

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Somerton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at The Village Hall, Cottage Road, Somerton at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs D Shuker (DS), R Starling (RS), P Young (PY), K King (KK), J Clift (JC) and D Crane (DC)

Also present: Nicola Ledain (NL) – clerk, 2 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr David Shuker passed his letter of resignation from the position of Chairman to the clerk who duly started the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Penny Beard and County Cllr. J.Bensly.

2. Election of Chairman

There were no nominations for the position of Chair therefore Cllr Judy Clift took the chair for this meeting in her capacity as Vice Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

- a) With reference to 8.2 of the agenda, Cllr Starling expressed an interest as a member of the Broads Reed & Sedge Cutters Association who are responding to the local plan.

4. Public Speaking

- a) A member of the public observed that the website needed some attention as it didn't have the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, Standing Orders uploaded and that the draft minutes were not added within agreed timescales. This would be rectified and the website would be updated.
- b) A resident informed the council that he had spoken to the current owner of The Lion who had expressed that he was not in a hurry to do anything but hopefully to open as a pub. They noted that it needed to be registered as a community asset as soon as possible.
- c) Members of the public asked for an update regarding footpath 5.
- d) It was reported that the bench near the noticeboard had been hit and had been repaired by a member of the community.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 July 2025 were agreed after a proposal by Cllr Starling and seconded by Cllr King. It was noted that the action list was missing and having gone through the action list, all items were on the agenda. The Action Point list would be added to the minutes.

6. Matters for reporting from previous meetings

- a) **Review Action List**
The action list had been reviewed under item 5 and all actions that needed consideration were listed on the agenda.
- b) **Footpaths number 8**
Cllr King reported that he, Cllr Starling and Cllr Shuker had carried out a sift in the archives to find evidence. Cllr Starling reported that it would be important to retrieve the minutes of the previously held enquiry which Norfolk County Council held. Cllr King would also check the records at the Archive Centre.
- c) **Footpath number 1 (Winterton Road/High Barn Farm path to Hemsby boundary)**
The clerk had contacted Hemsby Parish Council and was awaiting a response.
- d) **Somerton footpaths 9, 10 and 14 (North end of The Street to Restricted Byway 11) – a proposal to request Norfolk County Council modify the definitive map changing this right of way from foot only to a bridleway**

Following the previous meeting when the Council agreed that Cllr Starling would contact Norfolk County Council regarding bridleway status, Cllr Starling reported that he had received a response from them stating that there was no longer a need to gain evidence of horseback use. This email had been circulated to all Councillors. Ten people would need to state that they had cycled the route between 1991 to 2011 which would be an application for a restricted byway and would mean that it was then accessible to a horse rider. RS proposed that an application for a restricted byway on the above route be made to the County Council. Cllr King seconded, all in agreement with 1 abstention.

e) **Update on Lion Public House and request that The Lion be registered as a Community Asset.**

The Council had received an email on 11th July stating that the Lion Public House had been sold. Therefore applications for the community fund would be put on hold. There was a short discussion regarding requesting that the Lion Public House be registered as a Community Asset. It was noted that the Broads Plan proposed that change of use for pubs would be granted in exceptional circumstances (new pubs policy). Clarification would be sought by Cllr Clift. It was also unknown how successful that application would be as it stood as a current empty building. Clarification would be sought. Subject to clarification, it was agreed to re-request the Lion Public House be registered as a Community Asset after a proposal by Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr King.

f) **Replacement of Telecommunication pole on verge close to Collis Lane junction with Winterton Road - To request NCC to urgently inspect pole's distance from highway to establish any risk implications for traffic**

This hadn't been actioned Cllr.Starling raised that despite this Council agreeing to contact the County Council to request that they carry out an urgent inspection of the pole on safety grounds nothing had been done. Furthermore, the matter should now be actioned by the Clerk. This was agreed.

g) **Replacement of Bus Stop bench seats**

Whilst the Council agreed to purchase the Eastgate seat at a cost of £546 ex VAT, it was suggested that a cheaper alternative could be sought. Clerk informed that County Cllr.J.Bensly was willing to contribute towards costs.

h) **Dog waste bin**

The dog waste bin would be delivered shortly.

i) **Police Check on Horsey Road**

The police had been contacted regarding a check on Horsey Road but there had not been an update. The clerk would chase.

j) **Update on Road signs – Horsey Road / Winterton Road**

Two new signs were needed for the Winterton Road, one near The Lion P.H. and one opposite at Primary House. Cllr Shuker would follow up. It was pointed out that the request should be made to Great Yarmouth Borough Council and that the signs were 'road name' signs and not 'street signs'.

k) **Somerton to Horsey Road – pollarding the roadside willow trees**

Cllr Shuker had contacted Great Yarmouth Borough Services on this matter who had replied regarding ownership of the trees. Cllr.Starling pointed out that the previous minutes recorded "to contact the County Council". It was agreed that the Clerk should email the County Council accordingly.

l) **Light Pollution (Hemsby Based) – update on contacting the Broads Authority to inform them of**

This had previously been done, but they would be sent another reminder. Cllr Staring offered to get a name when attending a Broads meeting.

7. Planning

There were no planning matters to consider.

8. Matters for consideration.

a) **SAM Data reporting**

Cllr King had circulated the SAM data to all councillors which would be placed on the website. A discussion on lowering speed limits followed which would also be discussed with highways engineer. ND would contact him and circulate possible dates.

b) **Broads Local Plan**

Cllr Starling summarised parts of the Broads Local Plan Review. It was acknowledged the Plan seemed a sound, sensible plan and with a proposal by Cllr Starling that the plan was supported, seconded by Cllr Young, the Council agreed.

9. Financial matters.

a) The bank balances were noted and agreed.

b) The following payments were agreed:

- i. Nicola Ledain – clerk salary August and September £414.78 (chq no. 100912)
- ii. Norfolk Association of Local Council website hosting: £84.00 (chq no. 100914)
- iii. Norfolk Association of Local Council subscription 25/26: £126.42 (chq no. 100915)
- iv. Ross Bird: £540 (chq. no. 100913)

10. Highways Matters

Carriageway Survey

Cllr Shuker stated that letter to Burnley Hall had been drafted not yet been sent but it will be. Cllr. Starling requested that a copy of the letter be forwarded to all Councillors and Cllr. Shuker agreed to do this. Cllr Shuker further suggested that a representative from Burnley Hall be invited to any site meeting with the Highways Engineer and Parish Councillors.

11. Correspondence

Communication from Flegg Community Land Trust to be acknowledged. PC representatives to attend their next meeting.

12. To receive items for the next agenda

Budget and precept, grass cutting quotes, election of chair, Staithe trustees, Update on footpath 5, procedure re keys, and local government review

13. To note the date of next meetings: Tuesday 4 November 2025

Meeting finished at 8.39pm

Action List

- 4a – upload annual parish minutes and standing orders – NL
- 6b – to check records at Archive Centre re footpath 8 – KK
- 6e – clarification re new pubs policy – JC
- 6f – to contact agencies regarding telecommunications pole – NL
- 6g – to order bench – NL
- 6i – chase police speed check – NL
- 6j – street name signs – DS
- 6k – to contact NCC re pollarding roadside Willows – NL
- 6l – to email Broads Authority re light pollution – NL
- 8a – highways engineer visit – NL
- 8b – respond to Broads Local Plan – NL
- 10 – send letter to Burnley Hall – DS