**SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**

**TUESDAY1st MARCH 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

 Cllr R Starling (Chair) Cllr D Van de Bulk (Vice Chairman)

 Cllr J Clift Cllr N Grayling

 Cllr T Jones Cllr D Crane

 G Lack (clerk) Cllr B Barker

The Chairman welcomed County Cllr Childs and Borough Cllrs Weymouth and Jermany to the meeting together with four residents and prospective Borough Conservative Councillor Mr J Bensley.

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

None received

1. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**

Cllr Starling noted an interest in Item 13, Broads Authority Draft Consultations, as a member of the Reed Cutters Association.

1. **To consider a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public and the Borough/County Councillors the opportunity to inform the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Clift and unanimously approved.**
2. **Public Discussion – 15 minutes allowed**
* A resident asked for it to be minuted that she had not requested the removal of the style at the Street End of Footpath No 5 as a result of her accident. Cllr Jones informed that he had brought the matter of the accident to the attention of the Parish Council.
1. **Report from Borough Councillors/County Councillor if present**
* Cllr Weymouth noted the following:
* The empty house was owned by GYBC and work would start on its renovation later this year;
* She had not been informed about the recent flooding near to Horsey Mill and was still awaiting a response from an engineer.
* Cllr Jermany noted the following:
* The budget for the borough council had been set;
* Councillors had been given a Ward Grant of £1,000 for 2016/17;
* This would be his last meeting as Conservative Borough Councillor. He thanked the Parish Council and residents for their support over the past 27 years and Cllrs Starling and Jones offered their thanks to Cllr Jermany for all the work he had carried out for the Parish.
* Cllr Childs noted the following:
* There would be a 3.99% increase in the County Council element of the council tax, amounting to £49 per year.
* No cuts had been made to the Fire Service;
* Some of the churchyard hedges had been cut under the Juvenile Reparation Scheme and the PCC offered their thanks to Cllr Childs for organising this;
* Work was being done on the possibility of installing WiSpy in the area to enable access to faster broadband. Cllr Van de Bulk noted that he had been in contact again with BT and that fibre may be provided by them.

**Reopening of the meeting:-**

1. **Report from PCSO – not present**
* No issues noted.
1. **To confirm minutes of the previous meetings held on 5th January 2016.**

Cllr Grayling proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th January 2016be confirmed and this was seconded by Cllr Clift and unanimously agreed by the Council. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

1. **To report matters arising not already on the agenda, for information only.**
* Questions regarding the Council House renovation had already been noted in Item 3 above.
1. **(Finance: To agree payments in accordance with the budget.**

Cllr Crane proposed a Motion that the following payment be made in accordance with the budget. This was seconded by Cllr Grayling and unanimously agreed by Councillors. IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Motion be carried

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| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **Description** | **Amount** **£** |
| 100690 | G Lack | Clerk salary and expenses | 167.00 |
|  |  | TOTAL | 167.00 |

Opening balance 1.4.2015 3,121.14

Add receipts year to date 5,341.95

Less: Payments year to date (excl. above) (3,527.65)

Closing balance year to date £4,935.44

1. **(a) Public Right of Way No 11 (Dark Corner to Low Road) Restricted Byway Status – communication from County Council.** Cllr Starling confirmed that the sign had been erected in the wrong place and would be moved to PRoW No 11.

**(b) Public Right of Way No 5 (The Street to Horsey Road) – Footpath Width – N Grayling.** It was noted that a car was being parked in the passageway making it difficult for the neighbours to cut their hedge. It was confirmed that the land on which the car was being parked was owned by the house. Cllr Starling would liaise with the owner of the car park to point out the difficulties of hedge cutting by the neighbour but noted that the width at that point of the footpath was adequate for public access.

**(c) Footpath No 6 Staithe road to Martham South Broad. Repairs to ruts in Path - T Jones.** It was reported that ruts had been created by Environment Agency vehicles when fish were rescued last year and the clerk was asked to contact NCC to request they be filled in. Copies of the request should be sent to the Environment Agency and Bam Nuttall.

1. **Reparation Work in the Local Community – Update of meeting with Gareth Smart,NCC 11th January 2016 – R Starling**

It was noted that juveniles would be available to do community work and the Parish Council agreed that they were happy for juveniles to carry out work in the community particularly litter picking along the Horsey Road.

1. **Broads Authority Draft Broads Plan 2017 & Broads Local Plan Consultations – see** broads-authority.gov.uk/broadsconsultations **To agree responses to consultations**

**Local Plan**

Cllr Starling read out a proposed a response, noting that the report covered the period up to 2036 and was 170 pages long. A notice had been put on the notice board concerning the consultation. In particular Cllr Starling noted the lack of facilities for visitors and the lack of affordable housing. The closing date for comments was 8th April.

