

MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Monday 18th May 2020 at 7.30 pm

REMOTE (online) MEETING

COVID-19 Pandemic (Temporary Regulations in force from 4th April 2020 expiring 7th May 2021)
The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and
Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, S78

PRESENT WERE:

Somersham Parish Council: Cllr J Blundell, Cllr S Criswell, Cllr C Dolby, Cllr A Hulme, Cllr D Potter, Cllr A Sansom, Cllr D Skeggs, Cllr D Smith, Cllr R Sutton (in the Chair), Cllr C White, Cllr R Woolway, and Cllr G Wooster.

Office staff: Miss M Blewett, Deputy Clerk, Mrs K Ixer, Time Bank Co-ordinator, Mr A Scriven, Somersham PC Administrator and Mrs P Bryant, Parish Clerk

Members of the Public and Representatives: Miss J Bullard, Harvey Feoffees Charity, Mr A Draper, Hammond Trust, Alan Liddle, 1st Somersham Scout Group, Mr P McCloskey, SNRG, Miss L Minter, VHMC and Mrs M Slevin, VHMC.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from:

Mr David Bonnett, Chairman, Somersham Charities of Poor's Money & Chairman, Harvey Feoffees Charity

Mrs Elsa Evans, Chairman of FOSL

Mr Philip Clark, Chairman of SNRG

Cllr N Ruffell - ABSENT

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH MAY 2019

The Minutes of 18th May 2019 were proposed by Cllr Sutton and RESOLVED by all present to be signed as a correct record of events.

The Minutes will be signed by the Chairman once the pandemic lockdown restrictions have been lifted.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS & REPORTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL & CIRCULATED

The Chairman recommended all year end accounts and reports that had been circulated previously were accepted as read and to only accept questions on these as the meeting progressed through the reports.

a. Somersham Charities of Poor's Money

SEE APPENDIX 1 - Accounts received prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

Cllr S Criswell (Trustee) gave a verbal report on behalf of Mr Bonnett (Chairman of the Charity) explaining the Charity were pleased to agree to assist managing/holding funds for the Time Bank

and volunteer group set up to assist those self-isolating during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an important piece of work and created a lot of additional but valuable help for the village with Katie Ixer on the 'front line'.

b. The Educational Charity of Thomas Hammond

SEE APPENDIX 2 - Accounts & Chairman's Report received prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

Chairman's Report – Alan Draper

The Trustees have met twice in the last year in May and November.

The Trustees considered the Independent Audit Report from Mrs Jacquie Wilson. She noted that there had been no applications for grant funding during the year and suggested that consider an applicant for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme or something similar. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is for secondary school pupils and the trust deed specifically states that the charity can only provide grants to the Primary School and Sunday schools in the village.

Thomas Hammond Charity 'objects' – To advance the education of the pupils at (Somersham CP School) and Somersham Sunday Schools by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities (not required to be provided by the local education authority) for education at the schools.

It was agreed to notify relevant charitable schools in Somersham with the charity objects and how to apply for a donation.

Subsequently the Trustees did receive an application from Treasurer of Somersham Primary School PFA. They who would like to buy a sports team sports kit that pupils can wear when competing at external events. It was RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to approve the grant. Lloyds Bank paid the grant directly to the school on production of a letter of authority from the Charity signed by two Trustees.

Mrs Wilson (Independent Auditor) also wrote in her report that as the Board was holding a large sum of money it was important to ensure that the Trustee Board members were taking appropriate measures to bring this Charity back into line with the requirements of the Charity Commission. It was agreed that Mrs Bryant would find out more information on the CCLA account and minimum investment.

c. The Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee

SEE APPENDIX 3 – Chairman's Report & the Financial Report received prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

On behalf of Mr Bonnett, Chairman of the Charity, a grateful thank you to Judith Bullard, Treasurer on behalf of the trustees for all her hard work.

Chairman's report, David Bonnett,

During the course of the year 2019/20, with the opening of the new Friendship Club, we were asked by the Victory Hall for help in the funding of new more comfortable chairs with arms. This was agreed to at a cost of £2656.62.

We were also asked to help with the funding of the church tower clock repairs. This we agreed to at a cost of £1,000.

It was reported by the owners of No 4 Station Approach that the village pump, which is situated outside their house, was in poor condition. In consultation with the Parish Clerk, it was agreed that the village handyman be asked to refurbish it at a cost of £96.00.

The Charity continues to pay the water bill for the tap in the churchyard and flags for the Church tower.

Although all 10 allotments are let, the cost of running them continues to be a financial headache as the rents no longer cover the cost of water and insurance. None of the trustees were keen to sell off the allotments as many of the tenants had enjoyed working the plots for years, but unless the rents were increased dramatically, the allotments would continue to be subsidised by the Charity. It was agreed this situation could not continue and therefore an increase in rents would need to be discussed with the allotment holders to get their views. Following discussions, all allotment holders had no objection to the higher rent charges which will come into effect in October 2020.

d. The Victory Hall Management Committee

SEE APPENDIX 4 - Report received prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

Lesley Minter, Chairman of the VHMC, read out her report.

e. Somersham Lake Working Party inc Angling Club

SEE APPENDIX 5 - Accounts & Report received prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

Chairman's Report – Tim Palmer, Chairman of the Angling Club

The Angling club would like to report that the past year has seen a bumper time with club members on the rise and income suitably matching,
Working alongside the nature reserve we have seen a steady flow of visitors around the lake enjoying the hard work put in from all volunteers over the past months resulting in the lake looking and performing exceptionally well.

After the clubs AGM earlier in the year we are pleased to have received Confirmation that we are able to sign a new 5 year lease agreement giving the club an opportunity to set longer plans for the future.

Last year we introduced 200 tench into the lake and a further 1000 a month ago, these will help bring the lake back towards its heyday prior to the fish loss from around 15yrs ago
Back then the fish stock was given a boost with the introduction of carp which have Now become the predominant species in the lake,

For many of us their numbers have become too high and our long term plan would be to remove Safely with the help from the EA a large number of them (plans were in place prior to the covid outbreak to have the lake mapped and fish stocks recorded) this opportunity will be taken up as soon as the EA can confirm a new date once restrictions allow.

Social behaviour around the lake in general seems to be of a positive nature with far fewer incidents of a negativity being recorded although we still have a problem with dog owners not

following the advice signs around the reserve.

The number of illegal fishing incidents are also becoming fewer with the ever present bailiff patrols working very well.

Thankfully this year our water levels have increased considerably with Mother Nature returning the volume of water taken during the previous 2 long hot summers, alongside the aeration system and carefully monitoring and recoding of dissolved oxygen levels the water quality is good to very good

Our club finances are in very good shape with a balance held at £2,800.19p with the cost of the new tench of £1585 to come from this. We have a predicted income of a further £1000+ to add by year end if club ticket sales follow the trend of the previous 2 years

Unfortunately with the current climate, fishing matches and events including the lake funday have been cancelled until further notice, although we are now allowed back on the bank, the angling club has taken measures to ensure social distancing is maintained by closing some access to fishing platforms where required and the ruling of 1 person per peg enforced (we are closely following the Angling Trusts guidance)

All in all working alongside the nature reserve group and parish council alike the angling club would like to thank all concerned for their help and support over the past nearly 3 years since the clubs new committee and volunteers took the reigns.

