

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: R Starling (Chair) T Jones
J Clift B Barker
I Wright

The Chairman also welcomed County Councillor J Bensly and Borough Councillor N Galer, noting that J Bensly is also Borough Councillor, together with 4 residents.

1. To consider apologies for absence. Cllrs Crane and Walters sent their apologies.
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. Cllr Starling declared an interest in Item 9(a) Tree Works at the Gables, as a neighbour.
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: -**

Public discussion – 15 minutes allowed.

- A resident asked what was happening with Flegg Community Land Trust. The Chairman noted that meetings had been held on zoom and a special meeting would be held in Somerton in October.
 - A resident asked why there were no blue Broads Authority signs in Somerton. The Chairman informed that the Parish Council had not asked for any National Park signs and the Broads Authority had not contacted the Parish Council on this subject.
 - A resident asked when the old kissing gate was going to be removed. The Chairman noted that it was currently propping up part of the fence but this would be discussed at the next meeting.
4. Report from Borough Councillors/County Councillor – if present
 - Cllr Bensly noted that there were enquiries from lots of parishes regarding road related matters, eg cleaning out grips etc, and Cllr Bensly read out the response from NCC. It was suggested that people continued to email him until things improved.
 - Rural Grass Cutting. The response from NCC was read out. It was noted that the first rural cut for Somerton took place in May this year and the final cut was completed on 30th July 2021.
 - It was noted that silt was still not being cleared from ditches and in some instances this was having to be paid for privately.
 - Cllr Galer noted that, in some instances, there were significant delays in getting responses from the Borough Council. It was noted that there was no sweeping schedule any more but the Council would be relying on requests.

- It was noted that the Borough Council was developing an affordable homes standard.

reopening of the meeting:-

5. Report from the PCSO – if present. All reports had previously been circulated.
6. To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 6th July 2021. The Chairman noted a correction to page 2 Item 5 Residents Discussion. The reference should have been to Coronation Farm not Coronation Lane. Cllr Clift proposed that the minutes be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and unanimously agreed by those councillors present.
7. To report matters arising from the minutes not already on the agenda, for information only.
 - a. Item 11. The branch had now been removed.
 - b. Item 16. Still awaiting a report from Flegg Community Land Trust. A special meeting would be scheduled.
 - c. Item 18. Will be discussed under Item 10.
8. Accounts
 - a. To review year-to-date position. Nothing significant to note.

	Budget	Actual	Variance
	£	£	£
Grass Cutting	1,025.00	472.50	552.50
Village Hall Hire	100.00	-	100.00
Insurance	300.00	349.36	- 49.36
Clerk Salary	1,000.00	446.20	553.80
Clerk Expenses	250.00	-	250.00
Bus Shelter	250.00	-	250.00
Admin	82.00	169.03	- 87.03
Church	760.00	-	760.00
Total	3,767.00	1,437.09	2,329.91
Opening Balance		6,878.27	
Add: receipts		2,071.02	

Less: payments (inc VAT)		- 1,437.09	
Movement on community account		- 745.00	
Closing Balance			6,767.20
Balance per Bank Statement as at 30.07.21			6,767.20

- b. To agree payments in accordance with the budget. Cllr Clift proposed that the payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed by all councillors present.

Payee	Cheque No	Amount
G Lack clerk salary	836	158.80
HMRC clerk salary	837	39.60
R Bird grass cutting	838	378.00
G Burckitt defibrillator pads reimbursement	839	41.44
		617.84

- i. Notice board refurbishment. No response had been received. This will be put on the next agenda.
- ii. Reimbursement of costs of new defibrillator pads. Paid as above.
- c. To seek tender for grass cutting 2022/23. It was noted that R Bird had provided quotations which remain closed. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.
9. Planning Applications and Decisions
- a. **06/21/0513/TCA** (Please quote on all correspondence) Development: T1 Hedge - Reduction and reshaping as overgrown T2 Hazel - Re-coppicing as overgrown T3 Malus - Partial crown reduction by up to 3m Location: The Gables The Street West Somerton Somerton BR29 4EA. It was noted that many councillors had not been able to access the planning portal. Cllr Jones proposed that the application be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Barker and agreed by all councillors present.
- b. Decision Notice for 0621/0420/LB. Retrospective application for 1.5m fencing around ruins of St Mary's Church. **Approved.**

