

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Somerton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at The Village Hall, Cottage Road, Somerton at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs J Clift, D Shuker, R Starling, P Beard, D Crane
Also present: Nicola Ledain – clerk.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kevin King, Cllr Peter Youngs and County Cllr James Bensly.

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr David Shuker was duly elected.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Judy Clift was duly elected.

4. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Starling declared an interest with item 5.1 as he attends meetings of the Upper Thurne Working Group representing an outside organisation, the Broads Reed & Sedge Cutters Association.
- Cllr Beard declared a pecuniary interest in item 9f as she was employed by

5. Review of Delegation Arrangements to Committees, Sub Committees, Local Authorities and External Bodies

5.1 Upper Thurne Working Group

Cllr King had been representing and as he was absent from the meeting, this would be deferred to the next meeting.

5.2 Patient Participation Group

Cllr Clift would continue in this role.

5.3 Staffing Committee

It was agreed that the staffing committee would be disbanded, and any staffing issues would be dealt with by the whole council. However, it was agreed that if any employees had any issues they wished to discuss, the Chair or the Vice Chair would be the first contact. The relevant policies would be updated.

6. Public Speaking

- a. There were no County or District Councillors present. Regular updates from the County Councillor had been received.
- b. There was no public present.

7. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

It was noted that the action log had yet to be circulated.

8. Matters for reporting from previous meetings.

a. Barclays

Previous Cllrs and Clerks had been taken off the mandate. The statements weren't in the clerk's name but were going to the right address. It was agreed that Cllr Clift would contact Barclays again in the hope of resolving the situation.

b. Footpaths

Cllr Starling gave an update that User Evidence Forms had been completed by 10 Parishioners for the right of way by foot only application (Coronation Lane to Mill Lane,

Martham via the Wind Turbine Track). All forms etc had been posted to County Council on 9 February 2024. The application registration was completed under reference HP400/5 on the 5 March and the matter now rested with the County Council”.

c. No through road sign on Low Road

JC would contact Benjamin Grapes, Trails Officer at Norfolk County Council, to ask if a more relevant sign could be positioned appropriately.

d. Update on review of traffic concerns and possible solutions from NCC

A letter been sent to James Bensley and a response from NCC was pending.

e. Removal of The Lion Pub signage

Cllr Shuker reported that he had removed the sign and would contact the tenant of the pub to arrange the return of the sign.

f. Future of the Lion Pub

The owner had been contacted to ask if he had future plans for the asset and to date there had been no response. It was agreed that the PC would not further their queries.

g. Spring Litter Pick

The litter pick had taken place with 15 bags of rubbish having been collected.

h. Grasscutting

The grasscutting contractor had been asked to keep the circle of grass around the village sign left uncut but would cut the patch next to the post box. The base of the War Memorial would also be cut around.

i. Blocked roadside ditch - Common Road, North side.

Cllr Starling reported that it had been reported and was due to be completed in May.

j. Memorial Bench

This had been put in place on the Staithe, and the other bench has been moved.

9. Matters for reporting from previous meetings.

a. Renewal of Somerton Insurance

The insurance renewal was agreed at a cost of £327.

b. Dog waste bin

The Council were investigating installing dog waste bins at

- Parish staithe horsey road (end of North side bank / footpath no 7)
- End of staithe road, at the kissing gate (footpath number 6)

The clerk had contacted Great Yarmouth Borough Council about collections for the bins and was awaiting a response. It was suggested that the bungalow next to the kissing gate were asked if they had any objections to the bin being installed.

c. Additional Barclays bank signatory

It was agreed that Cllr King would become a bank signatory pending his agreement. Cllr Clift would speak to him.

d. Website tidy

The clerk agreed to tidy the website. It was also agreed that alternative sites could be looked at with a view to changing providers.

e. Dark skies

The clerk agreed to email Great Yarmouth Borough Council to discover a stance on a neighbour's strong security lights.

f. Noise from wind turbines

Cllr Beard left the meeting as she declared an interest as she worked for Burnley Hall.

The council discussed the problem of the noise from the wind turbines as councillors had received complaints. The one situated on the west side of Collis Lane seemed to be the biggest issue making squeaky noises. It was agreed that if the councillors receive further complaints Environmental Health could be contacted. However, in the meantime, parishioners could liaise with the PC and the council could contact Burnley Hall and notify Cllr Beard.

g. Recording the meetings

Council agreed that the meetings would be recorded to assist with the minutes.

h. Feedback from annual parish meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was regarded as a positive meeting, with various topics being raised such as dark skies and community fund. The PC were grateful for the newly appointed Vicar who had attended, and it was noted that the Church had a APCM which was open to all, and not just those on the church council or in the congregation.

i. Community fund

The Community Fund policy was reviewed and it was agreed with no changes. It was also agreed to move the ringfenced community fund money over into the deposit account, and the current deposit monies would be transferred into the current account.

10. Financial Matters

- a. The Council agreed the end of year accounts.
- b. The Council agreed the financial statement to date.
- c. The following payments were agreed:
 - i. Ross Bird payment £253 (chq no. 200036)
 - ii. Clerk salary April and May £414.78 (chq no. 200037)
 - iii. NALC subscriptions: £125.58 for 2024/2025 and NALC website fee: £70 – Total 195.58 (chq no. 200038)
 - iv. Insurance £327 (chq no. 200039)

11. Policies

Council agreed the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

12. Planning

Application Ref: 06/24/0107/HH to Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

Location: 8a Collis Lane. Proposed single storey extension.

Council resolved no objections to this application but questioned whether there were now two separate sites at this location i.e. No.8 and No.8a.

13. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted;
Minutes and Lower Bure Briefing from UTWG
Accessibility of footpaths – resident
Councillor reports – Cllr Bensly and Galer
Broadland Futures Initiative Newsletters

14. Items for the next agenda

Action log, roles for councillors, timed agenda

15. To note the date of next meeting: Tuesday 2 July 2024

16. To agree to exclude the Press and the Public In Accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960

Council agreed to exclude the press and public in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.

17. Correspondence from Flegg Community Land Trust

Meeting ended at 8.30pm