

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2019
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, COTTAGE ROAD, SOMERTON AT 7.00 P.M.

COUNCILLORS

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

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Hanton to the meeting together with 11 residents. Cllr Hanton gave apologies from Cllr Galer.

1. To consider apologies for absence..
 - a. None noted from the Parish Council.
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.
 - a. Cllr Starling noted an interest in Item 10 Planning Application BA/2019/0234/FU as a member of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and a keyholder of the drainage pump. It was noted that he would leave the room when this was discussed. Cllr Walters, Vice Chairman, would take over the Chair for this item.
 - b. Cllrs Starling and Jones noted an interest in Item 14 as customers of the Lion Public House.
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: -**
4. Public discussion – 15 minutes allowed.
 - a. It was noted that there was loose chippings at the top of Staithe Road which was a skid hazard. NCC Highways would be asked to sweep the road.
 - b. It was noted that the Welcome to Somerton sign was in the middle of the village. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council was not consulted on the positioning of the sign.
 - c. It was agreed that the public would be able to comment on agenda items as they arose.
5. Report from Borough Councillors/County Councillor – if present.
 - a. Cllr Hanton reported to the meeting as follows:
 - i. Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing. Norfolk County Council contractor BAM Farrans has carried out initial surveys of the Third River Crossing site, including existing utilities and associated properties. The project is on course and if all goes to plan work will commence in October 2020
 - ii. A47 Alliance. The A47 Alliance continues to press the progress of duelling the A47. On Tuesday 25 th June 2019 over 70 delegates from a number of business and local authorities attended an A47 Alliance Parliamentary Reception hosted by our MP Brandon Lewis. The event was held to present the case for dualling of the A47 between Peterborough and Lowestoft. Michael Ellis MP, Minister of State for Transport attended the event and was presented with evidence to push the case for the work to go ahead.

- iii. Fire Station Open Day. Great Yarmouth Fire Station is holding an 'Open Day' on Saturday 14th September 2019 10am – 3pm.
- iv. Hazardous Waste. Free hazard waste days are taking place in recycling centres across Norfolk during September and October. These events are for residents disposing of household hazardous waste only and not for businesses, groups or any other organisation. Caister Recycling Centre will be accepting such waste on the 5th & 6th October between 9am – 4pm
- v. Norwich Western Link. On the 15th July 2019 Norfolk County Council agreed on the route for the proposed E153 million Norwich Western Link, between the newly constructed Broadland Northway (formerly the N.D.R.) and the A47. This is a proposed 3.9 mile road from the A1067, travelling halfway between Weston Longville and Ringland, linking to the A47 at a new junction at Wood Lane near Honingham. The construction will require a 720-metre long viaduct over the River Wensum. If all goes to plan work to construct this link will commence in late 2022 with a prospective finish in early 2025.

Reopening of the meeting:-

- 6. Report from the PCSO – if present.
 - a. The PCSO was not present although a newsletter had previously been circulated.
- 7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd July 2019
 - a. Cllr Clift proposed that the minutes be approved and this was seconded by Cllr Crane and unanimously agreed by all councillors present. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.
- 8. To report matters arising from the minutes not already on the agenda, for information only.
 - a. An incident of fly tipping had been reported and a photograph taken causing the rubbish to be subsequently collected by the fly tipper. Thanks were asked to be passed to the individual who had reported this matter and taken action.
- 9. Accounts
 - a. To review year-to-date position
 - i. The accounts and bank statements were laid out before the meeting.
 - b. To agree payments in accordance with the budget. Cllr Wright proposed that the following payments be approved and this was seconded by Cllr Clift and unanimously agreed by all Councillors present.

Payee	Cheque No	Description	Amount £
G Lack	775	Clerk salary	198.40
HMRC	776	PAYE G Lack	49.40
R Bird	777	Grass cutting	360.00
Somerton Village Hall Committee	778	Contribution to newsletter Community Fund payment	500.00
		Total	£1107.80

Cash Position

Opening Balance 1.4.2019		5,629.49	
Add: receipts		1883.89	
Less: payments		-2272.45	

Closing Balance year to date			£5240.93

The clerk noted that the above balance included £2,406.93 surplus from the Community Fund. The balance did not include the above approved payments.