**Broads Plan 2016**

A 44 page document set out the key strategic management plan for the Broads, its environment, communities and visitors. The closing date was also 8th April. Cllr Starling read out a proposed response and noted that the stated vision for the Broads of “The communities of the Broads take an active part in the decisions about their future” was unachievable since the Broads Authority was not an elected and accountable body.

Any further comments should be emailed to the Clerk before the deadline and the final response would be circulated to Parish Councillors prior to it being sent. It was agreed that Cllr Starling would fill in the questionnaire.

1. **Somerton Conservation Area Consultation – Update by Clerk**

The Clerk read out a response from Mr Hogg regarding the proposed public consultation which he estimated would be held in April/May. The clerk was asked to respond that the meeting should be held in the evening so that working residents could attend.

1. **Provision of flashing speed/vehicle activated sign (SAM2) – Update R Starling**

The erection of a flashing sign would be subject to NCC Highways’ approval and would cost around 3,000, the money coming potentially from the Community Fund. Cllr Starling would have a site meeting to ascertain, inter alia, whether the sign would have to moved every month and then proceed to a firm quotation if the site meeting was satisfactory.

1. **Parish Council elections 5th May 2016.** It was noted that election forms were now available.
2. **Information Digitisation – Update by Clerk**

The Clerk noted that the NCC website allocated around 300mb to each Parish. Cllr Van de Bulk confirmed that this would not be enough to hold all of the previous minutes and suggested that a separate website be created. He estimated that the cost to set up a website would be around £300-£500 and £70 per year to maintain. Firmer costs should be sought and also it was suggested that the need for volunteers to scan the information should be publicised within the village.

1. **Upper Thurne Working Group Meeting 13th January 2016 – update R Starling**

Cllr Starling noted the following:

* The public were now allowed to attend meetings;
* The Environment Agency and Drainage Board were in attendance;
* A workshop would be held in the summer.
1. **Spring Litter Pick – To agree dates of parish litter pick of roadside verges**
* It was agreed that this would be held on the 19th and 20th March. The normal reminder about the wearing of high viz jackets and volunteers carrying out the litter pick at their own risk was noted.
1. **Correspondence**. *Additional Correspondence and Actions/Comments noted/made at the meeting are shown in Italic.*

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| **ITEM** | **FROM WHOM RECEIVED** | **CONTENT** | **ACTION REQUIRED** |
| 1 | Tower Mint Ltd | Queen Elizabeth 90th birthday commemorative medal | Free sample. Order form for additional quantities *Noted* |
| 2 | Robin Hodds | Next Parish Liaison meeting 21stMarch. Request for agenda items |  |
| 3 | GYBC Planning Dept | Application 06/15/0694.F. Conversion of barn to a residential dwelling. 5 Collis Lane | Permission granted |
| 4 | NCC | NHS Health Check campaign | Poster. *Display in village hall* |
| 5 | Norfolk ALC | Request for representatives representing Great Yarmouth to serve on Executive Committee | *No action* |
| 6 | Norfolk ALC | Better Broadband update. Website [www.betterbroadbandfornorfolk.co.uk](http://www.betterbroadbandfornorfolk.co.uk) | *Noted* |
| 7 | K9 Security & Crimestoppers | Crime stopper poster – request to display in local community | *Display in village hall* |
| 8 | Cllr J Childs | Community Speed Watch. Training of 6 volunteers for community | *No action* |
| 9 | NCC | Promotion of Community Biodiversity Awards 2016 for Parish Councils. Closing date for nominations 13th May 2016 | *Noted* |
| 10 | Norfolk ALC | Petition giving Parish Councils the Right to Appeal Planning Decisions | *It was proposed by Cllr Clift and seconded by Cllr Barker that the Parish Council should sign the petition. This was unanimously agreed by the Council. Clerk to action.* |
| 11 | GYBC | Confirmation of Parish Precept and Concurrent Functions Grant 2016/17 | *Noted* |
| 12 | NCC | Local List for Validation of Planning Applications Consultation Draft February 2016. Invitation to make Representations. MaWP@norfolk.gov.uk. Deadline 19.4.16 | *Noted* |
| 13 | GYBC email  | Update on flooding at the Mill.A reply had been sent | *Cllr Van de Bulk noted that the work was delayed because of the need for design work. He noted that funding had been requested in the past but had been refused.*  |

1. **Items for Next Agenda**
* Website
1. **Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 10th May 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.00p.m.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.28