

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held on Zoom, Remote Online Viewing**  
**On Monday 1st June 2020 at 7.33 p.m.**

**PRESENT WERE:**

Cllr J Blundell  
Cllr S Criswell  
Cllr D Potter  
Cllr T Sansom  
Cllr D Skeggs

Cllr D Smith  
Cllr R Sutton (in the Chair)  
Cllr R Woolway  
Cllr G Wooster

Mrs P Bryant, Parish Clerk,  
Miss M Blewett, Deputy Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** No members of the public were present.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from;

Cllr C Dolby      Personal  
Cllr A Hulme      Internet connection issues  
Cllr C White      Personal

Cllr N Ruffell      **ABSENT**

2. **PARISH COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

3. **PUBLIC FORUM**

It was proposed by Cllr Criswell, seconded by Cllr Sansom 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 7:35pm and was reconvened as no members of the public were present.

4. **CO-OPT A HAMMOND TRUST CHARITY REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr Blundell volunteered to fill the vacancy. It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Potter and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to co-opt Cllr Blundell.

5. **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

20/00330/HHFUL      14 Bishops Road Somersham PE28 3HP  
Box dormer to the rear of the roof to extend the first floor and single storey rear extension.

It was proposed by Cllr Sansom, seconded by Cllr Wooster and **RESOLVED** with a unanimous vote to recommend no objection. The plans are in keeping with the property and street scene.

b) **PLANNING APPROVED**

20/00396/HHFUL 19 Hammond Way Somersham PE28 3YE  
First floor side extension above existing garage and infill extension to ground floor

20/00466/PIP      124 High Street Somersham PE28 3EN  
Permission in principle for the demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of up to two dwellings

c) **PLANNING REFUSED**

19/02387/HHFUL      7 The Grange Somersham PE28 3JB  
Replacement windows

19/02388/LBC      7 The Grange Somersham PE28 3JB  
Replacement windows

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Cllr Skeggs asked the Council to make a formal complaint regarding the planning refusal which had been previously approved by Somersham Parish Council. The decision makes no sense, the windows are 3 storeys high and would not be seen by the average person walking along the High Street. Cllr Sutton asked Cllr Criswell about HDC's Planning decision and Cllr Criswell said the planners will follow policy over opinion. The Clerk will write a letter to HDC Planning Department asking for an explanation of their refusal of the plans.

6. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 4<sup>TH</sup> May 2020 AND 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

At the request of Cllr Criswell the following amendment was made to the Minutes of 4th May 2020; Page 18/20, planning application 19/00579/FUL Land north of the Pasture, line 4 :- delete the words 'RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to recommend no objection' and replace with 'RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to object'.

The Minutes for 4th May and 18th May 2020 were proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Potter to be a true record of events. This was RESOLVED by 7 votes for with 2 abstentions (as those Councillors had not read the draft Minutes). The Minutes will be signed by the Chairman as soon as practical in the current lockdown situation.

7. **POLICE REPORT**

Emailed to Councillors:

- i. Weekly Policing Updates

8. **REPORT FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEVE CRISWELL**

Cllr Criswell said he had nothing to report that wasn't elsewhere on the agenda.

9. **PARISH CLERK'S REPORT**

**Matters Arising Report & Updates:**

- a. **Funding Bid for Capital Assets:** Through County Councillor Steve Criswell, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk submitted a successful funding bid to the Communities and Partnerships Committee and were awarded £32,560. This money together with funds already earmarked for the projects will be spent on the skate ramp installation, a 'Witches Hat' piece of play equipment and fresh air fitness gym equipment for the Norwood Play Field.

**Correspondence emailed to councillors:**

- ii. RSN online – updates
- iii. CAPALC bulletin & NALC CEO bulletins
- iv. CCC coronavirus briefings
- v. Countywide Coordination Hub Highlights (COVID-19)

10. **FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT MATTERS including: -**

- a. **The Monthly Accounts** - The accounts were proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Potter and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be accepted.
- b. **The Annual Accounts 2019 - 2020** - The Annual Accounts were proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Criswell and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be accepted.
- c. **The Annual Return (AGAR) 2019 – 2020**

**Section 1** was read out by the Clerk and Councillors responded accordingly to each question. Section 1 was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Criswell and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be correct.

**Section 2** – The Accounting Statement was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Potter and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be accepted.

The Chairman will enter a 'wet signature' as required by PKF Littlejohn (external auditors), as soon as practical.

11. **HIGHWAY MATTERS including Public Footways – Repairs/ Maintenance**

**Correspondence emailed to Councillors:**

- a. Highway repair/maintenance matters to report – none
- b. To Consider the Local Highway Initiative Bid (LHI), only one option can be put forward;

Cllr Wooster raised his concern at the necessary repairs required for the footpath on the north side of the High Street. Cllr Criswell reminded members the footpath issues are maintenance matters and this has already been reported to the Highways team.

Cllr Woolway suggested the 40 mph speed restriction is continued between Somersham and Pidley due to the speeding issues on Pidley Hill. Cllr Criswell said this was not an option due to the over-riding Highway legal constraints and what is permissible.

Cllr Criswell expressly proposed the Council consider Options 1 and 2 and choose one option as Somersham's LHI bid. With that proposal the Chairman put the options to the vote as below.

- i. **Option 1** – Introducing a 20 mph limit throughout most of the village

This was rejected by 4 votes for and 5 against

- ii. **Option 2** – Reviewing parking restrictions at Parkhall Road

This was rejected by 1 vote for and 8 against

- iii. **Option 3** – An alternative proposal?

No permissible highway alternatives were put forward for consideration and following the rejected Options 1 and 2, an LHI bid for highway improvements will not be made for 2021/22.