On behalf of them all, I wish to thank the Parish Council for its kind support given to the Angling Club and all its members

f. Somersham Local Nature Reserve Group (SNRG)

SEE APPENDIX 6 - Report & management plan received from Philip Clark, Chairman of SNRG prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

Mr Paul McCloskey, SNRG Secretary said the NR has had a successful 11 years, part of the success is through funding bids and grants and they are happy to help others develop this skill. The SNRG has good working relationships with various bodies and will be able to take that forward.

g. Somersham Sports & Leisure Association (SSLA)

SEE APPENDIX 7 – Year end Income & Expenditure Accounts received prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

The Parish Clerk reported the management committee (the Charity element) of the facility have struggled over the last few years to obtain and even retain trustees. With regret and the inability to hold any quorate meetings, the trustees handed the facility management back to the Parish Council. The entire facility has always been in the ownership of the parish council and not the charity which is simply the management structure. As yearend is completing, the process will begin to officially close the charity and transfer all management and financial matters back to the parish council.

Accounts: Miss Minter queried the administration income figure of £10,666.

The Clerk explained this figure is a mix of income being payback costs for office support and staff salaries with the bulk being the annual grant funding received from the Parish Council. The Parish Council were always aware the facility would need financial support throughout its working life and as it is their property, the council has grant aided the facility since it opened in 2000.

Miss Minter asked whether HDC's Small business Grant Fund (support for businesses that pay little or no business rates) has been applied for? The Clerk explained there is some doubt if the facility is eligible for the grant as it is currently transitioning from the SSLA charity (to be dissolved) and back into the management and ownership of parish council. The Clerk is in discussion with HDC.

h. Somersham Community Library

Report received from Elsa Evans, Chairman of FOSL prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

Miss L. Minter, Member of FOSL Management Committee, read out Mrs Evans report below.

We ended the last reporting year April 2019 to March 2020 with the library closed to the public due to the COVID-19 crisis. In line with Government and Cambridgeshire Library Service guidance, our library was closed from 22 March 2020 until further notice.

Community events and activities

During the year we have had many community activities, as organiser and as participants.

- Participation at Somersham Carnival June 2019
- Fund raising coffee morning at the Rose and Crown November 2019
- Christmas celebration in the library
- Quiz Night jointly with the Church March 2020
- Attended Bluntisham St Helen's Primary school Reading Hut opening March 2020 (following working relationship established in 2019)
- Weekly Story-time during Term-time
- Twice a month Sunday Social Drop-in
- Monthly Adult Reading Group meetings
- Organised visits from Somersham Primary and Whitehall Schools
- Regular visits from playgroups

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to cancel two performances, which we were hosting at the invitation of Cambridgeshire Library Service under The Library Presents programme. We very much regret this but look forward to working with the Library Service when the programme resumes.

On the positive side, we are offering Somersham residents to borrow our library's own stock during COVID-19 lockdown. Instead of allowing the public to enter the library, our volunteers issue the books and deliver to the customer's doorstep. This service is offered after careful consideration and a risk assessment.

Use of the Library for community purpose

One of the key objectives of FOSL is to serve the community. Apart from providing lending library and information services, in the past year we have been making more use of our library for partners to deliver services in the community. For example:

- Anglian Water used our library to deliver customer advice sessions to local social housing tenants.
- Age UK has been hosting Community Hub advice events in our library.
- The Timebank also used the library for suitable events.
- We have allowed our library to be used for a public engagement event for a proposed new development in the village.

Performance

Due to the COVID-19 disruption we have only got borrowing statistics for the first three quarters of 2019/20. Compared to the same period last year, total borrowing of our book stock remains stable, -0.5%. We continue to have new library members, both children and adult members.

Finance

Our charity's financial year runs from 1st June. Our annual accounts will be audited and considered by FOSL at our Annual General Meeting in July, subject to COVID-19 disruption. The Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 May 2019 are attached. In brief, the total income to 31st May 2019 was £4,221 and expenditure £4,563, making a total net movement of - £342.

Our main sources of income are fund raising events, book sale and overdue charges. With the closure of the library for months, we expect our 2019/20 accounts will show a deficit. However, we should manage with our reserves.

We appreciate the support from the Parish Council in hosting the lease of the building from the County Council and covering the utility bills for the library building. We acknowledge the electricity costs since the installation of the new heating have been high and are cooperating with the Parish Council to investigate solutions. We are providing meter reading to the Parish Council to ensure the bills are correct. We are exploring ways to adjust its use in order to reduce the use of electricity whilst maintaining a good temperature for our volunteers during opening hours. We have taken advice from the manufacturer and other venues that use infrared heating on improving the use of the very complicated thermostat controls. The meter readings we take every week give us information about the effects of each change that we make to the thermostat controls. Furthermore we are exploring other energy efficiency measures and renewable energy measures. Note that these exploratory works are being delayed during COVID-19 lockdown.

Management and volunteers

We currently have a Management Board of 10 Trustees. Our volunteers come and go but we have around 50 volunteers on average. I must thank all our volunteers, without whom we would not be able to operate this community library service.

i. 1st Somersham Scout Group

SEE APPENDIX 9 – Accounts & Report received from Alan Liddle, 1st Somersham Scouts prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

j. Somersham & Pidley Time Bank

Report received from Katie Ixer, Time Bank Co-Ordinator prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

Between April 2019 – March 2020 (before lockdown) - 1170 hours exchanged between Timebank members and the Timebank.

Exchanges have included giving lifts, delivering newsletters, helping at the Friendship club, leading Timebank walks, befriending visits, donating and using community space, baking, making bunting for the Primary school, gardening, selling raffle tickets for other groups fundraising, jet washing, giving massages, coffee mornings, moving furniture, washing clothes, hoovering, fix a shed roof and Pet care.

Timebank members have also helped out at Timebank funding raising events and also other community events -

Handlebards show - Timebank members helped at the event selling tickets and running the bar. Somersham Carnival – we helped with setting up, manning the information & sweets tent, traffic help for procession and tidying away at the end.

The first Lake Fun Day was held in July 2109 – This was a joint Timebank event with the Nature Reserve and the Angling club. Adults and children were taught to fish. The event also had children's activities and food / refreshments on sale. It was a successful event and plans were made to repeat it in 2020, although this is now postponed due to current conditions.

Pidley Teddy bear drop, The Timebank helped set up, serve food, face painting and running the Timebank information stand.

Annual Apple Day October – This is a joint event with Nature Reserve. Due to bad weather it was down on attendance compared to previous years.

The Timebank organised and helped create the Poppy wall for Remembrance Day in November. Timebank knitting is still going strong. We donated 50 twiddlemuffs to East of England Ambulance service in November to be used for patients. More recently members have been knitting baby hats for hospitals and knitted hearts to be used in the Coronavirus pandemic. We held craft sessions to make decorations for the Timebank Christmas tree for Church Christmas tree festival.

To help with fundraising we ran a café at the Pidley Christmas fair in December.

Also in December the Timebank helped run the Santa Somersham Sprint for the Community alongside SSLC.

Members were given the opportunity to attend a Fused glass workshop organised by one of our members. To get creative and enjoy time together.

We were successful in getting £680 National Lottery funding in their '#celebrate25' scheme to run 5 community healthy cookery sessions, this was due to start in March but is currently on hold. When the Coronavirus pandemic started we launched a Coronavirus assistance scheme for Somersham and Pidley village residents. This was offered to all residents and not just Timebank members to access help. 36 new members joined the Timebank to help out. Assistance was offered to all residents of Somersham and Pidley to get shopping, prescriptions, pet care and telephone calls. An initial leaflet drop was made to all houses in both villages, then a more comprehensive newsletter with 4 pages of information was delivered to all houses. £2000 funding gained from County Council Coronavirus funding to help with costs incurred. To date over 100 help requests have been fulfilled.

