

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 1 MAY 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7 00PM

PRESENT:  
PCllr R Starling (Chairman)  
PCllr T Jones  
P Cllr D Crane  
PCllr Grayling

PCllr D Van de Bulk (Vice Chairman)  
PCllr J Clift  
PCllr B Barker  
8No members of the public

The Chairman welcomed eight residents to the meeting together with Borough Councillors Weymouth

Apologies were sent from BCllr Bensly due to the coastal issues at Hemsby

**1.The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held on 2 May 2017**

The Minutes had previously been approved and signed at the Parish Council meeting held on July 2017

**2.Matters arising from the Minutes not covered on the Agenda**

No matters were raised

**3.Somerton Parish Council Minutes & Accounts**

The Minutes and accounts were presented to the meeting – no comments were noted

**4.Statements and reports from representatives of voluntary organisations within the parish:**

- **Somerton Poors Trustees Minute book** – which was laid out  
Registration of the charity land nothing further to report
- **Staithe Trustees Annual Report, Minute book and Accounts**  
Minutes and accounts were circulated. No comments noted

Their annual report:

**Twenty eighth report of the Somerton Staithe and Boat Dyke Charity Trustees. Charity registration number 801536, to Somerton Parish Council, for the period 2nd May 2017 to 1st May 2018.**

**Administrative Details**

- i) Somerton Staithe and Boat Dyke Charity was established on the 8th July 1988 by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, with the governing instruments being the Inclosure Award dated 7th November 1811, and the Scheme of 8th July 1988.
- ii) The names of the nominated managing trustees are: Mrs Judy Clift of Free Staithe Cottage, The Staithe, West Somerton Norfolk NR29 4EB; Mr Brian Barker of Heimdal, Cottage Road, West Somerton Norfolk NR29 4DL; Mr Martin Hall of Stanley Cottage, Common Road West Somerton NR29 4; Mr Brett Hurrell of Cherry Trees, Common Road West Somerton NR29 4, with Mr Christopher Grote of Bluddes, Collis Lane, East Somerton Norfolk NR29 4DU, Lord of the manor of West Somerton, ex officio managing trustee.
- iii) The Charity is registered under no. 801536 in the Central Registry of the Charity Commission, St Alban's House, 57-60, The Haymarket, London SW1 4QX. The registered correspondent is Mr Brian Barker of Heimdal, Cottage Road, West Somerton Norfolk NR29 4DL
- iv) The charity does not work with any major organisations, but has received advice and financial support from the Broads Authority, 62-64 Yare House, Thorpe Road Norwich NR1 1RY. Telephone 01603 610734
- v) The nominated managing trustees shall, in accordance with part 6 of the Scheme dated 11th July 1988, be appointed by Somerton Parish Council, with each appointment being made for a term of four years.
- vi) Trustees Brian Barker and Martin Hall hold office from 3rd July 2014 to 3rd July 2018; Trustee Judy Clift holds office from 3rd July 2012 to 3rd July 2018; Trustee Brett Hurrell holds office from 3rd July 2015 to 3rd July 2019. Persons appointed as trustees may, but need not, be members of Somerton Parish Council.

**Trustees Report**

At the AGM, Trustee Judy Clift and Trustee Brian Barker were re-elected Chair and Secretary respectively. Chairmanship to be transferred from Judy Clift to Trustee Brett Hurrell on the expiry of Judy Clift's trusteeship on July 3rd 2018.

The Staithe and boat dyke remain in good condition. Trustee Martin Hall and Parish Council Chairman Richard Starling have continued their efforts throughout the year to keep the footpath beside the dyke in good condition with regular mowing, and to clear floating weed and reeds from the water. Floating weed has been particularly bad this year because the Broads Authority weed cutting boat developed a fault leading to a failure to collect the cut weed.

Some boat owners have been reluctant to keep the grass by their moorings in good order, so from May 2017 the Trust employed a contractor to cut the footpath regularly. Moorers will be asked to increase their annual donations to help cover this cost. The cost of the mowing contract to be reviewed annually. It was agreed at the April meeting that the Staithe Trustees would make a further contribution of £100 to the Parish Council towards the cost of cutting the grass on the Staithe. This to be reviewed annually. Should the Borough Council grant for grass cutting in the village be discontinued, the Staithe Trustees would assume responsibility for cutting the Staithe.

There are a number of vacant moorings for rowing boats which are less in demand by potential moorers. Moorings for small cruisers/day boats have all been allocated. The waiting list now stands at five.

