

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF**  
**SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**At The Millennium Sports Pavilion**  
**On Monday 9 August 2010 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT WERE:** Mr A Beaven, Miss J Bullard, Mr D Cornwell, Mr S Criswell (in the Chair), Mr M Hoy, Mr P McCloskey, Mr G Siggs, Mr I Smith, Mrs Smith, 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

Miss L Minter - holiday

Mrs D Siggs - work

Mr P Suckling - personal

Mr D Cornwell apologised for his late arrival.

Mr Cornwell arrived 8.11 pm - Item 10, d)

**2. PARISH COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In addition to the standard declarations the following interests were declared (*see appendix 1*):

Mr S Criswell – Personal interest H/05008/10/CC Erection of a single storey children’s centre  
And 1000888FUL Site two sea containers for the storage of sports equipment, Millennium Sports Facility

Miss J Bullard – Personal 1000888FUL Site two sea containers for the storage of sports equipment, Millennium Sports Facility.

Prejudicial – Item 17 - Renewal of Somersham Sports & Leisure Association’s Lease with Somersham Parish Council due in September 2010 and Item 18- Request from Somersham Sports & Leisure Association to Obtain Legal Advice on Correct Responsibility for the South Water Course and Possible Water Retention on Neighbouring Properties.

Mrs J Smith – Personal interest H/05008/10/CC Erection of a single storey children’s centre

Mr D Cornwell – Prejudicial - Item 18 - Request From Somersham Sports & Leisure Association to Obtain Legal Advice on Correct Responsibility for the South Water Course and Possible Water Retention on Neighbouring Properties.

Remaining parish councillors declared an interest in 1000888FUL Site two sea containers for the storage of sports equipment Millennium Sports Facility.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

At the meetings held on 12 July 2010 – No matters were discussed

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It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Beaven and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to close the meeting to allow members of the public to participate in a public forum. The meeting was closed and reconvened at 7.33 pm as no members of the public were present.

#### **4. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**

It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to co-op Mr Stuart Innes on to Somersham Parish Council to fill the vacancy.

#### **5. PLANNING MATTERS**

##### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1001007FUL Single storey rear and side extension to dwelling (previously granted planning permission in 2005)  
94, The Trundle, Somersham

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to propose no objection, the extension fits in with the property and street scene.

H/05008/10/CC Erection of a single storey Children's Centre to replace existing temporary provision including 3 classrooms, external play space, increased car and cycle parking provision and the provision of a mobile classroom for the construction period.  
Somersham Primary School, Parkhall Road

Residents Letter – Mr & Mrs West

It was proposed by Mr Smith, seconded by Miss Bullard and RESOLVED by 7 for and 1 abstention to propose no objection. The centre is needed, this is progression, it was also agreed to request Mr & Mrs West's letter regarding the re-sitting of the cycle rack is taken into consideration.

1000888FUL Site two sea containers for the storage of sports equipment  
Millennium Sports Field, The Trundle

1001062FUL Proposed bathroom dormer extension  
7 Bishops Road

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to propose no objection to the extension however councillors do object to the materials being used and recommend opaque glass for the bathroom window as it will over look the neighbouring property.

1001194FUL Canopy extension and plant room for onion store  
Colne Fen Farm, Chatteris Road

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to propose no objection, this forms part of their business and will not affect neighbouring properties.

##### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED**

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

##### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS REFUSED**

Nil

## **PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE**

HDC – Current enforcement cases – ask what the breach of condition is for 10A, the Bank

Enforcement issues:

There is an extra caravan on the Pidley Sheep Lane site

To check progress with the decking at The George

## **PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals and Waste – Proposed Submission DPD's

### **6. MINUTES OF 12 JULY 2010**

The Minutes were proposed by Mrs Smith, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to be a true record of events and were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **7. POLICE REPORT**

- Crime report was presented at the meeting
- Monthly Police surgery has moved to the Library.

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Siggs and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to send a thank you letter to Mrs M Baker for holding the Police surgeries at the Tea Rooms.

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

Cllr Newman had nothing to report relating to Somersham.

Cllr Criswell reported an update on Hinchingsbrooke Hospital – of the 3 franchises they are now down to 2. A sub group will be interviewing on 8 September 2010 and Cllr Criswell will be chairing that meeting.