Changing lives

National Lottery funding was gained for Changing lives in Sept 2019 of £10,000

We run 4 sessions a week, Yoga, Seated exercise, T'ai Chi and Nordic walking. Approximately 35 people a week attend classes. A taster day was run in September to attract new participants and

for current attendees to try different classes. A functional fitness test was also offered and creative activities along with a buffet lunch.

Since Lockdown, the Changing lives instructors have created video content and written guides for people to carry on the exercises at home. They have also been calling participants to check on their wellbeing and how they are getting on with the activities. A You tube account has been set up for the exercise videos, videos shared on the facebook page and a newsletter sent to the registered attendees.

Miss Minter queried why accounts have not been produced for the Time Bank.

The Clerk explained the Time Bank is part of the normal parish council day to day service and the figures are within the parish council year end accounts.

k. Somersham Parish Council

SEE APPENDIX 11 – Year end Income & Expenditure Accounts received prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

Miss Minter queried why the parish council haven't investigated and started work to install the solar panels she recommended last year?

The Clerk explained the office have at least 11 projects they are currently working on, there has been a time issue to focus on project work which she brought up at the Personnel Committee meeting at the end of February 2020 and staff work adjustments were agreed; this has been halted to a degree by the pandemic lockdown and the need to train staff to take on new roles. In addition, the Environment Working group has not met although several attempts for a meeting to take place last year faltered.

Miss Minter felt that although she didn't know what the other projects were, the solar panels would have brought the most benefit to the community over and above the projects identified.

The Clerk stated she is waiting for confirmation on a funding bid this week to install a replacement skate ramp and other play/fitness equipment on the Norwood Playing Field.

The issue of benefits to the community of one project over another is a difficult one to quantify as all the projects have community benefits in differing ways.

The Clerk finished by reporting the council are looking to declare a climate emergency and with that an action plan will need to be drawn up to identify the overall strategy for the future; a number of actions have already been tabled.

4. Chairman's Report, Cllr Richard Sutton, Somersham Parish Council

Chairman's Report received prior to the meeting & circulated via email.

Normally my Annual Report is a summary of what has happened over the past 12 months and it is fairly easy to write as I look back and see what I have said over the past year.

How things have radically changed in the recent months!

Before referring to the current situation, let me review the past year and the happenings in our village.

Unfortunately, we have had several instances of vandalism. The skate ramp was destroyed, damage was done to Hattie's Map and the Memorial Soldier at The Cross was so severely damaged that it had to be removed.

As everybody is aware, except those doing the vandalism, we all have to pay for the effects of these actions through our Council Tax which could have been lower without these expenses. One ongoing main complaint is about dog fouling which, is committed by a very few, but it affects the majority of us. We cannot blame just outside visitors as this is an ongoing problem. The youth club has had to close because we have been unable to recruit suitable qualified staff, but the good news is that a replacement has been found for September or when it is permitted to re-open. Somersham Youth Club's new venue will be at the Millennium Sports Facility, The Trundle, Somersham on the Connections Youth Bus with qualified staff.

On the bright side, we had another successful Carnival, a great performance by The Handlebards, a wonderful Flower Festival, The Christmas Lights and the Christmas Tree Festival with an appearance by a rotund gentleman with a white beard. The Millennium Pavilion and Sports Facilities have been handed back to The Parish Council and we are now responsible for it.

I cannot finish this report without mentioning the current situation in which we all find ourselves and changes throughout the year.

We said "goodbye and thank you" to Kevin Hawkins, Mervyn Greaves and Paul McCloskey and "welcome" to Deborah Smith.

At present we are all in a "lockdown" situation to protect ourselves and others. This means that the Carnival and Flower Festival have both been cancelled along with The Handlebards, but a replacement performance may be possible if there is enough time when the restrictions are lifted. It is too early to say what will happen with the Christmas Lights, but as soon as we have definite advice a decision will be made.

In this time of need, I am glad that our community spirit has come to the fore once again to help those who cannot get out for vital supplies or medicines. It started with a group called Somersham Community Cares and has been taken up, with their agreement and co-operation, by The Timebank. Thank you to the group for getting the ball rolling and thank you to Katie Ixer for organising everything through The Timebank.

We were given permission in April, by Parliament, to hold meetings remotely so The Parish Council will continue to operate although at diminished level. This means that important matters can still be dealt with including planning applications. Any public forum will also be done remotely so people can still raise their points of view.

What will happen next? We will have to wait and see.

Please follow the rules and keep yourselves safe.

5. Annual Report of County & District Councillors – Cllr Steve Criswell

Councillor Criswell read out his report as it had not been circulated previously.

The overwhelming majority of my time is taken up with my role as Chair of the Communities & Partnerships Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council. Services directly within my responsibility are;

- Trading Standards
- Coronial Service

- Registration Service
- Community Safety
- Shared Services with Peterborough City Council – involving senior officers and some back-office functions.
- Cambridgeshire Adult Skills – where I chair the Board of Governors and we have completely transformed the service.
- Library Service – currently being expanded and transformed into a vehicle to deliver additional community services.
- Engagement with Town and Parish Councils – delivered through the Support Cambridgeshire contract and an increasingly productive relationship with CAPALC. The recent appointment of Penny Bryant as CEO of CAPALC has been very helpful and has the potential to also benefit Somersham.
- Cambs 2020 involving the dissemination of staff and service delivery into a new place-based landscape following the evacuation from Shire Hall. This will also have the effect of grouping communities into clusters with increased participation.
- Public Sector Reform and the Think Communities initiative. This has been worked up over the last 12 months and was launched into the local council arena at the Parish Conference in November. The Think Communities approach has paid dividends during the current crisis, with all public sector partners working closer together than ever before.
- The Coronavirus Hub set up a couple of months ago to co-ordinate the emergency response to the pandemic and organise support for Shielded and vulnerable residents. A very effective network of County and District Council Hubs has been developed, feeding into numerous community volunteers. This has been very evident in Somersham, so specific thanks to the Time Bank members and additional volunteers who have come forward.
- Grant funding opportunities through several schemes. Somersham has benefited through financial help with Coronavirus costs and is likely to receive significant help to fund the new Skate ramp.

An important issue locally has been road safety at Wheatsheaf crossroads. Funding for any substantial improvements has eluded us due to the accident record placing the site 44th in the county. Despite this, in March 2019 I successfully instigated an Options Appraisal, followed by some feasibility assessments, whilst at the same time investigating various funding opportunities. Tragically a fatal accident occurred in November 2019 whilst that work was still underway. With light controls the preferred option, a detailed design was being worked up in February, but has been interrupted by a severe disturbance in traffic flows caused by the utility works and then the lockdown. Once traffic returns to more normal levels, work will continue.

The Local Highway Improvement Scheme continues to provide parish councils with significant funding opportunities. The parish council declined to bid for a 2020 scheme and will shortly need to decide if it wishes to do so for 2021.

I would like to thank councillors and the clerk for their support over the 12 months and I will continue to serve our community to the best of my ability over the coming year.

6. Public Forum

Miss Bullard said the nature reserve group were a credit and a big tribute to the village, what a marvellous job they do, thank you.

