**SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**TUESDAY 5th JULY 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 D Crane

G Lack (clerk)

The Chairman welcomed County Cllr Childs and Borough Cllrs Weymouth and Bensly to the meeting together with three residents.

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Jones and Barker

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

Cllr Starling noted an interest in Item 16, Upper Thurne Working Group, as a member of the NWT and Cllr Clift noted an interest in Item 14, Election of Staithe Trustees, as a current Trustee.

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 Grayling, seconded by Cllr Clift and unanimously approved.**
2. **Public Discussion – 15 minutes allowed.** Nothing noted. However, the public would be allowed to respond to relevant Agenda Items.
3. **Report from Borough Councillors/County Councillor if present**

* Cllr Weymouth noted the following:
* It was noted that an email had been sent to the Vice Chairman with details of a company offering an internet service for £16.99 per month.
* Traveller Incursion. It was noted that the travellers would be moved on and would be looking for another site. Any open areas should be secured.
* Cllr Bensly noted the following:
* Firstly, Cllr Bensly said it was an honour to be representing East Flegg and asked to be informed of any problems.
* The Borough had changed from a cabinet to a committee system.
* Cllr Childs noted the following:
* East Anglia Devolution. A leaflet would be sent to everyone in the County and there would be a 6 week consultation period followed by a vote in October.
* Syrian Vulnerable Person’s Refugee Scheme for Norfolk. Views of the parishes were being sought on this issue.
* Other documents/issues of interest were noted including:- an audit of Norfolk farmers; a Fly Tipping Briefing Note; Transport for Norwich/NDR EDT Committee Presentation; a Public Health Audit in which it was stated that residents in Norwich lived 18 years longer than those in Great Yarmouth; a County Landowners’ meeting and a meeting of the Public Health Committee. Any electronic documents regarding these items would be circulated when they were available.
* The Chairman noted an email which had been sent to Highways re the cutting of Footpath No 7 (Parish Staithe North side to Hundred Stream Path) and that the department had refused to help. It was noted that the County Council had a legal responsibility for footpaths and Cllr Childs said he would raise this at a meeting to be held on Thursday 7th July and also noted that the footpath could be cleared under the Young Offenders Reparation Scheme.

**Reopening of the meeting:-**

1. **Report from PCSO – not present**

* No issues noted.

1. **To confirm minutes of the previous meetings held on 10th May (Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council) and 7th June 2016.**

Cllr Grayling proposed that the minutes be 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.**

None noted

1. **(Finance: To agree payments in accordance with the budget.**

Cllr Crane proposed a Motion that the following payments 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**  **£** |
| 100696 | G Lack | Clerk salary and expenses | 208.33 |
| 100697 | R Bird | Grass cutting | 348.00 |
| 100698 | Village Hall | Hire of hall | 100.00 |
|  |  | TOTAL | 656.33 |

Opening balance 1.4.2016 4,768.54

Add receipts year to date 6,280.00

Less: Payments year to date (excl. above) ( 756.21)

Closing balance year to date £10,292.33

**Community Fund Update**

The Clerk noted that all invoices had now been paid and the fund balance was £5,355.

1. **Broadband Update – Cllr D Van de Bulk**

* It was noted that BT OpenReach had run a fibre optic cable to the corner of Collis lane from Winterton although there was no date for completion of the work.
* 20 residents in the village had said they would help fund the installation of a fibre optic cable
* Cllr Childs agreed to contact Better Broadband for Norfolk to get an update as to when broadband would be available in the village
* A resident suggested that some problems with slow broadband may be due to faulty connectors going into individual houses and suggested residents checked this as a first step. The connectors should be made of copper and not aluminium.
* Cllr Childs noted that WiSpy was available in the area but a resident commented that this would not the case due to Somerton being in a dip.
* It was suggested that a survey be carried out in the village to ascertain how many people had a problem with slow broadband.

1. **Parish Website and Application for Funding – Report by Clerk**

* The Clerk noted the problems that had been encountered with the Norfolk Parishes website including links being lost and the site being hacked
* A grant was available to help parishes comply with the Transparency Code. This included funding for the purchase of a computer and scanner, the setting up of a website and its annual running costs. It was proposed by Cllr Clift, seconded by Cllr Graying and unanimously agreed by the Council that the Clerk should proceed with the grant application. It was additionally noted that, should the application fail, a computer could be purchased from the Community Fund.
* The clerk had received a quote from Town & Parish Council Websites for the set up and hosting of the website. Cllr Van de Bulk had also received a quotation from a provider and the Clerk and Cllr Van de Bulk would meet to discuss.
* It was suggested that a computer could be sourced via the County or Borough Council and this would be followed up.
* The clerk would provide the cost of a computer, scanner and printer together with all the software at the next meeting.