### **9. PARISH CLERKS REPORT**

- a) Matters Arising Report – no updates to report
- b) Correspondence

Email – Future Jobs Fund – Second Phase for councils who wish to take the opportunity to participate

### **In Circulation**

COPE Newsletter – August 2010

Headlines – Luminus Group Summer 2010

- c) HDC – Facts & Figures about Huntingdonshire
- d) HDC – Balancing the Budget

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

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

- b) **Internal Audit Report for 2009/2010** – It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to accept the report and thanks were expressed to the Clerk for her work.
- c) **Dog Exclusion Order advertisement - The Hunts Post.** It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to advertise the proposed Dog Exclusion Order for the Norwood Playing Field up to a total cost of £200 ex vat.
- d) **To Bind the Minute pages into a Minute Book**

It was proposed by Mrs Smith, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to organise the binding of the Minute pages up to £40 ex vat and for the Clerk to request an additional amount if necessary.

Mr Cornwell arrived 8.11 pm

e) **Document Retention Policy**

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by 8 for and 1 abstention to adopt the policy.

f) **CCTV Operation Policy**

It was proposed by Miss Bullard, seconded by Mr Smith and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to adopt the policy.

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

Correspondence:

CCC – Third Party Funding of Highway Measures  
 CCC – Re – Winter Service - gritting arrangements

**Reported repairs**

Footpath by No 1 Ditchfields – BT post hit by digger and needs attention  
 Bollard at High Street - removed after being hit by vehicle and not replaced  
 Weed killing on footpath to Gypsy Lane – Request Parish Groundsman can undertake this work as Mr Tyers is qualified.  
 Hedge at Ibbott Crescent – No 26, The Trundle, plus 44, High Street  
 Pot holes at Warner’s Drove

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

Mr M Newman – copy letter received regarding an application for a new gate on Somersham Footpath 5.

It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to propose no objection and to ensure a kissing gate suitable for all members of the public including wheelchairs be erected.

**Footpath No 2** - requires putting back on to the correct line, this needs the brambles cutting back.

**White Post Area** – suggestions were put forward to secure the lead capping.  
Martin Tyers will be asked to check the posts and secure any requiring attention back in place.

**13. STREET LIGHTING**

No matters were reported.

**14. SOMERSHAM INTERPRETATION BOARD - ‘Hattie’s Map**

The draft map was available for councillors to view.

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to proceed with the map, to include a Definitive footpath map on the other side of the board with CCC’s approval and that the board will be installed at an angle of 45 degrees on the area of grass outside St John the Baptist Church, Church Street.

**15. To Discuss Subscribing to ‘Parish Online’**

Deferred to the next meeting

**16. To Discuss the Consultation ‘ Local Referendums to Veto Excessive Council Tax Increases’**

Deferred to the next meeting

**17. RENEWAL OF LEASE BETWEEN SOMERSHAM SPORTS & LEISURE ASSOCIATION AND SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL due September 2010**

Mr Cornwell, Mr Smith and Mr Hoy declared a personal interest as trustees to the SSLA.

It was proposed by Mr Sutton seconded by Mrs Smith and RESOLVED by 4 for and 5 abstentions to renew the lease on the same terms.

**18. REQUEST FROM SOMERSHAM SPORTS & LEISURE ASSOCIATION TO SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL (as Landlords for the Millennium Sports Facility) TO OBTAIN LEGAL ADVICE on Correct Responsibility for the South Water Course and Possible Water Retention on Neighbouring Properties.**

Mr Cornwell reported an on-going situation regarding the south boundary ditch on the sports field and properties at The Trundle and Loftsteads where some of the property owners claim their land is now wetter (water pooling) since the ditch and mound have been created which is in line with planning approval. Mr Cornwell said the land in that area was clay and had always lain wet for as long as he could remember and during construction work for the facility the sports field had drainage channels installed to assist with this.

Mr Cornwell said that trustees could not agree on the correct way to resolve the matter and therefore felt as the Landlords, the parish council were duty-bound to take legal advice to take this forward on their behalf. Mr Cornwell also raised his concern regarding not only the restrictions on spending public money on individuals but in spending money when there is no legal obligation to do so and setting a precedent.