Secondly, are the County County running out of money? Cllr Criswell responded saying time will tell, both CCC & the Districts will lose the money they usually raise but the Government is only funding the extra spend not any losses. The principal authorities are not running out of money but may have shortfall as result of pandemic

No further matters were raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

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Chairman

SOMERSHAM CHARITIES OF POOR'S MONEY
WILLIAM PETIT WILSON AND ROBERT HEMPSTEAD

BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020

Current Assets

31 March 2019

31 March 2020

£246.66 (1.2333 p per unit)	200 Charibond Shares (Current value 1.2319 p per income unit)	£246.38
£457.83	Trustees Savings Bank	£462.03
	<i>Dispersion withdrawal (R Riordan)</i>	- £100.00
	<i>Dividend cheque to pay in</i>	£ 1.40
<u>£704.49</u>	TOTAL Assets	<u>£609.81</u>

Represented by:

The Somersham Charities of Poor's Money,
William Petit Wilson & Robert Hempstead
Assets as at year ending 31 March 2019

704.49

Income from Charibond Shares

5.60

Decrease in value of Charibond Shares

- 0.28

Interest on TSB Account

0.00

Less Dispersions

- 100.00

TOTAL

£609.81

Only 3 cheques for income on Charibond shares cashed, 1 cheque outstanding to be paid in & £100 dispersal to be withdrawn.

No interest on TSB account recorded for the financial year due to COVID-19 restrictions on movement and the Clerk has not visited the bank at St Ives. Mr R Riordan (previous Clerk) agreed to visit with Mrs R Bryant following restrictions to close account.

We declare the foregoing Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020 is correct.

Mr D S W Bonnett
(Trustee)

Rector S Simpson
(Trustee)

Mr S J Criswell
(Trustee)

Mr M R Hoy
(Trustee)

THE EDUCATIONAL CHARITY OF THOMAS HAMMOND

BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2020

Current Assets

<u>31st March 2019</u>		<u>31st March 2020</u>
£2,798.48 (1432.62p)	195.34 COIF shares (Current value 1689.06p per unit)	£3,299.41
£1,839.94	Lloyds Bank <i>Statement as at 11 Nov 2019</i> <i>COIF Dividend declared 29 Nov 2019</i>	£1,607.10
		£24.36
<u>£4,638.42</u>	TOTAL Assets	<u>£4,930.87</u>

Represented by:

The Educational Charity of Thomas Hammond As at year ending 31 st March 2019	£4,638.42
Increase in value of COIF shares	£ 500.93
Income from COIF shares (dividends)	£ 75.90
Interest from Lloyds Bank (less tax) Apr – Nov 2019	£ 0.62
Less dispersions	- £ 285.00
TOTAL	<u>£4,930.87</u>

We declare the foregoing Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2020 is correct:

Trustees

SOMERSHAM FEOFFEEES CHARITY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2020

During the course of the year 2019/20, with the opening of the new Friendship Club, we were asked by the Victory Hall for help in the funding of new more comfortable chairs with arms. This was agreed to at a cost of £2656.62.

We were also asked to help with the funding of the church tower clock repairs. This we agreed to at a cost of £1,000.

It was reported by the owners of No 4 Station Approach that the village pump, which is situated outside their house, was in poor condition. In consultation with the Parish Clerk, it was agreed that the village handyman be asked to refurbish it at a cost of £96.00.

The Charity continues to pay the water bill for the tap in the churchyard and flags for the Church tower.

Although all 10 allotments are let, the cost of running them continues to be a financial headache as the rents no longer cover the cost of water and insurance. None of the trustees were keen to sell off the allotments as many of the tenants had enjoyed working the plots for years, but unless the rents were increased dramatically, the allotments would continue to be subsidised by the Charity. It was agreed this situation could not continue and therefore an increase in rents would need to be discussed with the allotment holders to get their views. Following discussions, all allotment holders had no objection to the higher rent charges which will come into effect in October 2020.

SOMERSHAM FEOFFEEES CHARITY

CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD April 2019 – April 2020

Over the last year the Charity has granted £2656.62 to the Victory Hall for help towards the funding of more comfortable chairs. £1,000 was granted to the Parish Church as a contribution towards the church tower clock repairs and £108.60 for Union Jack flag.

The Charity started the year with a balance of £2449.57. The total income the Charity received from interest on investments, rent from a parcel of land along the St Ives Road and the Colne Road allotments came to £3,618.06. We also transferred £3,600 from our COIF Deposit Account to cover the cost of chairs for the Victory Hall which initially was believed might cost around £3,580.00.

Total expenditure which included donations, insurance, water bills came to £4675.19. We are left with a balance to carry forward into 2020/2021 of £4992.44.

The Charity has £27,860.64 in its COIF Deposit Account

Other investments:

COIF Special Range 1866.57 units with a value of £31,598.60*

COIF Surplus Income 51.10 units with a value of £865.06*

M&G Charifund 1980 shares with a value of £32,881.66*

BlackRock Charishare 674.01 shares with a value of £4,662.83*

** Investment values at 31 December 2019*

SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

CHARITY NO. 1025367

SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

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SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

The Managing Committee present their report for the year ended 31st December 2019

Somersham Victory Hall Management Committee is registered with the Charities Commission, No. 1025367 and governed by the charity's constitution and by applicable law.

Somersham Victory Hall Management Committee address is :

Parkhall Road
Somersham
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE28 3HE

The members of the Managing Committee for the year were :

Lesley Minter	Chairperson
Eddie Howlett	Vice Chair
Mary Slevin	Secretary
Richard Braithwaite	Treasurer
Sarah Howlett	
Roy Fabb	
Kathy Spaxman	
Teresa Clark	
Helen Johnson	
Kevin Hawkins	
John Blundell	
Nartasha Ruffell	

SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to :

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charities Act 1993 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Independent Examiner is K. Green, trading as Tacconi Green & Co., Accountants

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

.....LJ Minter

Date ...11/02/2020.....

SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT for our financial year
1st JANUARY 2018 TO 31st DECEMBER 2019

2019 has been another busy and successful year for Somersham Victory Hall with a continuing increase in bookings.

Lease

The discussions with solicitors about the addition of four small rooms and the garden to our lease of the land between with the Parish Council and the VHMC have continued again all year and we hope that it will soon be signed and sealed.

Bookings and events

In January we celebrated 25 years since the official opening of the Victory Hall by the then Prime Minister, John Major. We held a big party attended by a large crowd of regular groups and users. There were demonstrations and stalls and plenty of birthday cake. We heard many stories of the early days when the hall was first built and trustees had to help with decorating and tiling to eventually make the dreams of 1945 villagers come true.

The new Friendship Club started in January and is now well established with a group of volunteers and as many users as they can comfortably manage. They no longer need the help of Age UK who started the new club for us. There is a weekly activity and the lovely lunches are highly praised. Tesco Express in the village has made the Friendship Club their charity and provides much of the food free of charge. A Time Bank rota has provided much needed transport each week and many new friendships have been formed. They also enjoyed an outing in the summer and a Christmas meal in Bluntisham.

Other new groups are 2 Yoga groups, a Karate group and Martial Arts. A weekly mental health support group and a few meetings each month now take place in the Community Room in spite of the lack of a lift.

We now have over 30 regular groups, some coming more than once a week, as well as regular visits from the NHS Blood Donor team, the annual carnival and fairly frequent elections! Our music quizzes have remained popular and we will have a new one in April with a wider range of music run by our treasurer Richard, so no costs to pay.

We were very sad that the youth club had to close in the summer and hope that a new one is able to start up later in 2020.

Our film nights have become steadily more popular and, after increasing the ticket price to £5 with £6 on the door, we have made a better profit this year. We have an excellent team of trustees and other volunteers who help run the film nights with at least 7 on duty on the first Friday evenings of the winter months

Our booking clerk, Sara, continues to do an excellent job encouraging bookings and chasing up possible contacts when there are cancellations. She takes a real interest in all the hall activities and makes lots of good suggestions to the trustees. She makes good relationships with our hirers and keeps a close eye on payments and insurances to keep everything up to date.

Furniture and Equipment

During the year, and after much discussion, we replaced the old curtains in May. Through ESPO we found a company with more reasonable prices than most to provide fire resistant curtains but several times, after we chose bright patterned fabric we liked, they could not source the 48 metres we required. In the end we settled for plain silver grey that shows off the old and new bright turquoise chairs.

The new soft chairs funded by the Somersham Feoffees charity are very popular and we would like to buy some more when we can afford them. Many thanks again to the Feoffees for their support.

We invested in a new amplifier with Bluetooth so that hirers will be able to play music from their own phones for classes and parties but we are still looking for a way to keep it secure but accessible.

We bought new and more efficient hand driers for the main toilets and we replaced more of our lighting with LED bulbs.

We improved some threshold ramps after the new doors were installed.

Maintenance and cleaning.

We changed our hygiene bin service from Cannon to Initial when Cannon lost their ESPO contract and we are pleased with the new service because they come when the hall is open and we don't have to rush over to open up each time they come.

We replaced our main fuse board in December at a cost of over £1,000 and a new gas meter was installed in August

Health and Safety

We changed our insurance provider this year, after much discussion and checking of policy, and have saved a large amount of money on our new three year agreement.

We reversed our ban on bouncy castles with advice from our insurers and added a new clause to our Hiring Policy for hirers to sign.

We introduced a Kitchen policy to ensure the safety of food storage and production and we expect HDC to inspect the Friendship Club procedures in the near future. This included the club installing their own locked fridge and freezer.

Other policies are revised and updated regularly with the encouragement and insistence of our secretary.

Evacuation Centre

We have always been registered as the evacuation site for Windsor Court flats in case of emergency evacuation and this year we agreed to provide the same for Somersham School. We hope that use will never be needed.

Appreciation

Lesley and Mary have attended several training coffee mornings with Cambridgeshire ACRE and we have received advice from them on several occasions.

We continued to enjoy support from the Parish Council on several occasions.

Employees and Trustees

We have an excellent team of employees and trustees and everyone contributes according to their strengths and interests.

Martin Oakley, our cleaner and handyman, has been off sick for several months but we hope to see him return soon after Easter in 2020 once his operations have healed. In the meantime we have employed John Macfarlane on an ad hoc basis to polish the floor and do some other odd jobs.

Jan Cooper is our main cleaner and comes in the crack of dawn five days a week (and at other times) to keep the hall sparkling clean. Many of our users compliment us on the good conditions they find for their events. She keeps us informed of problems large and small with her observant eye for detail.

Richard Dorling cuts the lawn for us as needed.

Nartasha Ruffell joined us as a trustee from the Parish Council in January.

In March we were excited to hear that Helen Johnson was appointed to be manager of a brand new village hall in Girton using some of the experience she had gained being one of our trustees. She is now able to give us the benefit of her experience in return.

We were sorry that Kevin Hawkins had to leave us in December and are pleased to welcome Tony Hulme from the Parish Council to replace him. Tony had already been helping with film nights and some DIY jobs so he has hit the ground running.

We are pleased that Teresa Clark has remained with us even though she is no longer managing the youth club. She does a great job making the popcorn on film nights. Sarah Howlett also helps with film nights and is good at designing and printing posters and tickets. John has also been very helpful with printing and putting up posters and helping with film nights. Kathy is a great help decorating the hall with economical but attractive ideas for Christmas and other events and often helps with film nights.

Without Eddie Howlett as dedicated projectionist our film nights would probably not have taken off. He also deputises for me and is our resident expert on electrical machines. Roy is another practical member of the team who helps procure DIY items and replaces light bulbs. He has a wide range of experiences and offers good advice in many situations.

Richard Braithwaite has now settled in well as our treasurer, or 'bean counter' as he puts it, as well as becoming increasingly involved with events and other activities.

Last but far from least is our secretary, Mary Slevin, who is an absolute wonder with all the paperwork. Her agendas and minutes are very detailed and she also keeps us up to date with policies, insurance, trustee training, garden maintenance, tradesmen's visits and a hundred and one other things.

Without such an enthusiastic and dedicated team the hall would not run so smoothly. A huge thank you to them all.

Lesley Minter
Chair of Trustees.
11th February 2020

**Treasurer's Financial Report: SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT for our financial year**

1st JANUARY 2019 TO 31st DECEMBER 2019

Financial Review

I am pleased to present the Statement of Accounts for our Financial Year 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019. These show an overall loss for the year of £1,638.51

Consistent with previous years our main source of income is the hiring fees from our regular hirers and this, together with income from private users of the halls, makes up the majority of our income. The financial loss of income from the now defunct Youth Club has been disappointing but happily offset by new regular hirers joining throughout the year.

Fundraising has been mainly concentrated on film nights. In 2019 we made a net profit of £402 which is a welcome improvement on the £41 in 2018.

Other fundraising events, including Music Quizzes, Carnival stall etc, brought in £596.

Conservative spending has been observed throughout the year and diligent consideration given to any purchase or outlay. The outgoing payment for purchase of new chairs was offset by the grant from the Feoffees Charity of £2,657 and I add my thanks to those of Lesley for this most generous financial assistance.

Our solar panels continue to bring in good revenue, £604 in this financial year

Wages for our staff were adjusted in April to reflect the National Living Wage set down by the Government.

My personal thanks to Sara, our Booking Clerk for keeping control of our debtors and ensuring that the majority of monies owed are paid in on time.

Financial Position

	31 December 2018	31 December 2018
	£	£
Treasurers Account	11,018	12,656
Repairs Imprest account	50	50
Cash in Hand	89	88
Deposit help / overpayment	-6	-6
TOTAL	11,151	12,788

All cash held is unrestricted. Funds are held in order to meet any expenditure that may occur.

We aim to hold at least £5,000 as a contingency.