12. **TO ADOPT THE CO-OPTION POLICY**

With some minor updates suggested by Cllr Wooster, the co-option policy was proposed by Cllr Wooster, seconded by Cllr Criswell and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be adopted.

13. **TO DECLARE A CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

- a. To elect an Environment Working Party to oversee the creation of an adopted Climate Change Emergency Policy and Plan

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Smith and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to declare a climate emergency and create a working party to formula a Climate Change Strategy for Somersham.

The working party will comprise of Cllr Blundell , Cllr Sansom, Cllr Skeggs, Cllr Smith, Cllr Sutton and Cllr Wooster.

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

The next Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30 pm by Zoom video conferencing

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:33pm

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Richard Sutton, Chairman

ACCOUNTS	1st June 2020	Vat	TOTAL	Cost Centre	
Wages	Salaries	0.00	7087.58	7,087.58 Bacs	Salaries - 18 May 2020
LGSS	Pension Fund	0	439.95	439.95 Bacs	Pensions - 18 May 2020
NEST	Pension Fund	0	285.07	285.07 DD	Pension - 18 May 2020
HMRC	Tax & NI owing at year end	0	0.5	0.5 Bacs	HMRC - due 18 May 2020
	Tax & NI	0	2108.63	2108.63 Bacs	HMRC - due 22 May 2020
The Pellet Guys	Course fishing pellets	0	280	280 Bacs	Angling Club
E-On	Electricity	5.18	103.55	108.73 Bacs	Street lighting
Cole & Day	Fuel 16th - 31st March 2020	16.56	82.79	99.35 Bacs	Kubota tractor
Linda Garrick - Starfish Yoga	YouTube sessions - yoga	0	275	275 Bacs	Changing Lives
Sport & Leisure Fisheries	1000 x 4-6" tench	317	1585	1902 Bacs	Angling Club
J Waters	Hedge cutting	12	60	72 Bacs	Maintenance
ESPO	Gas	4.64	92.86	97.5 Bacs	Norwood B
Cole & Day	Fuel 1st - 15th April 2020	8.53	42.65	51.18 Bacs	Kubota tractor
Huntingdonshire DC	Residual bin - weekly collections	0	184.6	184.6 Bacs	Maintenance
Zoom	Standard Pro monthly fee - video conferencing - April	2.4	11.99	14.39 Bacs	Administration
TNS Ltd	Tractor service	154.77	773.9	928.67 Bacs	Maintenance
VHMC	Hall hire - Tai Chi	0	31.5	31.5 Bacs	Changing Lives
	Hall hire - Yoga	0	9	9 Bacs	Changing Lives
Playsafety Ltd	Annual play area inspections	36.5	182.5	219 Bacs	Maintenance
TNS Ltd	Grass cutter repairs	87.24	436.19	523.43 Bacs	Maintenance
J Waters	Grass verge cutting	39	195	234 Bacs	Agency
Visionict	SSL Certificate renewal	10	50	60 Bacs	Administration
Cole & Day	Fuel 16th - 30th April 2020	6.93	34.61	41.54 Bacs	Kubota tractor
R Adams Rehab	Seated exercise	0	200	200 Bacs	Changing Lives
RBS Rialtas Solutions Ltd	Annual software support & maintenance	134.6	673	807.6 Bacs	Administration
S Blackwell	Work to trees - tree audit	0	640	640 Bacs	Tree works
	Work to trees - tree audit	0	360	360 Bacs	Tree works
Zoom	Standard Pro monthly fee - video conferencing - May	2.4	11.99	14.39 Bacs	Administration
E-On	Electricity	5.01	100.21	105.22 Bacs	Street lighting
Steve Blackwell	Tree work	0	920	920 Bacs	Tree works
Linda Garrick - Starfish Yoga	YouTube sessions - yoga	0	220	220 Bacs	Changing Lives
Blachere Illuminations	3 x 4 foot Christmas Trees for the Norwood Building	67.4	337	404.4 Bacs	Norwood B
Cornwell & Son	20 litres Motif	8.7	43.5	52.2 Bacs	Maintenance
Viking Payments	Office materials	6.87	45.36	52.23 Bacs	Administration
St Ives Quick Print	A4 Time bank newsletters	0	162	162 Bacs	Volunteer Grp - COVID-19
				0 Bacs	

0 Bacs

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>925.73</u></b>	<b><u>18065.</u></b>	<b><u>18,991</u></b>
		<b><u>93</u></b>	<b><u>.66</u></b>
		<b>18,991.</b>	<b>66</b>

**Electronic payments**

BT Business			£0.00 DD	Administration
			0 DD	Administration
Talktalk Business	01487 841359 & internet		0 DD	Administration
Talk Talk	CIC-01487 840266 -		0 DD	Library
	CIC-01487 840266 -		0 DD	Library
Microsoft Online	Monthly computer software - May 2020	0	39.5	39.5 DD Administration
Siemens	Printer lease rental - 2019			DD Administration
Carphone warehouse	K Ixer - mobile contract payment	1.25	6.25	£7.50 DD Time Bank - office
	P Bryant - mobile contract payment	0	0	£0.00 DD Administration
	M Tyers - mobile contract payment	1.25	6.25	£7.50 DD Administration
Huntingdonshire DC	Sea Container -	0		£0.00 DD Administration
	Norwood Building - rates	0	0	£0.00 DD <b>No rates due in 2019-2020</b>
SSE	Electricity - Multi sports area - QRT			£0.00 DD
	Electricity - Lake sea container - Qtr			£0.00 DD Lake area
	Electricity - Norwood Building - QTR			£0.00 DD Norwood Building
	Electricity - library - QRT			£0.00 DD Library
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>		<b><u>2.5</u></b>	<b><u>52</u></b>	<b><u>54.5</u></b>
			<b>£54.50</b>	