Weed clearance and dyke maintenance working parties successfully removed large amounts of blanket weed in June and November. There are still several boat owners who consistently appear to be unable or unwilling to help. Some have made a financial contribution in lieu.

It was agreed that owners would again be reminded of their agreement and obligation to volunteer occasional labour and/or financial help, and that a letter of reminder would be sent to all moorers to include the date of the next weed clearance working parties.

£400 of the Community Fund Grant of £800, awarded in January 2017, has been spent on installing a chain barrier and lock at the head of the slipway to prevent unauthorised launching, on additional tools and on repairs to the car parking surface, and to damaged wooden railings.

A further sum will be spent on stabilising the grassy surface at the entrance to the slipway and on dredging the centre of the dyke.

Trustees have continued to seek new trustees, to ensure uninterrupted succession on expiry of terms of office. Success has been limited. The effort continues.

The trust's finances are sound, with a balance of £1,563.42 at 1st May 2018.

- **Somerton Village Hall Accounts**  
They were available – no comments noted

### 5. Chairman's report

The following points were noted

The Parish Council continued to meet every two months throughout the past year and comment on several planning applications.

We were able to secure the provision of a SAM 2 sign in July 17, to monitor traffic speed at 3 locations in the village and this does seem to be effective. The Collis Lane road name signs were eventually replaced and a new drain installed at the west end of Cottage Road. The usual spring and autumn litter picks have been well attended and make a vast difference to the village. Unfortunately, there appears to be more litter each year and we hope that the changes at Caister Recycling centre will not lead to more fly tipping in the village. Complaints regarding overgrown hedges have been dealt with by the Council by simply asking owners to cut them back. Norfolk County Council have, in general, dealt with all highways related issues raised by the Parish Council. The roadside grips and drains in the centre of the village have been kept clear although problems with drainage continue at the west end of Staithe Road. Damage to roadside verges unfortunately continues but this appears to be a problem everywhere. Church Lane has been impacted by wide agricultural vehicles but we have asked that operators be a bit more responsible for their actions. The grass cutting will again be carried out by Ross Bird, however, future funding from the Borough Council may require a rethink on how this will be done in future years. It is pleasing that the Staithe Trustees have taken on more grass cutting responsibility at the Staithe which continue to be looked after very well.

Mobile phone signals continue to have some interruptions and promised broadband improvements are awaited next year. The Parish Council supported the formation of a northern parishes Community Land Trust and appointed Terry Harper to represent Somerton.

The Parish Council comments on several consultations including the Broads Authority's Conservation Area review for Somerton. We only supported changes where property owners agreed and await the outcome of this review. We complained to the Authority about the inaccuracies in the Broads Local Plan with their staithe report and holding Parish Forum meetings in Norwich instead of the Broads. The Norfolk Strategic Framework Consultation demonstrated the importance of reading all these papers. We were able to demonstrate that the references to the 'North Winterton Flood Risk Project' in the consultation were false. These were, we understand, later withdrawn as no one would accept responsibility for the references. There has been no increase in the Parish Council charge this coming year with a Band A property having to pay £9:81p for Parish Council costs. This compares to £20:52p for a band A property in Winterton and £17:01p in Martham. This will almost certainly change if we receive less funding from the Borough Council. We changed Parish Clerks this past year saying goodbye to Gill Lack and welcoming Shirley Weymouth. Barrie Sharrock continues to volunteer his time as the Council's internal auditor for which we are very grateful. Shirley will not be continuing as our Borough Councillor so we must thank her for all the hard work and commitment over the years especially during her time as Mayor. I also thank our County Council Ron Hanton for his input and our other Borough Councillor James Bensly. James is now the Borough Council's representative on the Broads Authority and perhaps the Parish Council may wish to submit some ideas to James on possible improvements and changes with the Broads Authority. I again thank the police for looking after Somerton which remains a relatively safe place to live, however, we must continue to voice our concerns with the levels police cover.

There remains issues which seem to take a long time to resolve. The future of the only remaining Council property and the stile in FP 5, are examples of this but, as in most similar cases, we have to reply on outside bodies for solutions.

I thank each member of the Parish Council for giving their time and attending the meetings.

### 6. Vice Chairman's report

**PCllr Van de Bulk reported he had carried out a Risk Assessment on PC Assets in July 2017. From this the War Memorial Railings have been filled, the bus shelters are to have remedial works carried out.**

**7.Consideration of any resolution on which written notice has been given**  
None received

**8.Members of the audience – questions on any item/subject**  
There were none

**9.Date of the next meeting**  
7 May 2019

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.10pm

The meeting was followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting