

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2021 AT THE VILLAGE
HALL, COTTAGE ROAD, SOMERTON AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: R Starling (Chairman) R Walters (Vice Chairman)
 T Jones B Barker
 D Crane I Wright
 G Lack (clerk)

The Chairman welcomed 5 residents to the meeting together with Borough Councillor Noel Galer. County and Borough Councillor James Bensly had sent his apologies.

1. To consider apologies for absence. Cllr Clift sent her apologies and these were accepted by the meeting.
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. Cllr Starling declared an interest in Item 19, as a boat owner who uses the Staithe.
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 commented on the Commemorative gift which was available to parish councils and other community organisations to honour the community's efforts during Covid. Whilst it was noted that the Parish Council did not wish to take up this offer it was noted that the Village Hall committee could pursue this if they wished so that a plaque could be put up in the village hall.
 - It was noted that no mention of the possibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan had been made by the Flegg Community Land Trust. The Chairman noted that this would require a very large amount of work with the use of consultants and would have to conform to the Borough Council's local plan. It was agreed to investigate this further and discuss at the next Parish Council meeting.
4. Report from Borough/County Councillors if present
Cllr Galer noted the following
 - After clarification about which road signs were missing, he would follow this up with GYBC.
 - Following the meeting of the Flegg Community Lane Trust held on 13th October, discussions had taken place regarding the possibility of creating eco friendly affordable homes
 - The Hemsby rock burn was moving to the planning stage.

- Thanks were given to Cllr Galer for expediting the street clean on 4th October.

reopening of the meeting:-

5. Report from the PCSO – if present. Not present but all newsletters and information had been circulated;
6. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th September 2021. It was proposed by Cllr Jones that the minutes be signed. This was seconded by Cllr Crane and agreed by all councillors present.
7. To report matters arising from the minutes not already on the agenda, for information only.
 - Path from bus shelter. Item 10. A site meeting had taken place on 16th September with Norfolk County Council, members of the Parish Council and the owners of Primary House. As a result the verge around Primary House to the bus shelter had been flailed which, together with additional clearance work, the visibility on the bend and at the crossroads had been very much improved.
 - Autumn litter pick. Item 18. This had taken place 25th and 26th September and all roadside verges and roads had been covered. Thanks were given to all who had participated.
8. Accounts
 - a. To review year-to-date position. The clerk circulated the actual versus budget position and noted that there was £8,220.18 in the bank.

| | Budget | Actual | Variance |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Grass Cutting | 1,025.00 | 850.50 | 174.50 |
| Village Hall Hire | 100.00 | - | 100.00 |
| Insurance | 300.00 | 349.36 | - 49.36 |
| Clerk Salary | 1,487.00 | 644.60 | 842.40 |
| Clerk Expenses | 50.00 | - | 50.00 |
| Bus Shelter | 250.00 | - | 250.00 |
| Admin | 150.00 | 169.03 | - 19.03 |
| Church | 760.00 | - | 760.00 |
| Total | 4,122.00 | 2,013.49 | 2,108.51 |

| | | | |
|--|--|------------|-----------------|
| | | | |
| Opening Balance | | 6,878.27 | |
| Add: receipts | | 4,142.04 | |
| Less: payments (inc VAT) | | - 2,013.49 | |
| Movement on community account | | - 786.64 | |
| Closing Balance | | | 8,220.18 |
| | | | |
| Balance per Bank Statement as at 30.09.21 | | | 8,220.18 |

- b. To agree payments in accordance with the budget. Cllr Barker proposed that the payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed by all councillors present. It was also agreed to pay the Village Hall £30 to cover the charges to date.

| Payee | Cheque No | Amount |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| G Lack clerk salary | 840 | 198.40 |
| HMRC clerk salary | 841 | 49.40 |
| R Bird grass cutting | 842 | 283.50 |
| | | <u>531.30</u> |

- c. Grass Cutting Quotations 2022/23. Only one quotation had been received from Mr Bird. Cllr Walters proposed that the quotation be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Barker and agreed by all councillors present.
- d. War memorial - hedge cutting quotations. A separate quotation had been received from Mr Bird for this. It was proposed by Cllr Jones that this be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Crane and agreed by all councillors present.
- e. Precept (Council Tax) 2022/23. To agree to next year's budget/precept. The clerk had previously circulated the budget and read out a letter from St Mary's PCC regarding the cost of grass cutting. Cllr Barker proposed that the budget be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Walters and approved by all councillors present. The Chairman noted that the budget

was the same as last year but, despite this, council tax may rise because of losing residential houses to holiday lets.

f. Payment of hire of Village Hall. Completed. See (b) above.

