

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, COTTAGE ROAD, SOMERTON AT 7:00pm.

**Present:** R.Starling (Chair), R.Walters (Vice Chair), J.Cliff, D.Crane, T.Jones, B.Barker and I.Wright. 2 residents, Borough Cllr J Bensley

**Public Discussion:** Member of the Public commented regarding the sewage disposal regulations mentioned at the previous meeting, that it would be illegal to discharge directly into a water course.

**Report from Borough Councillor:** J.Bensley gave details of the person at GYBC who would deal with the Lion P.H. Community Asset application.. GYBC's dog regulation consultation had received +400 responses. P. Councils would be contacted in due course regarding implications for dogs using certain areas of land. Marina centre was ready to be demolished as part of the centre's replacement programme.

**Report from PCSO (Police):** Agreed to email PC Gary May to ask he attends the next meeting, to enquire why traffic accidents in Somerton had not been included and reported to the County Council and that the police attend to monitor both speed and mobile phone use by drivers particularly vehicles entering Somerton from the Horsey Road.

**Bus Shelter Cleaning:** Continues well with 2 Parishioners volunteering this month. Cllrs. J.Cliff & R.Walters volunteered to undertake the cleaning next month.

**Staithe Road No Parking Signs** had been distributed to residents and erected. A general acceptance that parking in Staithe Road causes problems for wider vehicles.

**Accounts:** Bank balances at 31.12 2019. Current Acc. £8,529:03 Savings Acc £789:46

Following payments were agreed:

G Lack	Clerk's Salary + HMRC	£247.80
Jary & Sons	War Memorial Cleaning	£523.50
Alma Ironcraft	Repair iron railings	£1028.40

**Grass cutting 2020/21:** Borough Council will not fund the increase in Parish grass cutting costs next financial year amounting to £109. Discussion followed regarding possibly reducing area and frequency of cutting. Agreed the deficit will be funded from reserves for the next financial year Further discussion at the next meeting.

**Community Fund Payments:** Agreed:-

- £1,024:58 excluding VAT to Somerton Staithe & Boat Dyke Charity Trustees to replace a wooden seat bench, notice board and post on the Parish Staithe.

- Funding for the War Memorial cleaning and letter repainting with quotation received from Arthur Jary & Sons Ltd. For £445:53 excluding VAT.
- Refurbishment of village sign. Chair informed that there had been no response to the notice inviting quotations placed on the notice board and the article included in the Somerton newsletter. A quotation had been received from Alma Ironcraft Ltd.

**Planning Applications and Decisions:**

Temporary (3 year) change of use from dwelling to office. Manor Farm Cottage, Manor Farm Road. Applicant T Harper. GYBC approved.

Application BA/2019/0408/HOUSEH. Proposal for a single storey rear extension at The Pantiles, Cottage Road, Somerton NR29 4DL Applicant Mr.Clinton Button. No objections

**3 Horsey Road, Refurbishment:** Refurbishment works underway. The property had been vacant for 7 years this month. General feeling of relief the Borough Council had finally acted

**Damage to Bus Shelter railings 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019:** The railings had been severely damaged by a car travelling from Winterton towards Martham. The Police had attended the incident and had later passed on confidential driver identity and car registration details to the Parish Council which had been forwarded to the Council's Insurance Company. The Insurers required 2 quotations for the replacement of the railings and informed that they would not be making any claim against the car owner responsible for the damage. Quotation from Alma Ironcraft Ltd for £1,028:40p had been accepted by the Insurance company less £250 excess.

**Complaint from resident regarding speeding on Martham Road:** email from resident seeking a reduction in the current speed limit of 60 mph along the Somerton to Martham road. In a response from the Traffic Engineer at NCC, Jonathan Winnett, it was explained that a speed limit at this location would not have the effect people would expect, it being a short isolated pocket of development and most likely any limit would not likely be adhered to given the short distance involved. NCC operates a speed management strategy compiled using a national code of practice, guidance from the Dept.of Transport and the Police. Speed limits would only be considered where there was at least 400 metres of continuous roadside development and a number of emerging side roads plus a personal injury accident record. Cllrs agreed that there was very little that could be done on this matter which was proposed by Cllr T. Jones , seconded by Cllr B.Barker and agreed unanimously.

14. Water run-off from arable land,Martham Road. proposed letter to landowner, Broads Authority and County Council: Chair explained that this was reported and discussed at the last meeting on the 5th November 19. On the 13th November 2018 he had attended a site meeting with Neil Punchard (Broads Authority catchment officer), the landowner's representative and a local digger operator to discuss options. It was agreed that part of the field would be cultivated and a section bunded or banked to trap and hold run off. Unfortunately the bank was not wide or tall enough to contain the considerable volume

of water. It breached on 3 occasions and repairs were carried by the Chair out using sand bags.

Councillors suggested construction of a ditch parallel to the road with a pipe connecting to the existing ditch further down the road opposite the adjoining field (Crow Hill). If no action was taken then the County Council should be contacted to place kerb stones on the northern edge of Martham road to protect gardens and properties along Cottage Road. Grass seed on the bare earth works was also suggested. It was agreed to email the landowner and the Broads Authority Catchment Officer a letter seeking a long term solution to prevent runoff in the future. The draft of this letter is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

15. Broads Local Access Forum Consultation - To agree a response. Chair explained that the Broads Authority were currently using 2002 regulations as a base for the Forum's constitution instead of the more up to date 2007 regulations. Cllr.D Crane proposed that the Parish Council should email the Broads Authority to suggest that the Broads Local Access Forum should be using the up to date regulations i.e.2007. This was seconded by Cllr B Barker and agreed unanimously.

16. Matters dealt with since last meeting;

a. Complaint regarding mud on Martham Road. Chair informed that there was a delay in the Parish Council receiving the complaint which had been sent initially to Somerton News. The road was swept and appropriate warning signs displayed. The complaint mentioned that 2 cars had suffered accidents as a result of the mud.

It was agreed that in future cases where individuals experience problems with mud on roads in the village, the Parish Council suggests they report the matter first to the persons responsible for putting mud on the road, the landowner or if considered dangerous to road users then to the Police. Individuals are now able to report mud on roads by email to [highways@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:highways@norfolk.gov.uk) stating exact location and persons responsible for the mud. This is a confidential service by the County Council. Proposed by Cllr.J Clift and seconded by Cllr.B Barker and agreed unanimously.

b. Milllane footpath sign damaged - reported to NCC.

c.Potholes Manor Farm Road - reported 2nd time to NCC.

d. Blocked drain at Dark lane Corner - cleared by the Chair.

17. Correspondence: The Clerk has circulated a post log from November 2019 to January 2020 to all Councillors. Chair informed that he would circulate more information to Councillors regarding the replacement kissing gate at the end of Staithe Road / commencement of the river bank footpath (FP No.6 Somerton). This would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

18. Items for next agenda: Kissing gate replacement and Grass Cutting.

19. Date of the next meeting Tuesday the 3rd March 2020.

