

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 5TH MARCH 2019 - Draft MINUTES

Present: All Parish Councillors present. R.Starling (Chair) D.Van De Bulk (Vice Chair) D.Crane, T.Jones. B.Barker, N.Grayling & J.Clift. + Parish Clerk:S.Weymouth.
Borough Councillor J.Bensly & 5 Members of the Public.

Prior to the commencement of proceedings, the Chairman informed that Mr.Barry Sharrock who had recently retired as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor would be arriving later during the meeting whereupon the meeting would be temporarily closed in order to present Mr.Sharrock with a card & gift from Members of Somerton Parish Council. This was agreed.

1. Apologies: Police: PCs May & Potter. County Councillor: R.Hanton & Borough Councillor N.Galer

2 .Declarations of Interest: R.Starling, agenda item 14, as member of an Association (Broads Reed & Sedge Cutters) who have commented on Broads Local Plan.

Meeting closed.

3. Public Discussion:

a. Concern expressed why £100 paid to N.Grayling from Community Fund. Chair explain this was agreed at past meeting to prepare documentation for land registration of Poors land as per 14 b of minutes (8th.Jan.19)

b. Whether the £800 community fund payment to the Staithe Trustees had been spent as requested. Suggested person attend Staithe Trustees next meeting on 9th April.

c. One Parishioner commented on poor state of village with damaged hedges, farm equipment parked in fields ,manure /mud on road. Most viewed that this should be expected in rural area however Chair would speak with farmer regarding mud on road.

d. Staithe had no flowers & boats sunk. Advised take concerns to Staithe Trustees.

4. Report from Borough Councillors/County Councillor: This had been emailed to Parish Councillors. Borough Councillor J.Bensly mentioned public exhibitions on design for new Marina Centre on 6th & 7th March (Marina Centre) & on 14th March at Gorleston Library. Also, Parish Council thanked for their support and help during his current term of office.

5.Police: Next public meeting (SNAP) 25th April @ 7pm, Wellesley Recreation Ground.

6.Meeting re-opened. Minutes of last meeting (8th Jan.2019) & Special meeting - planning (22nd Jan.2019)

Chair signed copy of minutes. Prop: J.Clift, Sec: B.Barker All in agreement.

7.Matters Arising:

- a.Sandy Lane, pothole near electric pole. No repairs undertaken so Chair had reported pothole to NCC last week. All Councillors had been notified of this. In future, Councillors will be emailed action taken by Clerk/Chair.
- b.Coastal Practices Patient Participation Group - J.Clift, nothing further to report.
- c.Somerton War Memorial - Chair informed NCC kerbing expected later this month.
- d.Brandon Lewis MP - Letter (19.2.19) to Chair enclosing email from Ministry of Housing,Communities & Local Government regarding costs of submitting supplementary information in support of planning applications.
- e.Standing Orders: B.Barker was still preparing this document which was hoped to be ready for the next meeting in May.
- f.Light Pollution - Chair had contacted Martham Flegg High Ormiston Academy on 9.1.19.who assured playing field floodlights would be turned off when not in use. Elsewhere, 2 residents in Horsey Road still experiencing issues with neighbours' houses having bright floodlights on all night. Chair urged people to speak about their concerns with individual householders and to remind everyone about Somerton being within a designated 'dark sky' area.
- g: Staithe & Boat Dyke - B.Barker informed that situation regarding proposed dredging will be discussed at Trustees meeting on 9th April, 7:30pm, Village Hall. Public welcome.

8.Council House, 3 Horsey Road: Chair had circulated email from Jane Beck (GYBC) dated 21.2.19.informing that they will be undertaking a refurbishment of the property. Broads Authority had informed GYBC that planning approval for an additional dwelling would be unsuccessful. Tender documents for refurbishment will now commence. Neighbour kept informed by Chair.

At this point, being 7:55pm, the Chair closed the meeting to present Mr.Barrie Sharrock with a card and gift from Members of the parish Council and to thank him for volunteering his time over the years as the Council's Internal Auditor. The meeting was then re-opened at 7:57pm.

9.Flood & Coastal Risk Management & Upper Thurne Meeting 14.2.19. Update: Chair had attended meeting. Meeting report emailed to Parish Councillors on 16.2.19. Broads Authority presentation gave impression they would lead on future consultation regarding river and sea flood risk. Chair received approval from Parish Councillors to challenge Broads Authority intentions and to seek clarification from Environment Agency (EA).

Mark Johnson (EA) had replied on 25.2.19 and further email of 1.3.19. confirming that future decisions will not be made by Officers from any organisation. Elected Members Forum will be formed, future meetings will be open to the public and these will be minuted with minutes made available to the public. Chair read out draft letter to Mark Johnson (EA) in which Parish Council pleased to support

initiative, will attend future gatherings which hopefully will take place locally to enable residents to participate in the democratic process. Prop:J.Clift, Sec: D.Van de Bulk. All agree.

10. Matters dealt with in between meetings:

- a.3 incidents of fly tipping, Collis Lane, Church Rd, Horsey Rd. - Reported to GYBC.
- b. SAM2 road sign (traffic speed) moved from Horsey to Winterton Road.
- b.Bus Shelters - swept out & litter collected.
- c. Water main leakage, Horsey Road - Reported to Anglian Water.(Ref:55906930)
- d. Potholes reported to NCC on Winterton Road & Sandy Lane.

