

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Millennium Pavilion on
Monday 2 October 2006 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT WERE: Mr D Bonnett, Mrs I Chambers, Mrs M Clark (in the Chair), Mr D Cornwell, Mr S Criswell, Mr R Elen, Mr M Hoy, Mr A Lee, Mr E Parsons, Mr I Smith, Mrs J Smith and Mr R Sutton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr M Newman DC, PS J Cobb, PCSO G Goodfellow, 1 member of the public and Mrs P Blewett (Parish Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from:

Mrs W Barker – holiday
Mr A Hulme – work commitments
Mr P McCloskey – holiday

Mrs J Smith gave her apologies for arriving late after attending a school training course, 7.37 pm.

2. PARISH COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

SEE APPENDIX 1

3. PUBLIC FORUM

It was proposed by Mr Criswell, seconded by Mr Smith and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to close the meeting for a period of time to permit members of the public to participate in a Public Forum. The meeting was closed at 7.32 pm and reconvened at 7.34 pm.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

06001400FUL 6 High Street Somersham
Erection of 6 dwellings

Amended plans

It was proposed by Mr Lee, seconded by Mr Criswell and RESOLVED by 4 votes for, 3 votes against and 4 abstentions to propose no objection. The amended plans have addressed parking concerns.

0602034FUL 10 Colne fields Somersham
Erection of garage/store/studio

Amended plans

It was proposed by Mr Lee, seconded by Mr Bonnett and RESOLVED by 9 votes for and 2 abstentions to propose no objection. The amended plans are in keeping with the property.

0602295REM Park Farm St Ives Road Somersham
Approval of siting for erection of agricultural dwelling
It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Lee and RESOLVED by 9 votes for and 2 abstentions to propose no objection. The dwelling would be sited off the main road and access gained at the rear of the property.

0602713FUL 100 High Street Somersham
Erection of dwelling
It was proposed by Mr Criswell, seconded by Mr Smith and RESOLVED by 7 votes for and 4 abstentions to propose no objection. The dwelling will be in keeping with the street scene and the building scale is acceptable.

0602732LBC 100 High Street Somersham
Alterations to existing outbuilding to form garage
It was proposed by Mr Lee, seconded by Mr Bonnett and RESOLVED by 8 votes for and 3 abstentions to propose no objection. The proposal will improve parking and maintain a Listed Building.

0603093FUL 42 Parkhall Road Somersham
Erection of Boundary fence
It was proposed by Mr Bonnett, seconded by Mr Criswell and RESOLVED by 7 votes for and 4 abstentions to propose no objection. The boundary fence will provide protection for the bungalow. Reassurance is requested that the fence will be erected on the correct property boundary. Concern was raised at the visual impact on the street scene and a tasteful planting scheme is recommended to soften the effect of the fence on the street scene.

0603097FUL 12 Norwood Road Somersham
Extension to dwelling
It was proposed by Mr Lee, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by 9 votes for and 2 abstentions to propose no objection. The extension is in keeping with the property.

0603105REM Land adj 23 Rectory Lane Somersham
Approval of siting, design, external appearance, means of access & landscaping for the erection of 2 dwellings
It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mrs Chambers and RESOLVED by 7 votes for, 2 against and 2 abstentions to propose no objection. The proposal provides improved provision for off-road parking.

0603102FUL Land adj 12 Whitehall Close Somersham
Erection of 2 dwellings
Prior to any discussion Mr Bonnett left the meeting.
It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mrs Chambers and RESOLVED by 6 votes for, 1 against and 3 abstentions to propose no objection. The building designs are in keeping with the street scene and there is parking provision for 3 vehicles per property.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED

0602136FUL 98 High Street Somersham
Change of use from showroom to dwelling

0602251LBC Somersham House Rectory Lane Somersham
Replacement of door

0602056FUL 25 Windsor Gardens Somersham
Extension & alterations to dwelling

0602034FUL 10 Colne fields Somersham
Erection of garage/store/studio

0602519FUL Silks Farm Nursery St Ives Road Somersham
Erection of play equipment

0602584FUL 31 Robert Avenue Somersham
Extensions to dwelling

PLANNING APPLICATIONS REFUSED

0602429FUL 26 Church Street Somersham
Erection of Boundary Wall

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

Development Control Panel – Agenda 18 September 2006 – 0601400FUL 6, High Street
Somersham

HDC – Public Meetings Schedule September 2006

HDC – Standards Committee Agenda – 14 September 2006 – in circ folder

HDC – Notification of change of address – ‘Place of Plenty’, Parkhall Road to be known as
‘Little Orchard’.