10. Path from Bus Shelter (Winterton Road) to Horsey Road bend - To consider suggestions from NCC for path provision. Cllr Starling read out the history behind this item. Several options were discussed, none of which actually solved the problem. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Barker that an on site meeting be held to include NCC and the owners of Primary House. This was seconded by Cllr Wright and unanimously agreed by all councillors present.
11. Road Safety & Verge Cutting : To make suggestions to the County Council.
 - a. It was agreed to make the County Council aware of concerns for road safety with this year's lack of verge cutting particularly at road junctions and bends in Somerton plus the need to keep speed limit and all road signs clear of vegetation.
 - b. The lack of maintenance to roadside drainage grips, catchment pits and sediment accumulating in the dyke on the north side of Common Road will also be raised.
 - c. County Councillor James Bensly will support the request for single white lines to be painted on the edge of the road in the centre of the village plus the painting of white slow signs at each bend.
12. Coronation Lane: Report on current status for access and to decide future status. A brief history of access and use of Coronation Lane was outlined by Cllr Starling. The lane has been used mainly by agricultural vehicles for access to adjacent fields including sugar beet lorries during the autumn and winter months. Residents use the lane for vehicle access, to cycle, walk and on horseback. The addition of the new track in 2000/01 for the construction of the wind turbine provided access, albeit private, from Coronation to Mill Lane.
13. Coronation Lane / Mill Lane : Permissive Path update - R.Starling It was agreed to await the outcome of the permissive path process along the wind turbine track section before making any further decision regarding access along the southern end of Coronation Lane. The permissive path template had been supplied by the Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and the landowner and the wind turbine owners have been sent details for their consideration.
14. Highway Verge Horsey Road - Complaint regarding encroachment onto verge. To agree action. It was noted that Highway verge requirements were now published on the website. Cllr Clift proposed that the matter be referred to Highways. This was seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed by all councillors present.
15. Flood Issues - To consider provision of sandbags for emergency use. - R.Starling. It was noted that grants might be available for purchase of

sandbags. Residents would be asked if they wanted sandbags to store at their own properties.

16. Ruined Church / Manor Farm Road - To contact Historic England. It was agreed to contact Historic England regarding St.Mary's ruined church since the recent retrospective planning application to fence the surrounding woodland and to place fencing within the curtilage of the church was not decided by the Borough Council's elected Planning Committee but had been delegated to an individual officer. Cllr Barker therefore proposed to make Historic England aware of all correspondence. This was seconded by Cllr Clift and agreed by all councillors present.
17. Matters dealt with since last meeting;
 - a) bus shelters swept and cleaned
 - b). SAM2 road sign changed location.
 - c). Hole along Footpath 7 repaired by Broads Authority. This has now been repaired.
18. Autumn Litter Pick. To agree future weekend dates. The 25th and 26th September were agreed.
19. Horsey Road Willows: To request pollarding of willows by County Council. Cllr Barker proposed that this be actioned. This was seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed by all councillors present.
20. Commemorative Gift to honour community effort during the pandemic. Email previously circulated. No further action.
21. Correspondence

Sender	Details	Action Taken/to be Taken
Richard & Rosemary Noble	Footpath from bus stop on Winterton Rd to Horsey Road	
Norfolk Constabulary	Newsletter	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	Trees for Cities Grant	Circulated
NCC	Waste Posters Recycle and Reuse	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	Flood fund spending to be agreed	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	Increasing Apprenticeships in Norfolk	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	Cabinet considers £11m highways boost	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	1 million trees project	Circulated
Broadland Futures	Newsletter	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	Town Hall Christmas Celebrations	Circulated

Cllr Galer	Comments on new design for shop fronts GY	Circulated
Cllr Galer	Feedback on CCTV cameras	Circulated
NALC	Offshore Wind A Perfect Storm	Circulated
Norfolk Police	Newsletter for August	Circulated
AONB	Dark Skies Festival 25.9 - 10.10.21	Circulated
NALC	Flooding leaflet and hotline 0344 800 8013	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	Walking and Cycling routes plans GY	Circulated
Cllr Galer	2025 GY City of Culture Bid	Circulated
Cllr Galer	Outcome of GY Environment Committee meeting 28.7.21	Circulated
S Stephenson	Upper Thurne Working Group	Circulated
Norfolk Police	Pop up events dates	Circulated
NALC	Source of funds for Parish businesses	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	Launch of App 50 things to do before you are 5	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	New business funding initiative	Circulated
Norfolk Coast Partnership	Newsletter	Circulated
Norfolk Constabulary	PCC Police & Crime Priorities Consultation	Circulated
BA	Adoption of Residential Moorings Guide	
BA	Marketing & Viability Guide Consultation	Circulated
GYBC	Consultation on Local Plan Part 2	Circulated
Cllr Bensly	NCC roadside strategy for encouraging pollinators	Circulated

There have been many emails regarding Covid-19 which I have circulated but which I have not included on this list.

22. **Items for next agenda.**
 - a. Kissing Gate
 - b. Road safety
 - c. Permissive footpath
 - d. Historic England
 - e. Sandbags
 - f. Notice Board refurbishment
 - g. Quotations for grass and hedge cutting
23. **Date of next meeting 2nd November 2021**