9. Planning Applications and Decisions

a. **06/21/0513/TCA** 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. **Approved**

b. **BA/2021/0372/FUL**. Lean-to extension to both sides of existing grain store. Cattle yard cover. Somerton Holmes Farm, Horsey Road. Applications can be viewed on line. Cllr Jones proposed no objections be raised but with the normal request that light pollution be kept to a minimum. This was seconded by Cllr Crane and agreed by all councillors present.

10. Kissing Gate (Staithe Road - Footpath No 6) To decide removal of old gate.

This had been done by volunteers and the old gate was recycled. Thanks were given to Cllr Walters for the provision of the new post.

11. Permissive Footpath (Coronation Lane to Mill Road) Wind turbine track update.

Email from landowner. This was now with the landowner's solicitors. It was noted that the route could still be walked..

12. Notice board refurbishment. No response had been received for quotations.

Cllr Starling would therefore refurbish it.

13. Road Safety & Verge cutting (email sent to NCC on 9th September 2021). The response received from Norfolk County Council was disappointing because there had been no reply regarding the request for suction cleaning of roadside drains, silt catchment pits and the cleaning out of the ditch on the northside of Common Road. It was suggested by a resident that the speed limit signs might be moved further out of the village to slow traffic down before it gets into the village and it was agreed to ask Cllr Bensly to pursue this. Other road safety issues of concern were cars going the wrong way up the one-way system and failing to stop at the give way sign coming into the village. It was also noted that the landowner needed to cut the hedge to improve visibility at the junction of The Street and Martham Road. The above actions were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Wright. Cllr Crane seconded this and agreed by all councillors present.

14. Provision of sandbags. It was noted that 4 residents had responded and that ward funding would cover this. Cllr Starling would hold 20 in reserve therefore request 120 from the borough council in the first instance. This was proposed

- by Cllr Crane. Cllr Barker seconded this and it was agreed by all councillors present.
15. Ruined Church - Manor Farm Road - Update from Historic England/NCC regarding fence. To decide any further action. It was noted that there had been a second planning application for the same work. Cllr Wright proposed that an approach be made to Norfolk Council Council to challenge restriction of access through the woodland surrounding the ruined church. This was seconded by Cllr Barker. There were 3 councillors in favour and 2 abstentions. The proposal was therefore carried.
 16. Provision of trees - R Walters. Cllr Walters agreed to investigate free supply of trees and hedges from the County Council and would circulate once the information was available.
 17. Matters dealt with since last meeting(7th September 2021)
 - a. Bus shelters - vegetation had been cleared and the shelters swept & cleaned
 - b. Complaints regarding dogs
 - i. Nuisance from barking dogs. It was noted that these sort of complaints should be referred to Environmental Health at GYBC
 - ii. Report of dog attacking another dog on public footpath. This should be referred to the Police.
 - c. Clearance of roadside grips from Somerton Hall to Martham Road & The Street. This had been done by volunteers.
 - d. Clearance of drains and silt in the centre of the village. Volunteers had cleared the drains on the bend and on Horsey Road.
 - e. Clearance of vegetation near 30mph signs. This had been done by volunteers
 18. Village Hall Accounts
 - a. To consider accounts presented at the village hall committee meeting on 22nd September 2021. No comments.
 - b. To comment on the proposed increase with village hall hire costs. An Increase from £10 to £12 had been proposed. A request was made that there should be a separate annotation for the newsletter and this was agreed by those Village Hall committee members present at the meeting.
 19. Somerton Staithe & Boat Dyke Charity - Governance:
 - a. To seek clarification from the Trustees' Chairman as to whether the Charity's Trustees intend (correction at meeting. "intend" and "ignore" deleted, "adhere" inserted) to ignore the Charity's governing document i.e. the Charity Commission Scheme dated 8th July 1988, following the