Richard Braithwaite
Treasurer
24/02/2020

SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
RECEIPTS				
Adrenaline Martial Arts	81	-	81	-
Age UK Friendship Club	1,682	-	1,682	1,152
Art Club	660	-	660	750
Badminton	661	-	661	648
Ballet	1,398	-	1,398	1,356
Barry Ely Band	141	-	141	160
Batties	186	-	186	240
Carnival	311	-	311	319
Changing Lives (Tai Chi and Yoga)	923	-	923	548
Core Factor Pilates	711	-	711	875
Donations / Grants (Old Friendship Club)	200	-	200	190
DMJ	253	-	253	284
First Step Playgroup	-	-	-	66
Film Night	1,152	-	1,152	1,081
Good Energy FIT (Solar)	604	-	604	460
HDC Elections	176	-	176	176
Jolly Archers	735	-	735	741
Judo	216	-	216	237
Lyalya Dancing	364	-	364	225
Line Dancing	-	-	-	78
Maggies Keep Fit	225	-	223	206
Mel's Pilates	682	-	683	651
National Blood Service	625	-	625	428
Needlecraft	620	-	620	588
Nigel Mann Under 8 Football	-	-	-	161
Other Organisations (Baptist Church)	130	-	130	2,345
Over 60's	220	-	220	308
Private Functions	1,991	-	1,991	2,100
Refunds	351	-	351	100
Sam Godfrey LBT	333	-	333	498
Shoto Karate Jutsu	468	-	468	-
Shuffletots	36	-	36	351
Slimming World	3,714	-	3,714	3,707
Somersham Feoffees (grant new chairs)	-	2,657	2,657	-
Table Tennis	54	-	54	108
Tang Soo Do	1,459	-	1,459	1,490
Tiny Tots	123	-	123	12
Total Fitness	12	-	12	189
Town Band	348	-	348	348
We Are Mental Health	18	-	18	-
Yoga DRU	63	-	63	-
Youth Club	1,290	-	1,290	1,961
VH Fundraising (Red Tile Wind Farm grant towards replacement doors)	-	-	-	6,516
VH Fundraising (inc Music Quiz, Carnival stall etc)	946	-	946	581
Zumba	72	-	72	-

TOTAL INCOME	24,233	2,657	26,890	32,234
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SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
PAYMENTS				
BT WiFi	493	-	493	264
Business Rates	633	-	633	619
Cleaning inc. materials	745	-	745	411
Deposit Refunds	232	-	232	180
Electricity	840	-	840	849
Film Nights	750	-	750	1,040
Flowers	-	-	-	25
Fundraising	350	-	350	67
Furniture & Equipment	3436	2,657	6,093	2,211
Gas	872	-	872	973
Insurance	1,412	-	1,412	2,430
National Insurance / Tax	415	-	415	621
Professional Fees and Memberships	1,624	-	1,624	380
Repairs inc. Maintenance	3,921	-	3,921	22,865
Stationery	140	-	140	424
Sundry Expenses	-	-	-	-
Wages	9,795	-	9,795	10,796
Water	213	-	213	181
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	25,871	2,657	28,528	44,336

Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	-1,638	-	-1,638	-12,102
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Accumulated Fund brought forward	12,789	-	12,789	24,891
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Accumulated Fund carried forward	11,151	-	11,151	12,789
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SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Current Account	11,018	-	11,018	12,656
Repairs Imprest Account	50	-	50	50
Cash in Hand	89	-	89	88
Restricted Funds	-	-		
Deposit held/overpayment	-6	-	-6	-6
Total Current Assets	11,151	-	11,151	12,789

SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2019

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to :

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

KF Green
FMAAT
32a East Street
St Ives
Cambs
PE27 5PD

Dated: 09/03/2020

SOMERSHAM ANGLING CLUB

BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDING as at 31 March 2020

Current Assets

Somersham Angling Club Assets as at year ending 31 March 2019	<u>£2,977.66</u>
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Income from Fishing Permits April –March 2019-2020	£1,011.50
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Total Assets	£3,989.16
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Current Liabilities

Less Expenditure April -March 2019-2020	£1,188.97
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TOTAL Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>£2,800.19</u>
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Friends of Somersham Nature Reserve

Chair's Report for 2019



On behalf of the Friends Group I am pleased to present the eleventh annual report on the work and progress of Somersham Nature Reserve. This report covers all areas of the reserve's varied work, including wildlife and habitat management, managing access, grants and events. We hope the report makes for interesting reading and if you require any further information then please contact us directly and we will be happy to assist you.

I would like to feel that the nature reserve over the last eleven years has been transformed and over that time many more people visiting and enjoying the site, much more wildlife and more people volunteering to help look after it.

Importantly I should mention and thanks all the work the Nature Reserve Committee and volunteers do to keep the nature reserve looking its best but also keeping all of the admin and organising efforts going on in the background. Of special mention should be the efforts

of Adam Everest, our Site Warden who is always present and keeping an eye on things and finding interesting wildlife that many of us wouldn't spot ourselves. And Tim Palmer, Chair of the Angling Club, for his and their Committee's effort in making vast improvements to the lake and its fishing potential.

During 2019/20 the work of the Friends Work Party Group focussed on delivering the management 5 year plan (reviewed annually). The objectives being:

- 1) To maintain and enhance the important habitats and species found on site to achieve positive management
- 2) Maintain and enhance the lake area, jointly with Somersham Angling Club
- 3) Maintain and enhance public access to the site.
- 4) Enhance interpretative/educational opportunities of the site for local people.
- 5) Involve local people in the management of the site and encourage a sense of 'ownership'

Site Management Work

The majority of management work on the nature reserve is undertaken by Friends Group with support from the Community Pay Back Team and the occasional Corporate Volunteering Day. The main focus of the conservation management work is the maintenance of the wildflower-rich grassland areas along with cutting back vegetation to keep the various pathways and access points passable and maintenance of the fishing lake and its surrounds.

Through the winter months, September to March, we have a regular work party on the first Sunday of the month from 9.30am to 1.00pm. During 2019 we held:

7 Work parties giving a total of 94.5 volunteer hours.

Without this volunteer effort we wouldn't have such a beautiful and well-loved community asset.

Grass Cutting – was carried out by our Warden (Adam Everest) with our new mower, which is a perfect machine for doing this type of work. Raking up of the grass was carried out by the volunteers at our regular winter work party's. Following discussion with the Parish Council and on-site survey of site users; this year we changed the mowing regime of Station Land meadow. A wide 4m path is cut around the perimeter of the field with two wide paths cut through the middle of the field to allow walkers and dogs easy access. This has seen an increase in wild flowers, providing a nectar source for many bees and butterflies. The cutting and raking of these areas is essential to provide ideal conditions for the important wildflowers we find on the nature reserve.

Scrub clearance – was carried out by our work party team. This work is carried out to keep paths open and to prevent scrub invasion of our important wildflower grassland areas.

Woodland management – with permission of Cambridgeshire County Council we coppiced a small area of trees in the woodland belt that surrounds the Station Land field. Coppicing is a traditional woodland management practice that involves cutting down selected trees to just above ground level. Allowing more light into the ground level which benefits a wide range of wildlife including ground flora and a wide range of birds and butterflies. The cut stump then regenerates with many shoots until they reach a suitable size before being re-coppiced again. The cut material can be used for a variety of purposes, including; fence posts, bean sticks, hurdle making and much more.

The Lake Area – The Nature Reserve Friends Group have joined forces with the Angling Club, who under the strong and thoughtful leadership of Tim Palmer and his committee, have gone from strength to strength and have developed an exciting and successful angling club. At our monthly work parties we divide our work up between the lake and rest of the nature reserve. This proving to be a very positive and collaborative relationship that allows us to manage the whole of the nature reserve as a much loved asset for the benefit of the whole community.

Community Orchard Project – winter work is focussed on weeding around trees and placing muck as mulch to feed the trees and control weeds. In the autumn we carry out pruning. The trees are now of an age to produce fruit, not much and of a small size but hopefully amounts of fruit will increase. The fence also required periodic maintenance as dogs push through the netting fence designed to keep them out. Entrance sign has also been re-varnished.

New Benches – Cambridgeshire County Council provided funding for the purchase of 3 new recycled plastic benches which have been located around the lake and adjacent to the railway path near to Station Approach entrance.

Corporate Volunteering Days – this year we were joined by 20 volunteers from RAF Wyton who helped clear and replant the hedgerow on the west bank of the lake. Many thanks to them and for all their efforts. We hope we can encourage them to come back on a regular basis.



