

**SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Cllr R Starling (Chair)	Cllr D Van de Bulk (Vice Chairman)
Cllr N Grayling	Cllr T Jones
Cllr B Barker	Cllr D Crane

G Lack (clerk)

The Chairman welcomed Borough Cllrs Shirley Weymouth and James Bensly and County Councillor Ron Hanton to the meeting together with 4 residents..

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies had been received from Cllr Judy Clift.
2. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda.** Cllrs Jones, Grayling and Crane declared an interest in Item 18 Community Fund St Mary's Church. Cllr Jones also declared an interest in Item 19 Poors Land - Land Registry.
3. **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 Jones and unanimously approved.**
4. **Public Discussion – 15 minutes allowed.**
 - It was agreed that members of the public could comment on Items as they arose on the Agenda.
5. **Report from Borough Councillors/County Councillor if present**

Cllr Weymouth noted the following:

 - It had been agreed by GYBC that the sign posts at both ends of Collis Lane could be raised higher and set back further from the highways edge to avoid being hit by agricultural vehicles;
 - The replacement Collis Lane sign may not be delivered for another 5 to 6 weeks. It was noted that emergency vehicles may not be able to find Collis Lane without the signs.

Cllr Bensly noted the following:

 - Information regarding the third crossing in Great Yarmouth would be on show from Wednesdays to Fridays at the Town Hall.
 - New signs would be on display in Great Yarmouth market place asking people not to feed the seagulls.
6. **Report from PCSO**
 - The PCSO was not present but the clerk read out his report as follows:

*“There have been 4 recent call to Norfolk Constabulary from the Somerton area in the last two calendar month;
Anti-social behaviour (personal)
Theft x2
Assault + Criminal damage.
There have been two recorded crimes In the East / West Somerton area in the last two months:
Theft x2.
Our current Local Rural Policing priorities are Rural Vehicle Speeding, Youth Antisocial Behaviour and Rogue Traders.
With regard to the youth anti-social behaviour, regular patrols are conducted at any ASB 'hot spots' (as I am sure you are aware there are none in your area). There has been no recent reports of Rogue Traders in our area. We have been conducting speed enforcement checks in the area with assistance from the Special Constabulary, the Speed Enforcement team and the Safety Camera Van, these will be ongoing throughout the area.
A Safer Neighbourhood Action Priority (SNAP) meeting is being held on 13th September 2017 at The Community Centre, Playing Field Lane, Martham, NR29 4SP.
This, as I previously explained is a public meeting where local policing issues are discussed and updated and the local policing priorities are set for the next three month period. I will further update when the new priorities are decided.”*

 - A resident had raised concern that some agricultural vehicles did not display number plates.
 - Residents were pleased with the speed checks.
7. **To confirm minutes of the previous meetings held on 4th July and 15th August (Planning Meeting) 2017.**

Cllr Jones proposed that the minutes be confirmed and this was seconded by Cllr Grayling and unanimously agreed by the Council. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
8. **To report matters arising not already on the agenda, for information only.**
 - Item 11. Vice Chairman's Report. The Vice Chairman noted that the fence at the Staithe carpark should be checked by the Staithe Trustees as there was a jagged edge where the fence had been broken. This could cause injury.
 - Item 16. The Winterton road direction sign had now been moved closer to the junction to avoid the problem of motorists turning into private drives.

9. Finance: To agree payments in accordance with the budget plus additional payment to Cllr R Starling for reimbursement for the purchase of 2 locks for SAM2 unit (£17.00)

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

Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount £
100722	Village Hall	Hire of village hall	100.00
100723	G Lack	Clerk salary and expenses	208.33
100724	R Starling	Reimbursement for pad locks	17.00
100725	R Bird	Grass cutting	348.00
		TOTAL	673.33

Opening balance 1.4.2017	5,653.32
Add receipts year to date	4,424.12
Less: Payments year to date (excl. above)	<u>(1,403)</u>
Closing balance year to date	£8,674.44

The Clerk noted that the audit of the accounts for the year ended 31.3.2017 had been completed and that there were no queries from the Auditors. Copies of the Accounts and the Notice of Completion of Audit had been displayed on the notice board and on the website.

10. Council House/Horsey Road. To request Great Yarmouth Borough Council to undertake renovation works on this vacant property as soon as possible and to ensure that the property remains part of the Borough's housing asset and let to a family on the Borough's Housing list. Cllr R Starling

- Cllr Weymouth would find out the date and time of the meeting in October at GYBC when this would be discussed and whether members of the public would be able to attend.
- A resident had expressed concern about possible structural issues and the condition of the fence adjoining the property with the neighbouring property.

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Crane that GYBC should be contacted as proposed and this was unanimously agreed by the Council.

11. Litter Pick

(a) **To circulate copies of risk assessment for persons undertaking litter picks;** All members of the Council were happy with the risk assessment and it was agreed that volunteers should sign a copy which would be lodged with the clerk.

