35	89.22	Bacs	Admin
estronics Ltd	12 mths Maintenance - Fire alarm system	61.8	309	370.8	Bacs	Norwo
PALC	Transparency & Audit training	0	40	40	Bacs	Trainin
	Finance for cllrs	0	280	280	Bacs	Trainin
le & Day	Fuel - September	15.94	79.66	95.6	Bacs	Kubota
PO	Gas	2.42	48.36	£50.78	Bacs	Norwo
le & Day	Fuel - 1st - 15th Oct 2018	9.24	46.19	55.43	Bacs	Kubota
< Illumination	Connectors	16.08	80.38	96.46	Bacs	C Light
	TOTAL		<u>848.59</u>	<u>19266.41</u>		<u>20,115.00</u>
				<u>20,115.00</u>		
<u>Electronic payments</u>						
Business	01487 841359	11.17	55.83	£67.00	DD	Admini
	Broadband			0	DD	Admini
lk Talk	CIC-01487 840266			£0.00	DD	Library
icrosoft Online	Monthly computer software - October	0	39.5	39.5	DD	Admini
mens	Printer lease rental - Oct 2018	17.99	89.97	£107.96	DD	Admini
lk Talk Business	Broadband			0	DD	
ophone warehouse	K Ixer - mobile contract payment	1.25	6.25	£7.50	DD	Time B
	P Bryant - mobile contract payment	1.25	6.25	£7.50	DD	Admini
	M Tyers - mobile contract payment	1.25	6.25	£7.50	DD	Admini
ntingdonshire DC	Sea Container - rates	0	48	£48.00	DD	Admini
	Norwood Building - rates	0	0	£0.00	DD	No rate
	Electricity - Multi sports area			£0.00	DD	2019
						Multi s