Following intense debate by councillors the Clerk was compelled to remind the meeting that only a few councillors have declared an interest in this item as SSLA Trustees whilst others with a significant interest perhaps should have declared a prejudicial interest and left the room but are participating in discussions contrary to The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 s10, 11, 12). No additional declarations were made by councillors and discussion continued.

It was proposed by Mr Hoy, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by 4 votes for and 5 abstentions to have up to 3 hours of Mr Ian Smith's (Middle Level Board) time for a site visit to make an informed decision @ £93 per hour + 60p per mile

The Clerk will review plans to see who suggested the mound/bund.

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

**a) Norwood Building / The Victory Hall -**

- VHMC 13 July 2010 – Thanks were given to the Clerk for her assistance in compiling the Awards For All Grant.
- Squash court shower cubicles - It was proposed by Mr Cornwell, seconded by Mr Hoy and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to refurbish both shower cubicles at a cost not exceeding £200 -300

The Clerk intends to improve the cleaning regime by introducing new work check sheets

- Regular shower head cleaning to prevent Legionnaires Disease – It was proposed by Mr McCloskey, seconded by Mr Cornwell and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to undertake a monthly disinfectant regime.

**b) Norwood Playing Field –** Mr Sutton mentioned his disappointment with the case of 'vandalism' / theft of gooseberry bushes from the youth activity area.

**c) Millennium Sports Field –** Meeting held 20 July 2010

**d) Somersham LNR – Friends of Somersham Local Nature Reserve**

**Including the Lake** – Mr Smith reported a site meeting last week with Phil Clark and Charlotte Lowry from CCC to discuss and update the LNR management plan.

Bat Walk - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Mr McCloskey reported the Garden Club are holding a wild flower walk tomorrow, plus the CCC reptile survey is still going on.

- e) **Christmas Lights Working Party** – The annual work is carrying on behind the scenes.
- f) **Youth Working Party** – Miss Bullard reported on meeting held on 21 July, one young member is doing a design for sensory garden. The Oak play tree was felled today hopefully will be moved on Friday subject to the lifting equipment being available. The Woodford Grant has been approved and phase 2 can begin.

- g) **Environment Working Party** – A meeting will be arranged shortly
- h) **Voices Newsletter** – It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr McCloskey and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to include the services and facilities questionnaire.
- i) **Community Information Centre (Library)** – FOSL Minutes 9 June 2010
  - CCC – letters regarding library services dated 16, July, 27 July 2010
  - 2 Aug CCC / LAP Meeting report from Mrs Innes – to defer response/comments from the parish council to next meeting and to request a report or FOSL’s Chair to come down to comment.

20. **REPORTS OF EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS**

No meetings were reported.

21. **CLOSED SESSION - BURIAL LAND EXTENSION**

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 the Public and Press were temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

It was proposed by Mr Sutton, seconded by Mr Cornwell and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to close the meeting. The meeting was closed at 9.56 pm and reconvened at 10 pm  
Matters discussed were the potential number of burial spaces and a land drainage plan.

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

No matters were raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.01 pm

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on 6 September 2010 at 7.30 pm

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Steve Criswell  
Chairman

**SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 2010**

ANDREW BEAVEN	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association Trustee Victory Hall Management Committee (Vice Chairman VHMC)
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
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
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**

9 August 2010

The following accounts were required before the meeting:

Wages, Tax & NI (1 June)	£4149.84
Woodford Waste Management 3 <sup>rd</sup> party funding	£964.00
ESPO           CIC – gas	£22.21
Norwood Building – gas	£21.21
	<u>£5157.26</u>

**12 July 2010**

Talk Talk	Broadband	£17.04	Direct Debit
Opal	Telephone services - CIC	£43.23	Direct Debit
PWLB	Tractor loan	£2857.28	Direct Debit
Cole & Day	Groundsman's fuel	£91.07	
Gibbs & Dandy Plc	Materials	£93.25	
Talk Talk	01487 841090	£11.68	
J Waters	Flailing / grass topping	£787.25	
Viking Direct	Photocopier and ink	£249.03	
Southern Electric	CIC - Electricity	£41.51	
	Lake sea container – electricity	£23.44	
	Norwood Building	£100.18	
Height for Hire Ltd	Hire of cherry picker	£123.75	
EPP Ltd	Bin Bags	£40.32	
E-ON	Street Lights	£43.28	
Mrs P Bryant	Expenses refund	£25.24	

**TOTAL** £4547.55