HDC – Huntingdonshire Local Development Framework: Consultation on Developer
Contributions towards Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – 6 weeks
consultation ends on 6 November 2006 – Group 4

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

It was reported the boot scraper has been removed from the front of the chemists during the shop
front alterations. The Clerk will report the matter.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2006

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 September 2006 were proposed by Mr Lee,
seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by all councillors present to be a true record of
proceedings and were duly signed.

6. COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION DATE

The County Council election for the Somersham and Earith District will be held on Thursday 12
October 2006.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Mr Newman reported the Scrutiny Committee were looking at the district council budget for savings. Also as from next year, HDC will not have to fund PCSO's as this cost will come from Central Government. Finally there is another three months of consultation on Parish Boundary changes.

8. CALC REPRESENTATIVE AND WORKING PARTY MEMBERS

Mr Sutton reported a second CALC representative will be required if the new constitution is accepted. This matter will be deferred to the next meeting.

It was proposed by Mr Bonnett, seconded by Mr Cornwell and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to elect Mr Elen on to the following working parties:
The Parish Map, Village Design Statement and Parish Plan Committee Representative.

9. POLICE MATTERS

Crime report received. *SEE APPENDIX 2*

Letter – Inspector McNeill

The Chair welcomed PS Jason Cob and PCSO Gill Goodfellow. PS Cob said he is willing to listen to constructive comment from the parish towards policing matters in Somersham. The new CBM from 16 October will be PC Liam Gibb who together with PCSO Goodfellow should be covering Somersham full time including anti-social hours.

PS Cob explained the new police initiative the Neighbourhood Policing Panel.

10. THE NORWOOD BUILDING & THE VICTORY HALL

Mr Sutton asked the VHMC representatives to mention the security lights at their end of the building need repair.

VHMC Minutes 13 September 2006

11. CCTV DIGITAL RECORDING UPGRADES

The Clerk reported both CCTV systems have been upgraded to digital recording and the two dome camera's are up and running.

The Clerk will check with the Information Commissioner whether new notices are required stating that 'digital' recordings are taking place.

12. THE NORWOOD PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk reported attending the Peoples Millions media training session on 20 September. There will be 8 winners from this region in total; also the runner up with the most votes will be given funding.

16 Oct – shortlist of finalists drawn up

18 Oct – the shortlist will be published

It was proposed by Mr Cornwell, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to purchase a custom made electricity box cover for the multi-sports area @ £420.
LGA 1972 s111

The Clerk will remind N Dolby about the outstanding work to close the gaps on the north boundary and the east ditch clearance.

The next Norwood Playing Field working party meeting will be held on Monday 23 October 2006.

13. THE MILLENNIUM SPORTS FIELD

The SSLA Trustee meeting was held on 19 September. Mr Cornwell reported the matters discussed including work to the cricket square over the winter and sports field plus user groups.

14. LAND EAST OF THE MILLENNIUM SPORTS FIELD – Lafarge Aggregates Ltd

Mr Criswell reported the original Quarry Liaison meeting had been postponed and now re-arranged for 30 October 2006. Mr Criswell will also speak to Mr Deal re lack of maintenance to the permissive path owned by Lafarge along the dis-used railway at that meeting.

15. HIGHWAY MATTERS Inc the Balancing Pond, West Newlands Ind. Est.

CCC – Concessionary Fare Scheme

Balancing Pond – The Clerk will provide Mr Criswell with details so he can speak to HDC about out standing maintenance work.

The following road repairs were reported:

- The Trundle opp Lakeway – drain cover standing proud
- St Ives Road from Windmill PH to Cuckoo Bridge – road subsiding
- The Bank – work to replace the footpath kerb remains outstanding.