(b) **To agree dates of litter pick and collection point for bags of rubbish etc.** It was agreed that the next litter pick would be 30th September and 1st October. New bags would be obtained from GYBC and full bags of rubbish should be left at Cllr Starling's house ready for collection by GYBC.

12. Norfolk Strategic Framework Consultation - To agree response.

Cllr Starling noted the following:

- The report's purpose was to agree priorities regarding planning issues particularly the need for shared objectives amongst local planning authorities to secure external funding.
- There was not much emphasis on problems in rural Norfolk, eg no broadband, poor mobile signal, poor transport etc.
- The report mentioned coastal change and the "North Winterton Flood Risk Project". On further investigation Cllr Starling ascertained that no-one knew anything about this project and that the author could not be traced.
- The long term policy must be "hold the line" as in the Shoreline Management Plan when referring to coastal change.
- Cllr Jones proposed that a response be sent which, inter alia, (i) suggested that the report referred to the Shoreline Management Plan in particular the agreement already in place to "hold the line" in the face of potential coastal erosion; (ii) proposed that the reference to the "North Winterton Flood Risk Project" be deleted.

A full copy of the response is appended to these minutes (Appendix 1)

13. Formal complaint to Broads Authority - Broads Local Plan consultation. To consider reply from Broads Authority (email 31.7.17)

- It was noted that, if a complaint was made to the Broads Authority, it went to the Head of the particular department concerned and then to the Chief Executive. It did not go to the Monitoring Officer. It was agreed therefore that, under these circumstances, there was little point in making an official complaint to the Broads Authority.
- Cllr Jones proposed that a letter be sent to the Chairman of the BA requesting that meetings be held in Broads area village halls and not just in Norwich since the timing and location of these meetings might deter people from attending. A copy of this would be sent to the NALC. This was seconded by Cllr Crane and unanimously agreed by the Council.

- 14. Cottage Road Highways Issues**
- To consider NCC response to improve visibility/safety for vehicles exiting opposite The Lion P.H. An email had been received from NCC highways department noting that there were regulations regarding the height of road signage and that the sign would not be raised. It was agreed that no further action could be taken. Cllr Starling suggested that the vegetation on Horsey Road around the sign needed to be kept cut to improve visibility.
 - Grange Cottage, road surface water entering curtilage. To request NCC to attend site meeting with property owner to resolve problem. It was agreed to email NCC Highways to propose a meeting between them and the owner.
- 15. SAM2 Road Sign Update - Cllr R Starling**
- Delivery and acceptance of unit and three posts on 19th July 2017
 - Risk Assessment/Guidance for persons changing sign location and batteries. Cllr Van de Bulk had circulated a Risk Assessment. Cllr Barker noted that volunteers should not do anything which constituted traffic management, eg putting out cones. Cllr Jones agreed to advise on road safety issues. Cllr Van de Bulk agreed to make the proposed changes and add a signed and dated section at the bottom of the assessment. Once recirculated and agreed the Risk Assessment would be sent to NCC.
 - Recharging of batteries - To agree procedures & storage (spare battery included). It was noted that the battery lasted approx 4 weeks and was currently charged in Cllr Starling's shed. The proposal to charge the battery in the Village Hall was not approved. Cllr Starling would check on the amount of electricity used and be reimbursed from the Community Fund.
 - Norfolk County Council conditions of deployment. It was noted that the unit could only be at one site for 4 weeks and must not be returned within 8 weeks. 3 different sites were needed.
 - Insurance of unit - Parish Clerk. The Clerk noted that the unit was now covered under the Council's insurance policy but would confirm that volunteers were covered under the Council's Public Liability insurance.
- 16. Broadband - Update Parish Clerk** The Clerk noted that the original timelines had been confirmed and that the response had been published in the newsletter.
- 17. Incidental matters dealt with since last meeting**
- 8th July - Fly-tipped asbestos in Collis Lane reported to GYBC
 - 9th July - Seat bench at Common Road/Horsey Road - repaired after damage to leg
 - 12th August. Fly-tipped tyres and wheels at High Barn Farm Road/Winterton Road. Reported to GYBC. A resident suggested that the cost to parishioners could be investigated to encourage the public to remain vigilant with regard to fly tipping. Cllr Weymouth agreed to try and find out how many council vehicles were currently being used to collect fly tipped rubbish.
- 18. Community Fund - St Mary's Church.** Electrical Works update. It was noted that the PCC would apply for Heritage lottery funding in the New Year. If successful the funding would have to be matched and it was requested that consideration for funding from the Community Fund be delayed until the New Year. This was proposed by Cllr Van de Bulk, seconded by Cllr Barker and unanimously agreed by the Council. A response would be sent to Gary Burkitt thanking him for his report and agreeing to the delay.
- 19. Poors Land - Land Registry. Progress report by Cllr N Grayling.**
- Cllr Grayling informed the meeting of progress to date including that some of the documentation dated back to 1805.
 - It was noted that application to the Land Registry would still be the final decision of the Poors Trustees.
- 20. Appointment of Shirley Weymouth as Parish Clerk.**
- The Parish Council welcomed Shirley as the new clerk and thanked the outgoing Clerk for her work over the past three years;
 - Shirley agreed to the stipend of £1,000 per annum.
- 21. Correspondence.** Additional Correspondence and Actions/Comments noted/made at the meeting are shown in *Italic*.

