

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF**  
**SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held in The Millennium Sports Pavilion, The Trundle, Somersham**  
**On Monday 12 July 2010 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT WERE:** Mr A Beaven, Miss J Bullard, Mr S Criswell (in the Chair), Mr M Hoy, Mr P McCloskey, Miss L Minter, Mrs D Siggs, Mr G Siggs, Mr I Smith, Mrs J Smith, Mr P Suckling, Mr R Sutton and Mrs P Bryant Parish Clerk.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr M Newman

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were accepted from:

Mr D Bonnett – personal

Mr D Cornwell – work commitments

**2. PARISH COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

*See Appendix 1*

All councillors declared a personal interest in planning application 1000845FUL Retention of sea container, Somersham Lake

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

At the meeting held on 14 June 2010 – No matters were discussed

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Beaven and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to close the meeting for a period of time to allow members of the public to participate in a public forum. The meeting was closed at 7.31 pm and reconvened no matters were discussed.

**4. PLANNING MATTERS**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1000845FUL                      Somersham Lake, off Springfield's, Somersham  
Retention of container for storage purposes

1007511PENQ                    Burleigh Hill Farm, Somersham Road, St Ives  
Proposed single wind turbine

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to proposed no objection. Councillors support a scoping opinion being undertaken but have no particular advice they wish to be included within that and thank HDC for consulting with the parish council.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED**

Nil

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS REFUSED**

Nil

## **PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE**

HDC –Street naming & numbering. Allocation of address to new property on land north of Station Approach to be known as 4B, Station Approach

HDC – 23 June 2010 - Statement ‘Proceeding with Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan’ Document

## **PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

Nil

### **5. MINUTES OF 14 JUNE 2010**

The Minutes were proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and they were RESOLVED by 9 for and 2 abstentions to be a true record of events and were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **6. POLICE REPORT**

- Crime report 14 June – 12 July 2010
- Ramsey Neighbourhood Forum up date and notice of next meeting – Wednesday 21 July 2010 7 pm in Ramsey Community Centre.

**Report to police** - The George PH, landlords Volvo regularly parking on footpath

### **7. REPORT FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR S CRISWELL AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR M NEWMAN**

Cllr Newman confirmed parking enforcement will be discussed at HDC’s forum tomorrow evening.

Cllr Criswell reported there have been a lot of meetings to discuss public savings at HDC & CCC; they have to come up with challenging savings in line with the Governments directive.

Mr Sutton queried why CCC proposes spending enormous amounts to complete the Guided Bus Service.

Cllr Criswell said CCC is trying to be as robust as possible with discussions by pointing out the options and this is one of the discussions, there are 6 matters still to be put right and CCC will not take over the system unless they are rectified but they will charge BamNuttall if CCC have to do the repairs/remedial work themselves; if BamNuttall do not complete the work CCC propose to claim the money back from them.

### **8. PARISH CLERKS REPORT**

- a) **Matters Arising Report** - Accepted
- b) The following **correspondence** has been received:

M & G Charibond dividends     £3.80

HDC Public meetings Schedule July/August 2010

## **In Circulation**

COPE Newsletter – July 2010

NHS Keeping in Touch – Summer 2010

- c) CPALC – notification of vacancy on Hunts Standards Committee – no volunteers
- d) CCC – Developing Youth Support in Cambridgeshire Stakeholder Events list to discuss the proposals for service provision – the Clerk will obtain a copy of the informal consultation paper for response.

Miss Minter will attend one of the events.

- e) HDC Tough Times: Tough Decisions Budget Proposals statement

**9. FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT including: -**

- a) **Monthly Accounts** - the accounts were proposed by Miss Bullard, seconded by Mrs Siggs and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be paid and the cheques were duly signed. *See Appendix 2*

It was agreed to write to Cranbrook plants and report the Council are not happy with the quality of the plants this year and could they have a look at the hanging baskets to see what can be done.  
It was agreed to source additional hanging basket quotes next year.