Proposed BMX Track

Following concerns raised about a small number of local young people who were attempting to use the site as BMX track, causing damage and cycling at speed around the lake path; we approached the group to find a solution to their need for an area they could use as BMX track. The need to engage with local youth on the design and build of the proposed BMX Track is ongoing given that the ethos of the project was that local youth would be involved in the ongoing maintenance and care of the track. We are currently waiting on the group to come back to us and let us know if they are willing to take this on themselves.

Social media – the FB page is proving very popular with currently 506 members.

Events

A full programme of events were run over the last 12 months with a total of 8 which were attended by approximately 450 people.

April

Amphibian Walk – due to an early spring much of the amphibian migration had happened and low numbers were recorded. Numbers of attendees were low too with some half a dozen people present.

Easter egg hunt – a very well attended with some 30-40 families joining in.

May

Annual site management walk – attended by a small group of people to review previous year's management and discuss the coming years'.

Dawn Chorus Walk – a much quieter time for birds again this year possibly due to the cold weather. A total of 43 species seen or heard. Low numbers attending again. Thanks again to Adam and Louise for providing breakfast in their garden.

June

Somersham Carnival Event – shared a spot with the Angling Club and Timebank.

July

Nature Reserve & Fishing Lake Funday – a very well attended popular that will be run again in 2020.

October

Apple Day – Another joint event with the Time Bank held at the Community Orchard on the nature reserve. Very well attended with over 150 people attending. Thanks again to Benni

from All Under Cover who generously provided the marquee, erected it and took it down all for free!

December

Christmas tree Festival – Big thanks to Felicity and Anne for being creative and entering another 'alternative tree made with natural materials, some from the nature reserve.

Grants

Along with the Angling Club we were successful in securing a grant of £8k for improving the lake and its surrounding habitat.

The Year Ahead – 2020/21

As I write this in early May 2020 we are in the middle of a lockdown due to the COVID-19 epidemic. All events for the first half of the year have been cancelled due to social distancing guidelines. We wait to see how long this will last and whether in the second half of the summer we can get back to some normality. However, ongoing plans for the coming year are in the attached annual management plan. New plans for the year ahead, include:

- Construct new circular path on eastern side of lake
- Develop a joint funding bid with local schools and youth groups to construct a 'sky-watching platform' and living willow tunnel in centre of Station land field
- Develop a joint funding bid to enhance habitat in Seuters Pond for amphibians and reptiles. Improves access and interpretation.
- Cut back encroaching bramble alongside 'the gallops'
- Selective coppicing or layering of willow tree re-growth along western bank of the lake

A very busy year again but a very enjoyable one and again it must be remembered that none of this would be achieved without the hard work, cheerfulness and commitment of all the volunteers that help with the management in many ways, from making breakfasts, cutting and clearing, putting up posters and making cups of tea. And a very special thanks to Katie and the Time Bank members who have done so much to make the nature reserve events happen and run so smoothly! A big thank to you all.

Philip Clark (Chair)

Somersham Nature Reserve Group

Email:somershamlnr@gmail.com

May 2020

Annual Work Programme 2020/21: Somersham Local Nature Reserve

Objective	Task	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Comments
1) To maintain and enhance the mosaic of neutral grassland habitat	1.1 Cut areas of species-rich grassland and rake arisings once a year (GH1)													Friends Group to do. Community Pay back to do raking.
	1.2 Cut back scrub and bramble from areas of remnant species-rich grassland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut bay opposite sheep field gate, opposite entrance to path that runs behind Bank Avenue cut bays into bramble at far end of reserve 													Friends Group.
	1.3 Cut and rake bees and butterfly Meadow													Friends Group to do cutting. Primary School to do raking. Need to re-engage with new Head Teacher.
	1.4 Carry out mowing on Station land Field to encourage more wildflowers													Friends Group/Parish Council.

Objective	Task	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Comments
	whilst still maintaining good public access. To include a 4m wide path around perimeter and two paths across field at north and south													Filed has been split into three sections. Middle section to be cut this year.
	1.5 Cut back encroaching willow and bramble alongside the 'horse gallops'.													Friends Group or Community Payback to do.
2 To maintain and enhance the semi-deciduous woodland.	2.1 Carry out audit to identify any trees that require attention under Health & safety site management regulations during site management walk.													CCC/Friends Group to complete.
	2.2 Carry out coppicing of second area of woodland on CCC land at access point from railway line to Station Field													Friends Group. One section cut during winter 2019/20
3. Maintain and enhance the lake area.	3.1 Strim and rake bank at west side of lake													Lake Working Group/Friends Group.
	3.2 Cut 'The Hill' meadow and remove cuttings on an annual basis.													Lake Working Group/Friends Group.
	3.3 Cut back path around lake path on a 'as and when' basis.													Lake Working Group/Friends Group.
	3.4 Selective coppicing or layering of willow tree re-													Lake Working Group/Friends

Objective	Task	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Comments
	growth along western bank of the lake													Group.
	3.5 Investigate funding for the repair of lake circular path													Friends Group
	3.6 Investigate possibility/funding of constructing a 'kingfisher bank' on the island.													Friends Group/ Lake Working Group
	3.7 Agree with Parish Council the details of the new sea containers													Friends Group/Parish Council
	3.8 Maintain amphibian bays.													Friends Group
4. Enhance the wetland habitat around Seuters Pond to improve it for amphibians; including great-crested newts	4.1 Carry out survey to establish numbers of great-crested newts													Involve CPARG
	4.2 Develop funding bid													Friends Group
	4.3 Coppice willows to increase light levels to ponds													Friends Group
	4.4 Deepen and extend existing pond													
	4.5 Create new pond													
	4.6 Construct board walk.													
5. Maintain and develop community orchard	5.1 Carry out winter pruning													Friends Group.
	5.2 Cut all grass in orchard													Friends Group.

Objective	Task	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Comments
	5.3 Cut path and 1m circle around individual trees													Friends Group.
	5.4 Maintain/repair netting along orchard fence													Friends Group.
6 Maintain and enhance public access to the site.	6.1 Cut the central path through the reserve, to a width of 1.5m and a height of 4m, twice a year, to allow easy walking/horse riding and improve access for the less-abled. Other cuts may be necessary in years when there is exceptional growth.													Friends Group.
	6.2 Ensure any fly tipping is reported and removed promptly.													Friends Group
	6.3 Carry out regular maintenance and update inventory of tools held in the container, including padlocks on gates.													Friends Group.
	6.4 Strim grass around section of rail track													Friends Group
	6.5 Develop a joint funding bid with local schools and youth groups to construct a 'sky-watching platform' and living willow tunnel in centre of Station land field													Friends Group
	6.6 Cut back encroaching vegetation from path leading from the northern end of the													Friends Group

Objective	Task	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Comments
	nature reserve.													
7. Enhance interpretative/educational opportunities of the site for local people through events and activities.	7.1 Hold a programme of events throughout the year, to include; Carnival Event, Bat Walk, Apple Day, Fungi Foray, Dawn Chorus Walk													Friends Group.
	7.2 Update the Parish, District and County Council's websites. Regularly input into the Parish newsletter.													CCC/PC/ Friends.
8. Involve local people in the management of the site and encourage a sense of 'ownership'.	8.1 Agree management plan with the Friends Group.													CCC/PC/ LWG/ Friends.
	8.2 Hold Friends meetings four times a year.													Friends
	8.3 Encourage local people to carry out regular litter picks in addition to monthly litter picks around the Lake area. Look into doing a large scale litter pick over winter.													CCC/ Friends.
9. Carry out annual monitoring of habitats and important species	9.1 Carry out annual bird breeding survey, focussing on species of principal importance; including; song thrush, linnet, bullfinch, kingfisher, barn owl and													Friends Group