- c. Community Fund: Payment of £500 to contribute towards the cost of the newsletter
 - i. Approved as above.
 - d. To arrange for 3rd signatory on cheques
 - i. Cllr Wright proposed that Cllr Richard Walters be nominated as a third signatory on the account and this was seconded by Cllr Clift and unanimously agreed by those councillors present. The Clerk would arrange for the relevant forms to be completed.
10. Planning Applications and Decisions
 - a. BA/2019/0234/FUL. Creation of a high-level walkway in painted galvanised steel around the drainage pump cap. West Somerton Marsh Windpump, River Thurne, West Somerton. Applicant Mr Colin Ford.
 - i. Cllr Starling left the meeting and Cllr Walters took over the Chair.
 - ii. It was noted that the materials to be used would be sustainable and modern; that the drainage pump would not be open to the public unless a request was made in which case the visitor would be accompanied and would not affect the wildlife in any way.
 - iii. Cllr Barker proposed that there be no objections to the application and this was seconded by Cllr Clift and unanimously agreed by those councillors present.
 - iv. Cllr Starling rejoined the meeting.
11. Staithe Road - Access issues and possible solutions
 - a. Cllr Starling gave a history of the situation and this is attached as Appendix 1.
 - b. It was noted that there was broad support and sympathy by the residents of the problems of access for agricultural machinery and large lorries.
 - c. Suggestions were proposed including:
 - i. Signage at each property asking people not to park there;
 - ii. Removal of concrete blocks;
 - iii. Erection of tractor warning sign at the entrance to the road. Advice to be sought from NCC Highways.
 - iv. Placement of a sign on the kissing gate asking people not to park on Staithe Road.
 - v. Cllr Jones proposed that the above signs be costed and erected and this was seconded by Cllr Wright and approved by all councillors present.
 - d. Quotations would be sought for signs noted in (i) and (iv) above with a proposal that these could be paid for out of the Community Fund.
12. Autumn Litter Pick - To agree dates
 - a. It was agreed that the next litter pick would be the 5th October 2019.
13. Council House (3 Horsey Road). Refurbishment - Update from GYBC
 - a. It was noted that the house was 3rd on the list for release and that there was 1 property ahead of Horsey Road in the tendering process. There was still no definitive date as to when the work would be put out to tender.
 - b. It was suggested that the press be contacted after the next meeting should there still be no progress but Cllr Jones proposed that the press be contacted now and this was

seconded by Cllr Walters and unanimously agreed by all councillors present. The clerk to prepare a press release and circulate for approval.

14. The Lion Public House - To consider applying for Community Asset registration with GYBC - R Starling
 - a. The landlord of the Lion stated that the business was not viable and that he had given notice to quit by the end of October 2019. He noted that the pub was not generally supported by the local residents.
 - b. By registering the pub as a community asset, the community would have to be consulted if there were plans to sell the pub in the future and if there was a proposed change of use. It was noted that both the Queen Victoria and the Kings Head pubs in Martham had been registered as community assets.
 - c. Cllr Wright proposed that an application be made to list The Lion as a community asset and this was seconded by Cllr Walters and agreed by councillors with 2 abstentions because of previously declared interests (Item 2 above). The clerk would proceed with the application form.
15. Kissing Gate (Footpath No 5 Staithe Road/river bank path): To consider any quotations for repairs/replacement
 - a. It was noted that no-one had tendered for the work.
 - b. It was agreed to re-tender stating that the work could be carried out during the winter months.
16. Bus shelter cleaning - Update R Starling
 - a. It was noted that there were now 6 volunteers to help with the cleaning and 2 more residents volunteered at the meeting.
17. Seat Benches refurbishment - To consider any refurbishment/repairs for 2020/21
 - a. It was noted that there were 6 benches in the village
 - b. Cllr Starling proposed that 2 benches were refurbished each year.
 - c. It was proposed by Cllr Wright that this be put out to tender and this was seconded by Cllr Crane and unanimously agreed by all Councillors present.
 - d. It was also agreed that a notice be put in the newsletter asking for volunteers to do this work and a decision would then be made at the next meeting as to whether or not a contactor should be appointed if no volunteers came forward.
 - e. Cllr Barker would include one of the benches at the Staithe which is poor condition on the agenda for the next Staithe Trustees meeting as it was noted that this was in a bad state of repair and needed replacing.
18. Community Land Trust Membership - To decide membership - cost £1 per annum
 - a. Cllr Crane proposed that the Parish Council become a member of the Community Land Trust and this was seconded by Cllr Clift and unanimously agreed by all councillors present.
19. War Memorial Kerbing (completed July 2019). To agree any further works - R Starling
 - a. It was noted that the installation of new kerbing had been completed in July 2019 but that the banking needed tidying and either reseeded or returfed.
 - b. Cllr Jones agreed to see what was required to tidy up the area.
 - c. It was noted that the railings now needed repainting.
 - d. Cllr Clift proposed that an article be put in the magazine asking for volunteers to carry out small repair/repainting works around the village and this was seconded by Cllr Barker and unanimously agreed by all councillors present.
20. Matters dealt with since last meeting:
 - a. Felled trees obstructing Footpath No 5 (Staithe Road/river bank)