**b) Borrowing Criteria for a Public Works Loan for the Burial Ground Extension**

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by 10 for and 1 abstention to borrow £120 K at a fixed rate of 3.2%

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by 7 votes for and 4 abstentions to borrow over 15 years.

The Clerk will list work required including Bucks Well, soil importation, land drainage, pond work, construction of weir, insurance for work to import soil, number of actual plots and the approximate number of years the burial ground will last.

**c) Additional office help for the Clerk proposed at 2 hours per week.**

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mrs Siggs and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote the Clerk may ‘tap into her pool of people’ and use the most appropriate person for job.

**10. HIGHWAY MATTERS including Public Footways - Repairs/ Maintenance**

CCC – Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Schemes – 2011/2012 Bidding Round – response due 20 August

It was proposed by Mr Suckling, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by 10 votes for and 1 abstention to request a scheme to slow traffic on St Ives Road such as chicanes and to review the speed restriction (parish share £1 per elector = £3000)

CCC – Changes to Bus Services – none affect Somersham

**REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE**

Mr Sutton – the HDC planning notices never appear to come down once they have expired.

The Clerk will write to HDC to take them down

Mrs Siggs – the entrance to Library Walk is frequently blocked by cars parking across the entrance. The Clerk will request CCC to reinstate the gateway marker.  
High Street footpath on the south side close to the British Legion – the hedge needs trimming back over the wall  
Also hedge over footway also at No 114, High Street  
Grass verge at bottom of Church St needs cutting

**11. DEFINITIVE FOOTPATH MATTERS, Bridleway 7 (Short Drove to The Crafty Fox), White Post Area - Repairs/ Maintenance**

Miss Bullard reported an attempt has been made to steal the metal caps at White Post area.

Mr Sutton commented that Cambridge Water Co has been most considerate in their work and kept flow of traffic going well along St Ives Road.

**12. SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEER GROUP**

It was proposed by Mr Siggs, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to proceed with setting up a Speedwatch group with the 5 volunteers and to send their details to the Speedwatch co-ordinators; also to write and thank the volunteers.

**13. STREET LIGHTING inc repairs**

**Repairs**

CCC 4 Robert Ave – on the ‘blink’

**14. CONSULTATION ‘A Leader or Mayor – The Choice for Huntingdonshire’**

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by 10 votes for and 1 abstention to respond saying the consultation has been discussed and it was agreed members would respond individually.

**15. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY IN SOMERSHAM - Cambridgeshire ACRE**

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to proceed with the survey provided it does not put a burden on parish council time or money.

**16. SOMERSHAM PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to update the current parish plan.

The Clerk will arrange a working party meeting to work out a strategy.

It was agreed Miss Minter may join the group.

**17. REPORTS FROM SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES & REPRESENTATIVES:**

a) **Norwood Building / The Victory Hall - VHMC 8 June 2010**

b) **Norwood Playing Field –**

- **Letter – All Undercover Marquees additional requests for access to playing field in 2011**

It was proposed by Mr Suckling, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to permit the company to unload the marquee on carnival day at 6 am but not to hammer in posts

before 7 am. The Carnival committee must leaflet all properties around the Norwood Playing Field.

Mr Siggs will have key to open at 6 am and will take full responsibility for vehicles on the field on the day however the playing field will also be inspected the day before (Friday) by another councillor and the Groundsman to judge whether it is likely to be dry enough for heavy vehicles on the Saturday.

- **Approval of youth project costs** – the financial breakdown provided by the Parish Clerk was accepted.

c) **Millennium Sports Field** – Next meeting 20 July 2010

Miss Bullard reported the new Facility Caretaker position has been filled following interviews and will assist Martin Tyers when required.

d) **Somersham LNR – Friends of Somersham Local Nature Reserve  
Including the Lake**

It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr Siggs and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote Phil Clark may borrow tools on behalf of Wood Hurst to carry out work in their parish.