Objective	Task	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Comments
	turtle dove.													
	9.2 Undertake yearly monitoring of butterfly and moth populations.													Friends Group
	9.3 Carry out annual monitoring of reptile and amphibian species; including grass snake, great crested newt and common lizard													Involve CPARG
	9.4 Undertake yearly monitoring of site management operations to ensure objectives are being met and to inform future management plan reviews.													Friends Group
	9.5 Look at possibility of installing a gate counter to monitor visitor numbers													Friends Group

Somersham Sports & Leisure Association

Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 March 2020

Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances

Bank Statement Balances

31/03/2020	Current Account	2,515.42	
31/03/2020	Interest Account	1,097.90	
			3,613.32

All Cash & Bank Accounts

1	Current Bank A/c	2,515.42
2	Deposit Account	1,097.90
3	Savings Account	0.00
	Other Cash & Bank Balances	0.00
	Total Cash & Bank Balances	3,613.32

Somersham Sports & Leisure Association

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March

31st March		31st March
	Operating Income	
0	Administration	10,666
0	Sports Field	1,100
0	Pavilion Fuction Room	5,891
0	Picnic in the Park	1
0	Somersham Sprint	77
0	The Handlebards	116
0	Special Events	1
<u>0</u>	Total Income	<u>17,852</u>
	Running Costs	
0	Administration	9,461
0	Salaries	8,216
0	Sports Field	220
0	Pavilion Fuction Room	40
0	Somersham Sprint	294
0	The Handlebards	119
<u>0</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>18,350</u>
	General Fund Analysis	
0	Opening Balance	4,111
0	Plus : Income for Year	17,852
<u>0</u>		<u>21,963</u>
0	Less : Expenditure for Year	18,350
<u>0</u>		<u>3,613</u>
0	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	0
<u>0</u>	Closing Balance	<u>3,613</u>

1st Somersham Scout Group

Report for Parish Council Meeting 18th May 2020

2019-20 was a good year for 1st Somersham Scout Group. We have been able to fix the banking problems we had last year and the membership of the various sections in the group has been generally maintained.

The Group accounts have not yet been audited but our preliminary figures are shown in the attachment:

Our income included £883 raised at the Carnival BBQ and donations of £554. Other income came from the 1st Steps Playgroup and the Scout member subscriptions.

The profit of £700 is caused by the cancellation of a District Scout camp that was being organised for May following the Covid-19 lockdown. The charges for the camp had been refunded to the Group by the end of March but the refunds to the parents are not shown on these accounts as they were made after April 1st.

In a typical week, approximately 140 children will use the Scout Hut. Within the Scouting sections, the Beaver section is at capacity with 24 children and has a substantial waiting list. Cubs are at 90% capacity while Scouts are at 40%. The Scout Hut is also used by Rainbows and Brownies for their meetings as well as by the 1st Step Playgroup.

Finally, I would like to note my thanks to the 9 adult leaders who turn up each week to run their sections; and to the 7 members of the Group executive committee who ensure that the leaders have the resources they need so the young people get the full Scouting experience.

Alan Liddle
Scout Leader

**1st Somersham Scouts****FUND RAISING COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR TO 31st MARCH 2020****SOURCES**

	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	2507.00	
Bank Interest	0.00	
Fund Raising	883.27	
Rental Income	2260.00	
Sundry Income	554.00	
Other	392.35	
Activities fees	3489.50	£10,086.12

APPLICATIONS

Rent	10.00	
Rates	1032.06	
District Capitation	2160.00	
Heat & Light	1216.28	
Insurance	494.94	
Repairs & Renewals	111.00	
Donations	0.00	
Cost of Generating Funds	50.00	
Admin Expenses	0.00	
Trustees Expenses	0.00	
Capital Equipment	598.22	
Badges	659.70	
Activities Expenses	3026.76	£9,348.96

Net Income/(Outgoings) £737.16

Adjusted Net Income/(Outgoings) £737.16

FUNDS MOVEMENTS AND POSITION AS AT 31st MARCH 2020

	£	£
Funds available as at 1st April 2019	13322.14	
Add: 2019/2020 Income	10086.12	
Less: 2019/2020 Expenditure	-9348.96	
	£14,059.30	

Somersham Parish Council

Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 March 2020

Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances

Bank Statement Balances

31/03/2020	UNITY TRUST 3580	6,239.79
31/03/2020	UNITY TRUST DEPOSIT 3577	145,296.27
28/02/2018	Co-op	0.00
31/08/2016	alto card	0.00
31/03/2020	Optimum	215.80
31/03/2020	CCLA Public Sector Fund	50,554.75

202,306.61

Unpresented Payments

785.13

201,521.48

All Cash & Bank Accounts

1	Unity Trust Bank-Current a/c	5,454.66
2	Unity Trust Bank-Interest a/c	145,296.27
3	Coop Bank - Savings a/c	0.00
4	Alto Card	0.00
5	Optimum	215.80
6	CCLA Public Sector Fund	50,554.75
	Other Cash & Bank Balances	0.00
	Total Cash & Bank Balances	201,521.48

Somersham Parish Council

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2020

31st March 2019		31st March 2020
	Operating Income	
4,680	Administration	3,501
1,490	Agency Funding	1,490
1,009	Amenity Areas	11,310
0	Multi Sports Area	473
9,329	Angling Club	782
2,419	Christmas Lights	2,167
2,404	Community Infrastructure Levy	1,258
0	Community Orchard	451
0	Kubota Tractor	0
99	Localism Projects	80
158	Millennium Sports Facilities	288
349	Salaries	156
171,567	Precept	190,906
272	Recycling Credits	317
414	Norwood Building	1,180
16,530	Time Bank	20,239
1,225	Training	120
350	Tree Fund	0
2,028	Youth Club	360
214,324	Total Income	235,079
	Running Costs	
26,121	Administration	19,858
783	Agency Funding	1,134
9,690	Amenity Areas	3,990
592	Sea Container	625
671	Multi Sports Area	768
8,256	Angling Club	2,069
5,071	Capital Projects	0
1,752	CCTV	482
3,955	Christmas Lights	2,829
2,371	Community Library	2,799
400	Donations	950
13,565	Kubota Tractor	2,180
281	Localism Projects	84
5,724	Millennium Sports Facilities	7,217
103,561	Salaries	109,761
12,737	Pension Payments	10,805
10,812	Public Works Loan Board	10,812
4,570	Norwood Building	3,631
1,000	Street Lighting	3,054
9,666	Time Bank	13,217
6,908	Training	3,219
1,975	Tree Fund	2,850
3,310	Youth Club	1,026
233,771	Total Expenditure	203,360

Somersham Parish Council**Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2020**

31st March 2019		31st March 2020
	General Fund Analysis	
191,656	Opening Balance	30,818
214,324	Plus : Income for Year	235,079
<hr/>		<hr/>
405,980		265,896
233,771	Less : Expenditure for Year	203,360
<hr/>		<hr/>
172,209		62,536
0	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	(35,674)
<hr/>		<hr/>
172,209	Closing Balance	98,210
<hr/>		<hr/>