16. THE WHITE POST JUNCTION – B1089/B1090

Mr Criswell reported a site meeting arranged for Thursday 12 October at 8.30 am with Emma Murden CCC. Mr Criswell, Mr Cornwell, Mr Smith and the Clerk will attend.
The Clerk will invite the police.

The Clerk will ask the police to speak to the bereaved family about removing the flowers and notice as it is now causing a dangerous hazard in itself with people stopping to read the messages.

17. FOOTPATH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE inc the White Post Area & procedure for Charity Stalls at The Cross

Mr Criswell reported the Windmill PH was interested in leasing an additional small section of the **White Post area**. Mr Criswell explained the Footpath Working Party had looked at the area and agreed it could be possible but recommended a one-year licence.

The Clerk will ask Mr Clements for a written request to formalise the matter.

The Chairman asked all councillors to look at the site prior to the next meeting.

Charity Stalls at The Cross – all Charity Stalls must be booked with HDC and a Street Collection Permit obtained. Stalls for personal gain are not permitted and charity stall collections must be properly accounted for.

Somersham Scout group request for area to plant trees.

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Smith and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to work with the scout group and that Mr Smith will contact Mrs Liddle to progress matters.

18. CHAPEL FIELD ALLOTMENTS

Anonymous letter of complaint received and forwarded to Somersham Small Holdings & Allotment Association re family living in two caravans.

Letter received from Somersham Allotment Association outlining their concerns at the caravans on site.

It was RESOLVED the Clerk would ask for clarification on planning legislation relating to persons living without permission on private land.

It was RESOLVED to display a general contact notice on the Parish Council notice boards for both allotment associations in Somersham to ensure all enquires are sent to the correct body.

19. RAGWORT CONTROL AT STATION LAND

Consultation Group 2 reported on the proposed course of action to prevent the spread of Ragwort, the first step is a risk assessment.

The Clerk will contact CCC Countryside Team for expert advice on assessing the risk of Ragwort.

20. STREET LIGHTING inc repairs

PC 6 outside Homeleigh, Parkhall Road is glowing rather than bright.

21. SOMERSHAM LAKE

It was resolved to approve the 3rd quote to remove Lake Cabin @ £550 Mr J Wadsworth LGA 1972 s111

22. COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE (Library)

CCC – letter confirming a 3-year lease grant will be granted. A draft copy will be sent in due course.

Invitation from Julie Liddle FOSL to all councillors to the libraries 3rd birthday party on Saturday 7 October.

Minutes received 14 June 2006 and 12 July 2006

Mr Lee reported FOSL have been put forward for the Queens Award for Volunteers.

23. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING PARTY

The TEN application has been approved for 1 December 2006.

The Street Collection Permit has been applied for 1 December 2006 and is booked in HDC's diary.

The Clerk is currently applying for a road closure permit for 1 December 2006.

24. SOMERSHAM'S PARISH PLAN REPORT SUMMARY

HDC – re the parish plan summary

It was RESOLVED the Clerk would e-mail HDC stating this summary was the final version and send another soft copy.

25. VOICES NEWSLETTER

Mr Parsons reported the deadline for the next issue of Voices is 31 October.

Mr Parsons was also pleased to report that the PDF system was working well and both he and Mrs Smith have been able to open the draft copies of Voices to review.

26. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence has been received since 4 September:

Huntingdonshire NHS - Re Directory of Services, activities & opportunities for older people in Huntingdonshire

CALC – New Constitution Proposals
 AGM 14 October 2006 – Agenda
 Minutes of AGM 15 October 2005
 Proposed affiliation fees

Councillor professional development workshops

Cambridgeshire ACRE / Defra – PARC Project

Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age

M & G Charibond dividends £3.80

27. REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY PARISH COUNCILLOR'S

Mr Sutton reported attending a meeting of the St Ives Road Safety Committee.

Mr Smith reported a Tree Wardens Forum both he and Mrs Smith attended in Bluntisham. The current incentive is a promotion to replant orchards which are being depleted in the area.