Mr McCloskey reported CCC is starting a volunteer reptile survey commencing 19 July 2010.

e) **Christmas Lights Working Party** –

Mr Smith reported a working party was held couple weekends ago.

f) **Youth Working Party** – the next meeting will be held on 21 July.

g) **Environment Working Party** –

- The CIC has requested a further supply of biodegradable doggy bags – it was proposed by Mrs Smith, seconded by Mr Sutton and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to purchase more biodegradable doggy bags with a maximum expenditure required £50.

h) **Voices Newsletter** –

- The Friends of Somersham Church have requested to insert flyer in September edition of Voices. It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr Beaven and RESOLVED by 10 for and 1 abstention to say no but Voices would be happy to publish a shorter article. It was agreed it would be difficult to manage the insertion and distribution of additional leaflets plus councillors felt this would be taking advantage of the volunteer deliverers and likely to ‘open a can of worms’ for the future.
- It was proposed by Mr Hoy, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote the Clerk and Chairman would produce a simple questionnaire on precept expenditure for 2011/2012 based specifically on project expenditure and to be agreed by councillors prior to publication.

i) **Community Information Centre (Library) – FOSL Minutes 9 June 2010**

- CCC – letters regarding necessary savings to library services

Miss Minter reported there would be a Garden Fete this Sunday afternoon at The Rectory from 2 pm onwards.

**18. EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Mr Siggs reported attending a Cambridgeshire SLCC training seminar in Peterborough.

**19. CLOSED SESSION**

In accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Beaven and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 9.34 pm and reconvened at 9.41pm.

Matters discussed included correspondence between interested parties relating to the proposed burial ground extension.

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

No matters were raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.43 pm

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 9 August 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Millennium Pavilion.

.....  
Steve Criswell  
Chairman

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 2010

ANDREW BEAVEN	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Victory Hall Management Committee (Vice Chairman VHMC)
DAVID BONNETT	Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee Somersham Charity of Poor's Money
JUDITH BULLARD	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee (Vice Chairman SSLA) Victory Hall Management Committee
DAVID CORNWELL	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee (Chairman SSLA) 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) Member of Huntingdonshire District Council Member of Cambridgeshire County Council CCC Fire Authority Representative
MICHAEL HOY	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee Somersham Charity of Poor's Money
PAUL McCLOSKEY	Somersham School Governor Friends of Somersham Local Nature Reserve - Secretary
LESLEY MINTER	Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL) Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee Victory Hall Management Committee
DOROTHY SIGGS	
GRAHAM SIGGS	Historic Society – Treasurer Friends of Somersham Local Nature Reserve - Treasurer
IAIN SMITH	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL) Education Trust of Thomas Hammond Harvey Feoffees Charity Committee Friends of Somersham Church
JENNET SMITH	Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL) Friends of Somersham Church
PAUL SUCKLING	Victory Hall Management Committee
RICHARD SUTTON	Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL) Education Trust of Thomas Hammond Personal interest as a relation: Booking Secretary monthly pay Friends of Somersham Church

## ACCOUNTS

12 July 2010

The following accounts were required before the meeting:

Wages, Tax & NI (1 June)	£4161.06
British Telecom            Internet Services	£17.62
	<u>£4178.68</u>

### 12 July 2010

Talk Talk	Broadband	£17.04	Direct Debit
Opal	Telephone services	£10.05	Direct Debit
PSK Installations	CCTV Upgrade 50% balance	£2291.25	
Mrs P Bryant	Land Registry – Title deeds	£27.88	
Twinseal Windows	Replace broken unit	£94.00	
Cranbrook Plants	Hanging Baskets – The Cross	£119.85	
ESPO (gas)	The Norwood Building	£36.06	
Mr G Siggs	Refund – Christmas Lights	£170.19	
Viking Direct	Stationary, inks etc	£287.56	
E-on	Street Lighting	£43.28	
Cole & Day	Groundsman's fuel	£113.36	
Mrs P Bryant	Expenses refund	£172.81	

**TOTAL** £3383.33