- b. Collis Lane/Church Footpath No 3 - Missing wooden finger post reported to NCC on 16.8.19
 - c. Repositioning of SAM2 sign.
- 21. Parish Clerk Contract
 - a. It was agreed to delay this until the next meeting in the hope that the new contract would then be available.
- 22. Correspondence

Date	Sender	Details	Action Taken	Action to be taken
4.7.19	Historic England	Response to email asking for clarification	Already circulated	
8.7.19	Paul Shucksmith, GYBC	Response to email regarding fly tipping	Already circulated	
8.7.18	Noel Joel, NCC	Response to email regarding fly tipping	Already circulated	
10.7.19	BA	Broads Local Access Forum. Call for volunteers	Already circulated	
15.7.19	PC Daniel Potter	To inform PC no longer Beat Officer	Already circulated	
12.7.19	NCC	Invitation to Dark Skies Festival	Already circulated	
15.7.19	Noel Wright	Consultation on the development of Hall Quay	Already circulated	
15.7.19	Noel Wright	3rd River Crossing survey work	Already circulated	
16.7.19	Noel Wright	Venetian Waterways award	Already circulated	
24.7.19	Broads Authority	Broads Society newsletter	Already circulated	
26.7.19	GYBC	Review of Polling Districts	Already circulated	
26.7.19	Noel Wright	Refurbishment of toilets	Already circulated	
26.7.19	NCC	Rangers visit	Already circulated and information given regarding repairs etc	
26.7.19	Royal Airforces Association	Invitation to celebration	Already circulated	
3.8.19	Ron Hanton	NCC Annual Review	Already circulated	
3.8.19	BA	Briefing	Already circulated	
7.8.19	Historical England	Confirmation that War Memorial has been awarded Listed Building status	Already circulated	
12.8.19	Julia Bower	Future of Upper Thurne	Already circulated	

		Working Group	Agenda item	
12.8.19	Julia Bower	Notice of meeting of UTWG	Already circulated	
14.8.19	GY Constabulary	Newsletter July/August	Already circulated	
16.8.19	RAF Benevolent Fund		Already circulated	
19.8.19	GYBC	2nd consultation on Draft Local Plan	Already circulated	
21.8.19	GYBC	Parish Liaison meeting. Request for agenda items by 5.9.19	Already circulated	<i>1 Query voter registration for non residents in Somerton.. 2 How many fines had been imposed in borough for littering.</i>
28.8.19	NALC	Information about various courses	Already circulated	
31.8.19	Cllr Galer	RIBA Future Place architects announced	Already circulated	
31.8.19	Cllr Galer	Launch of the Life Map	Already circulated	
3.9.19	<i>Resident via Cllr Barker</i>	<i>Damaged fire hydrant. Sandy Lane. Now disappeared.</i>	<i>Report to Norfolk Fire and Rescue.</i>	
3.9.19	<i>Environment agency</i>	<i>Flood and coastal risk management.</i>	<i>Update. Drop in events in 2020.</i>	<i>No response</i>

23. Items for next agenda

a. Village sign

24. Date of next meeting 5th November 2019

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.41.