1. **Provision of flashing speed/vehicle activated sign (SAM2) – To consider response from manufacturers and NCC grant possibilities. Update R Starling**

* It was noted that information regarding warranties etc had already been circulated
* There was support for the sign from residents on Horsey Road but not necessarily from all residents
* Cllr van de Bulk proposed that funding of 50% of the cost be sought from the County Council under its Parish Partnership Scheme and this was seconded by Cllr Clift and unanimously agreed by the Council. The Clerk to follow up.

1. **Top Farm – Response from GYBC Planning Department**

* Cllr Starling read out a response from the Enforcement Officer regarding residency at Top Farm. It was noted that this was a sensitive issue since it could result in the occupants of the mobile home being made homeless. Cllr Weymouth agreed to follow up
* It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond to the email stating that it was a matter for the Enforcement Officer to pursue and noting that there was an empty local authority house in the village.

1. **Election of Staithe Trustees**

* Cllr Starling proposed that Cllr Clift be elected and this was seconded by Cllr Crane and unanimously agreed by the Council. Cllr Clift accepted the nomination and agreed to serve for a further 2 years.

1. **Election of Poors Trustees**

* It was proposed by Cllr Clift that Mike Lees be elected for a further 4 years and this was seconded by Cllr Crane and agreed unanimously agreed by Councillors.
* It was proposed by Cllr Grayling that Trevor Jones be elected for a further 4 years and this was seconded by Cllr Van de Bulk and agreed by Councillors with one abstention.
* Messrs Jones and Lees had already agreed to serving for a further 4 years.

1. **Upper Thurne Working Group Meeting – Attendance & Role of future meetings – R Starling**

* An email had been received from Cllr Jones stating that he thought attendance was a waste of time
* Cllr Starling noted that no items suggested by Somerton PC had ever been included on the agenda
* It was agreed to respond to the Chairman of The Upper Thurne Working Group stating that the Council felt that the UTWG meetings were no longer productive but that Somerton PC would continue to attend and that any matters of importance or concern would be raised through the relevant bodies, eg Broads Authority and the Parish Liaison Meetings.

1. **Parish Property Items needing maintenance (Vice Chairman’s Report at APM)**

* Lettering on the Village sign had been repainted
* Launching and Mooring Sign on the Staithe had been done
* Items outstanding: Repair and revarnishing of seat benches; repair of internal board in the Parish Notice Board and weather proofing thereof to prevent ingress of water
* It was proposed by Cllr Grayling, seconded by Cllr Crane and unanimously agreed by the Council that a notice requesting quotes should be displayed on the notice board
* The clerk would contact Mr Hobbs who had carried out the repairs and refurbishment of the bus shelters and war memorial railings inviting him to quote.

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 | AONB | Spring Edition of Wide Skies. www.norfolkcoastaonb.or.uk | *Noted* |
| 2 | BA | Appointment of 2 Independent Persons to BA. | *Noted. No response. The Council was only willing to appoint people to democratically elected bodies.* |
| 3 | Norfolk Coast Partnership | Appointment of Community Representatives. Name of people elected | *Noted* |
| 4 | Resident | Priorities for Somerton. Two debating points suggested | *It was noted that the settlement hierarchy was included in GYBC local plan and that Somerton was deemed a settlement with little or no infrastructure. Cllr Weymouth would get a copy of the plan. It was agreed that no response to the email would be made* |
| 5 | Cllr Childs | Highways Customer Relationship Management system. | *Noted.*  *Cllr van De Bulk noted that the Bend Warning sign was leaning over at bend on the left from Winterton on Martham Road. Clerk to report* |
| 6 | GYBC | Parish Councillor representative on Standards Committee | *No interest* |
| 7 | AONB | Details of programme. Thursday 14th July 2016 | *Noted.* |
| 8 | CPRE | Norfolk Alert No 8 | *Noted* |
| 9 | Cllr J Childs | Consultation with Crime Commissioner Lorne Green | *Noted.* |
| 10 | Anglian Water | Private Pumping stations | *No pumping stations existed in the village* |
| 11 | GYBC | Traveller incursion GY High School Recreation Ground, Barnard Avenue | *Noted. No real open land at Somerton.* |
| 12 | Martham Clerk | Neighbourhood Plan | *Noted* |
| 13 | Mr M Lees | Re-election request Poors Trustees | *Dealt with on Agenda* |
| 14 | Cllr Jones | Observation re UTWG. Feels this is a waste of time | *Dealt with on Agenda* |
| 15 | BA | Update on progress of the Local Plan for the Broads. <http://www>.broads-authority.gov.uk/broads-authority/committees/planning-committee | *No response* |
| 16 | NCC | Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board. Awareness week 12-16 September 2016. Leaflets enclosed | *Leaflets to be left in village hall.* |
| 17 | UK Government and Parliament | Response to petition “Give parish councils the right to appeal planning decisions” | *Noted* |

1. **Items for Next Agenda**

* Purchase of computer and scanner, information re prices to be provided by Clerk.

1. **Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 6th September 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.00p.m.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.52