11. Accounts - March 2019. (For approval & payment as per budget)

- a. Parish Clerk, S.Weymouth (Dec.-Jan.) Salary £166:66 less tax = £133:46 (Net) and HMRC salary tax = £33:20. Income received (1.4.18 - 31.1.19) GYBC 50% precept (4.18)= £1,885 + GYBC 50% precept (6.18)= £1,885 + VAT refund 2017/2018 (6.18)= £24:18, Bank Interest (6.18) = £0.39 + Easement Payment for Electric Pole on Staithe = £11:92 (Paid to Staithe Trustees) + Bank Interest (12.18) = £0.39
- b.Cash book,bank statement, bank reconcillation and financial statement to 31.1.19. Documents emails to Councillors prior to meeting.
Bank balances: Deposit = £787:90 Current = £5,200:20
- c.Precept 2019/20. GYBC emailed confirming Parish Council's precept figures have been approved. Chair informed that next year, the Parish Council would cost a band D property in Somerton £14:72. In Hemsby this would be £38:56, Martham, £40:23 and in Winterton, £54:77, however, it should be noted that in future years the GYBC grant may be cut which could lead to quite an increase for the precept in Somerton.
- d.Parish Council Internal Audit: The Parish Clerk had prepared the 2018/19 internal audit and the file was handed to B.barker to carry out a check on invoices, payments etc.
The appointment of an Internal Auditor, other than a Parish Councillor, is to be left to the next meeting.
- e. Financial Regulations: NALC model, modified for Somerton PC, emailed to PCllrs. prior to meeting. Amendments approved for sections, 4.8,5c,5.8,9.10,11v,11g,11h and 16. Proposed: D.Crane, Sec. T.Jones. All Agree.

12.Spring Litter Pick: It was agreed the weekend of 16th/17th March. Chair has supply of plastic bags & high visibility vests. Volunteers reminded that litter pick carried out at own risk and anyone new needs to sign a risk assessment form. Rubbish to be left at Chair's house for collection by Borough Council.

13. Planning applications & Decisions:

- a. 06/19/0002/F - Shepherds hut, Bloodhills, outside lights - No Objections, dealt with by emails.
- b. BA/2019/0078/PN - straw barn, Somerton Holmes - No Objections, Prop. T. Jones. Sec. B. Barker All Agree.
- c. (Decision) 06/18/0690/F, New dormer to side of White House - granted.
- d. (Decision) BA/2018/0435/HOUSEH, Outbuilding, White House, Horsey Rd - granted.

14. Broads Local Plan: Following response to Broads Authority agreed; Somerton Parish Council met on the 5.3.19 and considered this matter. On page 20 of the Modification consultation version, part 6.2 The Broads Authority and Duty to Cooperate Summary, it states " The Localism Act states that relevant bodies must '...engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis..' The Broads Authority considers that it meets this duty in many ways, as set out in the Duty to Cooperate Statement etc. The Parish Council wishes to record that they consider that the Broads Authority continues to fail to engage constructively. This is demonstrated by the Authority's recent response to the National Parks - Glover Review in which the Authority does not wish to have any representation in the future from local District Councils Attached is a letter from Norfolk's District Councils to Defra (Michael Gove MP) which clearly demonstrates the true picture regarding engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis. Also Parish Council Forum meetings held by the Authority are not minuted.

15. Correspondence: (All made available for public inspection from 6:30 to 6:50pm)

Norfolk Coast AONB newsletter, Broads Authority Hickling Update, CAN Funding newsletter, Broads Authority briefings, Rural bulletin, Upper Thurne Working Group, NALC newsletter, Broads Parish Forum, BA 30th Anniversary, Keep Britain Tidy, GYBC Parish Liaison meeting, BA Weed harvesting, Norfolk Accident Rescue Service, Broads Engage., Mobile Library, Parish Clerk and Broads Authority Staithe Report.

- a. Chair + D. Crane will attend GYBC Parish Liaison meeting on 11.3.19. Somerton has raised flytipping + Broads Authority planning control in Parishes.
- b. Flegg Community Land Trust. Borough Councillor N. Galer is Chair of trust which is now legally formed, registered and able to proceed. Trust thanked the PC for their donation of £500 and will waive membership fee of £1. Local Parish Councils will be written to shortly explaining the role and inviting participation.
- c. Mobile Library. Agree to email NCC requesting details of any changes for Somerton.
- d. Parish Clerk (S. Weymouth) - Letter dated 23.2.19, handed to Chairman this evening prior to start of meeting stating " Dear Parish Councillors - On Friday 22 February there was an accident at the project I am working on. With the responsibility and duty of care for the people working for me it has made me make the decision to resign as Somerton's Parish Clerk. I would like to finish

prior to the May 2019, in my view, it makes sense for my replacement to be in place for the new municipal year - signed Shirley Weymouth"

It was agreed to accept the letter of resignation and for suitable notices to be displayed on the notice board etc in due course by the Chairman.

e. Staithe Report - Broads Authority seeking Parish Council approval. This will first be considered by the Staithe Trustees at their next meeting on the 9th April (7:30pm).

16. Items Reported to Parish Councillors.

a. T.Jones raised the poor state of the wooden kissing gate at the entrance to Footpath No.6 (at the NW end of Staithe Road). NCC will be contacted and members kept informed by the Chair.

17. Items for the next Agenda.

a). Standing Orders.

b). Parish Clerk vacancy.

18. Date of Next Meeting: APCM & APM to be held on Tuesday 7th May 2019 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending this evening and closed the meeting at 8:50pm on Tuesday 5th March 2019.