

SOMERTON – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021 AT 6.45 P.M.

1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 7th May 2019 already approved on 2nd July 2019
2. Matters arising from Minutes not covered on the Agenda
3. Statements and reports from representatives of voluntary organisations within the Parish:
 - Somerton 'Poors' Trustees Minute Book. Noted. The clerk was asked to thank Mr Lees for the report.
 - Somerton Staithe & Boat Dyke Trustees Minute Book & Accounts and to receive Trustees Annual Report. Noted. The clerk was asked to thank Mr Pace for the report.
 - Somerton Village Hall Accounts. Noted. The Clerk was asked to thank Mrs Smith for the accounts.
4. Chairman's Report

The Parish Council was not able to hold normal meetings in the village hall owing to Government restrictions prohibiting public gatherings. The village hall has also been closed and unavailable for meetings. Meetings have been held online and this has enabled the Council to function although, at times, debate has been restricted owing to pressure on time. One special meeting was held on the Parish Staithe on the 25th August 20 following advice from NALC. This permitted the appointment of 2 Staithe Trustees which in turn enabled responsibility for the management of the Staithe and Boat Dyke to return to a full complement of Staithe Trustees from the Parish Council. The meeting also permitted the appointment of 2 Poors Trustees.

Our Spring litter pick was cancelled owing to coronavirus restrictions but the Autumn pick was carried out. Thanks to everyone who participates in litter picking in Somerton and also our Borough Councillors Noel Galer and James Bensly for funding the purchase of safety and litter picking equipment. Fly tipping incidents continue especially along the Somerton to Horsey Road and the Borough Council kindly attends to these. Contractor Ross Bird undertook the grass cutting last year and will do so again this year. The Parish Council still receives funding from the Borough Council for this. This will be Ron Hanton's last meeting with us as our County Councillor and he has helped considerably over the years mainly with highways related matters but also with the provision of kerbing at the war memorial and the no parking signs and traffic sign along Staithe Road. The Flegg Community Land Trust completed a survey of residents in Somerton. The Trust will now see if there are any options for affordable housing and other improvements. The final decision will rest with the Parish Council. We are still trying to secure a permissive path to link Coronation and Mill lanes and await landowner's decision. Improvements to the Low Road right of way have been undertaken by the County Council.

The Parish Council website has been updated by Gill throughout the year and now includes the Council's standing orders and information on the 3 conservation areas in Somerton which will help those planning to undertake building and tree works.

On the 2nd Feb.21, we held a special online meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss future flood risk issues. The Parish Council will continue to participate in this Broadland Futures Initiative as flood risk management could have implications locally.

Finally, I thank Gill for all her work as Parish Clerk and the Parish Councillors for their time and help with village matters.

5. Vice Chairman's Report
 - Bus shelters. Both bus shelters in good condition.
 - War memorial: All looks in good order. Some evident ageing to steps and base plinth, to be considered in the future.
 - Benches. All in good structural condition. Would greatly benefit from sanding and oiling in order to maintain condition. Quotes still outstanding for this work. Bench on the corner of Horsey and Common Road has a slightly damaged leg.

- A number of the road signs have minor damage (presumably tractor damage), however should be okay for another year before being reviewed again. The reflective sign by the pub (on the bend coming round Horsey Road into the village) is quite dirty and would benefit from being cleaned. A post with a reflective sign (on Martham Road, opposite the pub coming into the village) has fallen over and should be removed if not required or straightened. A sign on Martham Road (heading out of village) indicating right turn off down Sandy Lane has twisted around so cannot be seen properly (NB I am happy to twist this round to it's proper orientation next time I'm passing if possible). Two signs should be replaced as priority;
 - Speed signs on both sides of the road, by the village hall (turn off Cottage road to Common road) are quite damaged (one worse than the other).
 - The street sign for Cottage Road (on T junction with Sandy Lane) is in a poor state, rusty and damaged and should be replaced.
- Staithe area looking tidy. Staithe railings: slight bend in the middle alongside road remains. Otherwise in good condition.
- The Chairman said he would check the condition of the notice board.

6. Consideration of any resolution on which written notice has been given. None given
7. Members of audience – questions on any item/subject. Nothing raised.
8. Date of Next Meeting. 3rd May 2022