ITEM	FROM WHOM RECEIVED	CONTENT	ACTION REQUIRED
1	Broads Authority	Broads Plan 2017	<i>Noted. No comments</i>
2	Broads Authority	Application BA/2017/0319/TCAA. Proposal to reduce trees. Grange Cottage, The Grange, Cottage Road	<i>No comments</i>
3	Recycle Norfolk	Briefing Note	
4	GYBC	Notice of Local Referendum	<i>Displayed on notice board</i>
5	Essie Guds	Parish Forum 20th September 2017	<i>Circulated</i>

6	Community Action Norfolk	August & September newsletters	<i>Circulated</i>
7	James Bensly	Third River Crossing	<i>Circulated</i>
8	Andrea Kelly BA	Broads Prymnesium story	<i>Circulated</i>
9	Civic Voice	War Memorial news various dates	<i>Circulated</i>
10	GYBC Highways	Rangers visit	<i>Circulated</i>
11	Community Action Norfolk	Funding newsletter	<i>Circulated</i>
12	NALC	Newsletter July & August 2017	<i>Circulated</i>
13	BA	Broads Plan consultation	<i>Circulated</i>
14	Hannah Gardiner	July newsletter	<i>Circulated</i>
15	John Packman BA	Newsletter	<i>Circulated</i>
16	CPRE	Vision for Norfolk	<i>Circulated</i>
17	NCC	Norfolk Strategic Framework	<i>Circulated</i>
18	Cllr R Hanton	Highways & Matched Funding	<i>Circulated</i>
19	Gary May	SNAP Invitation meeting 13.9.17	<i>Circulated</i>

22. **Items for Next Agenda**

- Cutting back of hedges.
- Cutting of footpaths,
- Quote for grass cutting.
- Update on Poors Land registration
- Update on Council house renovation

23. **Date of next Meeting:** Tuesday 7th November 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.00p.m.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.35.

Appendix 1
Response to Norfolk Strategic Framework (NSF)

Somerton Parish Council met on the 5th September and discussed the draft Norfolk Strategic Framework (NSF). The Council welcomed the strategic framework in general and agreed with the need for shared objectives amongst local planning authorities to secure external funding to deliver against agreed objectives.

The consultation draft did not say how all the wanted improvements would be achieved and perhaps the authors needed reminding that for Somerton residents real concerns were;

- a. No direct bus link to Norwich.
- b. Poor broadband and mobile phone signal.
- c. No real democratic representation on the body responsible for planning for most properties in the Parish ie the Broads Authority.

The Parish Council welcomed Highways England road investment strategy for the 5 County schemes to be completed by 2020 and the promised improvements in rail services. We hope this includes the Great Yarmouth to Norwich rail service.

It is good that there is recognition on page 22 of "the challenge going forward is the Norfolk economies high level of depending on lower wage, lower-skill sectors such as food production, agriculture and tourism".

In the Coastal Evidence (Flooding & Coastal Erosion) background paper that is published in support of this draft, under Great Yarmouth Borough Council, it mentions "North Winterton Flood Risk Project". We have not been able to obtain a copy of any papers relating to this project and no one at Great Yarmouth Borough Council has any knowledge of this particular matter despite North Winterton being in the Borough of Great Yarmouth. It also appears that no one knows who the author of this background paper is but that it is published in support of the draft NSF. Perhaps you can confirm who wrote this paper and send us more information regarding the author and the North Winterton Flood Risk Project aims etc?

Our Chairman did, however, manage to speak with the body responsible for the coastline north of Winterton, the Environment Agency whose manager (Mr. Mark Johnson) also confirmed that they were unaware of any North Winterton Flood Risk Project. Our Chairman was informed that the Environment Agency would undertake sand replenishment of the beach north of Winterton "As and when needed". Furthermore that the agreed shoreline management plan policy of 'Hold the Line' remains.

In view of all this, Somerton Parish Council strongly objects to the reference "coastal change" on page 29 and request that the agreed shoreline management plan in place for this area (North of Winterton) which for the long term is to 'hold the line' should be included in any references to this subject. This will avoid the area becoming economically blighted. We trust you can understand our concerns on this particular subject and thank you for undertaking this consultation.

End