Mr Criswell reported attending the Freedom of Information Seminar with the Clerk in Bluntisham,

28. FINANCE, INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

a) Monthly accounts

The following cheques Nos 3202 - 3205 were required before the parish council meeting and were duly signed by Mr Cornwell, Mr Criswell and Mr Smith

Ely Cathedral Music Appeal Trust	£50.00	Chairman's Allowance, s137
Replacement Keys	£24.00	
Carpet Cleaner hire	£34.58	
Tindalls – fax rolls	£40.00	

The following accounts were proposed by Mr Lee, seconded by Mr Bonnett and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be paid. Cheque Nos. 3206 -3224 totalling £17097.99 were duly signed.

Wages	£ 3086.30
Training	£ 30.00
Maintenance	£ 1120.03
Administration	£ 398.99
Utilities	£ 211.17
PWLB Loan 1	£ 6465.22
Loan 2	£ 1168.33
Bus Service – 2 Sept 2006	£ 160.00
CCTV Upgrade – 2 nd Install	£ 4457.95

Bank Reconciliation as at 4 September 2006

Lloyds TSB 30 day a/c	£ 87 010.01	<u>£ 72 010.01</u>
Transfer £15 000 to current a/c		

Lloyds TSB Current a/c	£ 3 639.63	
Transfer £15 000 in from 30-day a/c		
Cheques due £ 17 097.99		<u>£ 1 541.64</u>

b) Finance Meeting

Mr Lee reported the Finance Working Party meeting held on 27 September 2006 matters discussed include the current budget, initial precept review and Clerks training costs.

It was proposed by Mr Lee, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to transfer money from the Clerk's Gratuity Pension Fund to multi-sports area fencing reserve and the Parish Plan overspend.

It was proposed by Mr Lee, seconded by Mr Sutton and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to continue to pay the Clerks training expenses at the University of Gloucestershire.

c) Staff Christmas Gifts – spend last year £44.99

It was proposed by Mr Lee, seconded by Mr Bonnett and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to permit the Chairman to purchase staff Christmas Gifts.

LGA 1972 s112

d) Risk Management

Mrs Smith reported a meeting of the Risk Management & Insurance Working Party held on 26 September 2006. Discussion centred on the risk assessment forms some of which are still outstanding. Councillors were reminded to complete their forms as a matter of priority.

29. CLOSED SESSION

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Bonnett and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to take the meeting into closed session owing to the sensitive nature of the matters to be discussed. The meeting closed at 9.49 pm and was reconvened at 10.01 pm.

Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

30. NOTICES & MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 30 October 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Millennium Pavilion, The Trundle.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.02 pm.

Signed.....
Mrs M Clark Chairman

APPENDIX 1

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 2006

DAVID BONNETT	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee Somersham Charity Of Poor's Money Prejudicial interest – Planning application 0603102FUL Land adj 12 Whitehall Close
INGRID CHAMBERS	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Somersham Town Band Trust
MARILYN CLARK	Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL) Victory Hall Management Committee
DAVID CORNWELL	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee Somersham Town Band Trust
STEPHEN CRISWELL	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee Somersham Charity Of Poor's Money Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL)
RICHARD ELEN	-
MICHEAL HOY	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Chairman – Somersham Day Care Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee Somersham Charity Of Poor's Money
ANDREW LEE	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL) Personal interest – Planning application 0603102FUL Land adj 12 Whitehall Close
ERIC PARSONS	Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL)
IAN SMITH	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL) Education Trust of Thomas Hammond Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee
JENNY SMITH	Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL)
RICHARD SUTTON	Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL) Education Trust of Thomas Hammond

APPENDIX 2

Reported crime in Somersham 04/09-02/10/06

Distraction Burglary

25/09/06 21:30 The Bank 2 offenders have entered via insecure rear kitchen door and disturbed elderly lady, one suspect demanded cash whilst the other searched desk. Cash stolen.

Non Dwelling Burglary

31/08-04/09/06 High Street Fence climbed to enter rear garden, lock sawn off shed, nothing appears to have been stolen.

Criminal Damage

22-29/09/06 High Street Window wiper ripped off a Renault megane.

29/09-02/10/06 Parkhall Road Lime green paint spray used to graffiti 3 sides of hut with offensive words.

Theft of vehicle

30/09/06 Pennway Green Jaguar stolen from car port overnight.