

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 16th December 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

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

www.somersham-pc.gov.uk

PRESENT WERE:

Cllr B Bruce
Cllr A Chapman
Cllr D Potter (in the Chair)

Cllr D Skeggs
Cllr D Sutton

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE

County and District Councillor, Cllr Steve Criswell
District Councillor, Cllr Charlotte Lowe

424/12/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C Dolby - Personal
Cllr N David - Personal
Cllr T Sansom - Illness
Cllr R Woolway - Personal

425/12/24 PARISH COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

426/12/24 SIX (6) MONTHS OF REPEATED ABSENCE BY TORI PIPER (AS OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2024.)

It was noted that Cllr Piper has been absent from Parish Council meetings for six consecutive months and is therefore disqualified as a Councillor. Electoral services at HDC have been updated.

427/12/24 PUBLIC FORUM

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 19:32 for a period of time to hold a public forum.

Nothing raised from the public gallery. The meeting reconvened immediately after.

428/12/24 **REPORT FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR STEVE CRISWELL**

Chatteris Road is currently closed for work and should re-open by the end of the week. The development site North of the Bank requires water and sewerage provision, which may result in road closures from Bridge End during January and February 2025. The area by Station Approach requires resurfacing, so further work will be delayed until this is completed. Cllr Criswell is working on including the Earith Causeway closure within the strategic highways proposal in January and will request a long-term solution.

Cllr Criswell will not be standing for the County Council elections in May. Cllr Lowe will represent the Conservative candidacy.

The "flood aware" board at the end of Chatteris Road is broken. The road will re-open once advised by the Environment Agency to do so.

HDC's target on new buildings in the area is 30% uplift, which is considerably higher than envisaged. The Local Plan will subsequently need to be accommodated.

429/12/24 **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/02165/TREE	44 High Street Somersham Huntingdon PE28 3JB	17/12/24
	T1 Robinia in front lawn: fell close to ground level. Tree is decayed at the base and in the main stem up to approx. 3 metres	
	G1 3x Lime at side of front garden: remove epicormic growth up to 5m crown lift to 5m over neighbouring car park and remove major dead wood	
	Reason: to allow inspection of low stems, tidy appearance and improve access in neighbouring car park	
	G2 2x Sycamore at side of front garden: reduce laterally over car park by 2 - 2.5m and sever	
	Ivy at base Reason: to improve access in neighbouring car park T2 Elm on front boundary: remove low branch back to main stem at 4m Reason: to clear overhead cables	
	T3 Lime on front boundary: reduce to pollard at 3.5-4m Reason: to clear overhead cables and to manage in the future as a pollard in line with other Lime trees on front boundary	
	T4 Sycamore in back garden: sectional fell close to ground level Reason: tree is heavily decayed at the base and leans over neighbouring garden.	

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Bruce and RESOLVED to support this application providing the tree officer agrees the application as acceptable. There were four (4) votes in favour, and one (1) abstention.

b) PLANNING APPROVED

24/01361/FUL	103 High Street, Somersham, PE28 3EH	5/12/24
	Proposed Change of Use from a unit falling within Class E(c) (ii) to a Sui Generis Use (Wine Bar and Bookshop)	

430/12/24 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2024**

Cllr Chapman proposed a change to the Minutes under item 420/11/24: -

'Cllr Sutton seconded the proposal to accept the offer made by Feoffees Charity to cover the cost of a replacement church noticeboard'. The Minutes were duly altered from Cllr Sansom to Cllr Sutton and signed by the Chair.

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously RESOLVED as approved.

431/12/24 POLICE REPORT

- Neighbourhood Safety Emails
- No police report offered

432/12/24 EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- i. CAPALC bulletin & NALC CEO bulletins
- ii. Neighbourhood Alerts
- iii. Cambridgeshire ACRE bulletins and updates
- iv. Huntingdonshire DC – press releases and updates.
- v. Consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings (deadline 19/12/24). Noted. Individual responses can be made privately.

433/12/24 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT MATTERS

- i. Agree Monthly Accounts. (Appendix one)
The monthly accounts were proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously RESOLVED for approval. The Deputy Clerk will amend the spreadsheet to show the correct total of electronic payments.

434/12/24 THE COMMUNITY ROAD WATCH (CRW) TO APPLY FOR A LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT (LHI) BID (AS A COMMUNITY GROUP)

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously RESOLVED for the Community Road Watch to apply for an LHI bid for two (2) Morelock MVAS for use on currently used-on lampposts locations, to moderate the verified-by-logger excessive speeds of traffic, with a 20% PC contribution.

435/12/24 CONSIDER A FURTHER LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT (LHI) FUNDING BID FOR PHYSICAL TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ALONG ST IVES ROAD

It was proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Bruce and unanimously RESOLVED for the Parish Council to apply for a further LHI bid to help moderate inbound traffic with physical calming measures along St Ives Rd, with a 20% PC contribution.

436/12/24 HIGHWAY MATTERS INCLUDING PUBLIC FOOTWAYS - REPAIRS/ MAINTENANCE

The alley way between Harvey Drive and Shortlands needs clearing. The Deputy Clerk will report this to Huntingdon District Council.
The hatched yellow lines need repainting at Church Street car park. The Deputy Clerk will also report this to HDC.

437/12/24 REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

The next SNRG meeting will be held this week.



Cllr Sutton offered a report from the Victory Hall Management Committee; a request has been made for the sports tables to be removed from the Community room. The next film night is on January 10th (showing One Life).


Cllr Chapman offered a report from Somersham Library meeting. A puzzle table is being trialled next year which will be available for the community to use.

438/12/24 NOTICES & MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None.

The next meeting of Somersham Parish Council will be on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Millennium Pavilion, The Trundle, Somersham, PE29 3JS.

There being no further matters the meeting was closed at 20:26 hours.


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Chairman