Appendix 1

Staithe Road, Somerton – Parking Issues & Residents Survey.

1. History: Staithe Road has seen considerable changes over the years regarding traffic use. This is mainly because of more houses, change of use (one holiday home), households with more than 1 car but perhaps a significant impact, as elsewhere, has been the change to larger and quicker agricultural vehicles. Gone are the days when many in Somerton relied on bicycles, the bus and small grey Fergusson tractors pulling equally small agricultural implements. The entrance to Staithe Road, from Horsey Road, was widened, on the south side, several years ago as part of the conditions for the building of the bungalow Oak View. The drain, situated in the centre of Staithe Road, was once on the south side of the road. Perhaps if similar road widening conditions had been placed on the later development on Staithe Road, there would not be so many issues as experienced today.

2. Current Situation:

- a. There are now 11 private houses & 1 Holiday home plus agricultural vehicles, now including tracked diggers/plant hire from Staithe House Farm using Staithe Road for access.
- b. Service vehicles such as the Borough Council's refuse collection, heating oil and building material deliveries etc mostly are done by larger vehicles. As elsewhere, online shopping has added to the frequency of delivery vans.
- c. Most, but not all, of the problems arise when agricultural related vehicles find the access along Staithe Road blocked by parked cars particularly where the highway becomes relatively narrow.

3. Residents Views;

- a. Survey forms (12 in total) were delivered to all Staithe Road residents on the 14th July seeking their views and comments.
- b. No replies were received from 4 properties. 4 Property owners gave verbal replies. 4 residents responded by email.
- c. The main responses being;
 - i. There was broad support and sympathy for the operators of agricultural vehicles having their access restricted by cars parked on Staithe Road.
 - ii. The majority of residents viewed that the parked cars which were causing the problems were left by visitors going for walks mainly along the riverbank.
 - iii. One resident viewed that Staithe Road had been made narrower in places and this did not help the situation.
 - iv. Other comments made were, "Common sense not to park in a narrow road", "Some visitors have little understanding of the countryside yet alone the requirements of modern agricultural machinery" and " Sadly, if there are no signs then people will park where they want to". Also, " the agricultural vehicles need to slow down, be a bit more considerate of other users of this public highway and show a bit more respect for residents' properties".
 - v. The majority felt that some appropriate signage may help.

Note: Many were pleased that the Parish Council was trying to do something to help solve the problem.

4. Future Options/Solutions

- a. Jon Winnett, Highways Engineer for Norfolk County Council emailed the Parish Council on the 16th July to inform that the funding provision for traffic orders had been withdrawn. If the Parish Council wished to proceed with a traffic order to restrict parking along Staithe Road then it would have to pay the cost estimated at £6 to £8,000.
- b. The Parish Council could ask the County Council to provide a red triangular warning sign (showing a tractor to warn "Agricultural vehicles likely to be in road ahead") fitted with a plate to read "Wide vehicles". The exact location of this sign needs to be agreed particularly by residents but one option would be on the south side of Staithe Road, close to the oak tree at the property Oak View.
- c. That Staithe House Farm be asked to provide a similar red triangular warning sign but fitted with a plate to read "Farm Traffic". This sign could be placed at the entrance to Staithe House Farm on the left side of the entrance.
- d. Residents could be asked to place smaller, discreet signs affixed to their property fences to read " Please NO PARKING, road used by wide vehicles" These could be commissioned and paid for by the Parish Council (Community Fund).

e. A suitably worded notice could be displayed on the kissing gate to advise people not to park in Staithe Road.

f. Norfolk Wildlife Trust's website advises visitors to their Martham Broad reserve to use the limited car park at the Staithe. They have also agreed to advise visitors not to park in Staithe Road. An email dated 17th August confirmed that the following wording will be added to Norfolk Wildlife Trust's website page for Martham Broad

"Please do not park in Staithe Road which is used by large, wide farm vehicles and delivery lorries".

End of Report