Trustees meeting of 18th October 2021. Reply requested within 10 working days;

- b. To seek the opinion of the Charity Commission and the Parish Council's Insurance Company should the Chair of the Trustees confirm that the Charity will, (adhere) or intends to, ignore (~~correction at meeting. "Ignore" deleted, "adhere" inserted~~) the aforementioned governing document. It was agreed in the first instance that a meeting be arranged with the Chairman of the Somerton Staithe & Boat Dyke Trustees to discuss concerns regarding governance.

- 20. Upper Thurne Working Group Meeting 19th October - Hickling. Update and to agree to any response to proposed changes to meetings. A proposal to change the format of meetings to a workshop and to include new designs for coastal management for Winterton and Somerton was noted. It was also noted that the next meeting would be held on Friday 19th November and that members of the public would be allowed. The Environment Agency would also attend.
- 21. Flegg Community Land Trust update. A meeting was held on 13th October and notes from this meeting would be circulated once they were approved together with any recommendations from the Trust.. Another meeting would be held on 11th November 2021. The result of that meeting would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.
- 22. Correspondence

| Sender | Details | Action Taken/to be Taken |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Norfolk Constabulary | Various Newsletters | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Various updates from NCC | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Restoration plans announced for abandoned Grade II listed building | Circulated |
| Helen Carrier | Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Meet the Pageant Master Tuesday 26 October at 7pm | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Press Release - Council announces public Remembrance events | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Free half term fun in Great Yarmouth - with support from the Welcome Back Fund | Circulated |
| Gary May | Police promote road safety as darker nights set in. Inbox | Circulated |
| Norfolk ALC Wellbeing | Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance formally adopts Strategy | Circulated |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| Cllr Bensly | Tree details | Circulated |
| NCC | Message from HM Lord-Lieutenant | Circulated |
| Cllr Galer | Press Release - Supply line issues create delay for Great Yarmouth traders moving into new Market structure | Circulated |
| Cllr Galer | Press Release - Council invites residents and visitors to jingle all the way around Gorleston's Priory Gardens this Christmas | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Food vouchers for children to continue for October half term | Circulated |
| Norfolk ALC Wellbeing | Various updates | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Interested in apprenticeships but don't know where to start? | Circulated |
| NCC | How do you feel about Summer tourism? | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Local incentives boost for Norfolk employers recruiting a new apprentice! | Circulated |
| Norfolk Coast Partnership | NCP e-news | Circulated |
| Cllr Galer | Press Release - Great Yarmouth Christmas Market set to return bigger and brighter than ever with Christmas in The Parks | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Press release- Council announces a change to households' normal rubbish and recycling collection days | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | #JustDualIt: A47 sees an accident with an injury every 10 days | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | £70,000 community fund could boost green projects | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | New drive to accelerate use of electric vehicles | Circulated |
| Cllr Galer | Press Release - Council announces scorching new art competition as grand opening of the new Marina Centre draws nearer | Circulated |
| Cllr Galer | Press Release: Great Yarmouth chosen to host end of season Triathlon | Circulated |
| Cllr Galer | Press Release - Great Yarmouth opens hidden heritage gems to the public for Heritage Open Days Festival | Circulated |
| Broadlands Futures Initiative | Broadland Futures Initiative to feature at Norfolk and Suffolk Coast and Estuary Conference | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Press Release: Trees For Cities Grant for Great Yarmouth | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | Flood fund spending to be agreed | Circulated |
| Cllr Bensly | 1 Million Trees Project | Circulated |

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

23. Items for next agenda
 - a. Somerton Staithe and Boat Dyke Trustees.
 - b. Update re the church and borough council.
 - c. Trees for the community.
 - d. Drain cover on Horsey Road outside Ivy House.
 - e. Reflectors Martham Road.
 - f. Neighbourhood Plan
24. Date of next meeting 4th January 2022
Meeting closed at 21.05