

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Somerton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5 November 2024 at The Village Hall, Cottage Road, Somerton at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs J Clift, K King, D Shuker, R Starling, P Young, P Beard and D Crane.

Also present: Nicola Ledain – clerk, County Councillor James Bensly, District Councillor Noel Galer, 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies as all councillors were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Public Speaking

County Councillor James Bensly reported on recent developments at the County Council (see appendix A)

District Councillor Noel Galer reported on recent developments at the District Council (see appendix B)

A resident declared that the item at the last meeting to consider the Poors Trust nominations was invalid. This was due to there not being a seconder for a nomination and therefore the proposal would fall. This therefore could have been reconsidered at a future meeting at any time.

A resident asked the parish council if there was anything that they could do to help allow them to ride around the Burnley Estate considering other local horse riders were able to. They had recently moved their horse to Three Acres and riding on the Winterton Road was hazardous. Reference was made to placing appropriate signage to warn traffic of horse riders. It was agreed that, as this matter was to be discussed later (item 7.8) then the member of the public would be invited to comment further.

A resident asked with regards to item 4 on the agenda, would the parish council consider holding a public meeting once the FCLT had approached the landowners of the preferred sites. The Chair agreed that a meeting could be held once the FCLT had given the parish council an update. At this point the Chairman informed that he had discussed the situation with one of the applicants. It was suggested that NALC should be consulted on the nomination process carried out by the Parish Council for Poors Trustees and that copies of the minutes pertaining to the relevant meetings be forwarded to NALC.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

1. After a proposal by Cllr Beard and seconded by Cllr Clift, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 September 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.
2. After a proposal by Cllr Beard and seconded by Cllr Clift, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 September 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters for reporting from previous meetings

a. Barclays and online banking

It was reported by the Chair that the latest NALC Model Financial Regulations had recently been amended to reflect that Clerks can be a signatory and initiate or approve payments made online, provided that appropriate controls were in place. This was in line with procedures used by Barclays Bank.

b. To consider an update regrading footpath number 8

Cllr King had followed up his initial email with the legal orders team at Norfolk County Council. Cllr Starling reported that it was important to make it clear that the footpath was closed incorrectly a number of years ago due to the incorrect evidence being used (i.e. that Winterton

Parish Council did not support the assertion that a right of way existed behind the dunes which is today Winterton Right of Way No.16)

c. To receive an update regarding Coronation Lane

Cllr Starling reported that there was no update as the matter was still with Norfolk County Council. It is hoped to create a right of way by foot only from the north end of Coronation Lane, south to the junction with the wind turbine track then due west to join with Mill Lane, Martham Footpath No.21) He will inform the parish council when he receives an update.

d. To note the response from GYBC regarding the Lion Public House Somerton

Following on from the last meeting, the clerk contacted GYBC regarding the change of use to the Lion Public House - GYBC asked for a form to be filled in and returned with all the relevant information. However, since then an email had been received stating that the Lion Public House would be sold. After a short discussion, it was agreed that a public meeting would be convened to make residents aware of the situation and to discuss future possibilities for the ownership of the pub given that it is classified as a 'Community Asset'.

e. Traffic concerns and possible solutions

The clerk had been in contact with the Highways Engineer who would arrange a date to visit Somerton to consider the councils concerns.

f. Blocked roadside drainage ditch (Common Road, north side)

Cllr Starling reported that the work had been completed.

g. Nuisance Lights

County Councillor James Bensly reported the recent lights in the sky similar to searchlights were from an arcade owner. The clerk would send an email with the details to both James Bensly and Noel Gales and involve the environment rangers from GYBC.

6. Planning

The council considered the following application:

BA/2024/0367/TCAA | G1: Conifers - fell. G2: Poplars - fell. G3: Cherry (dead) - fell. Replace with cherry trees in a different part of garden. | Home Farm House Horsey Road West Somerton Somerton Norfolk NR29 4DW

The Council RESOLVED they had NO OBJECTIONS.

7. Matters for reporting from previous meetings.

a. Chicane barrier on FP5 The Street

The clerk had received correspondence from Norfolk Couty Council asking for the chicane on footpath 5 to be removed as there was no legal reason for it to be there and complaints had been received stating that pushchairs could not get through. After a discussion, the council agreed that pushchairs and others should be able to use the footpath but it needed some kind of barrier or swing gate to prevent young children or others running out from FP5 onto a road where the speed limit was 60mph. It was suggested that a meeting should be held with Sarah Price to discuss the options and that Cllr Starling would take part in the meeting..

a. Staffing committee and composition

After a proposal by Cllr Beard and seconded by Cllr Young, it was agreed that the staffing committee should be re-instated. The members would be Cllr Clift, Cllr King and Cllr Young with Cllr Beard as reserve.

b. FCLT

The recent correspondence received from the FCLT stating that they would approach the landowners of the preferred sites was noted.

c. Dog waste bins

The Chairman reported that a quote from Pet Waste Solutions had been received to collect the waste from a newly installed dog waste bin. Costs were as follows: 50L Gladiator bins with chute for £342.72 + VAT per bin - these bins are available in green or red. Monthly collections are £25.00+VAT per bin, per collection. Option to move to fortnightly collections at £19.00+VAT per bin, per collection. Plus an additional one-off payment of £30.00+VAT for an annual Waste Transfer Note. It was agreed that Broads Authority needed to be contacted to identify if

planning permission was needed. It was agreed that that a green dog waste bin should be ordered with monthly collections and it would be reviewed in 12 months time. Environmental rangers would also be contacted to let them know if the new dog waste bin was not being used properly and they have the power to monitor use. The Council agreed that the installation and running costs for one year would be covered by the Community Fund

d. Litter pick

Richard Walters reported that the litter pick had recently been carried out but due to lack of numbers it wasn't possible to do Horsey Road. He has contacted Winterton and Martham to see if they would be interested to trial all three parishes carrying out a litter pick on the same weekend. The verges having not being cut made collecting the litter slightly more difficult. The parish council thanked both Richard Walters and Peter Young for organising the recent picks..

e. Carriageway Survey

The PC had received a letter from a parishioner regarding possible encroachment of the carriageway by hedges and verges on the Winterton Road bordering the Burnley Estate. It was noted that the hedges had recently been cut back. It was decided to ask the NCC Highways Research Group to carry out a survey of the section of road in question as they would have the definitive information on boundaries.

f. Horse Riding

As noted above, riding a horse along Winterton Road toward the Street can be hazardous due to inconsiderate drivers. The resident who had previously commented on this was asked why instead of using the main road to access Back Road – Restricted Byway 11 to ride to Winterton, they use The Street and then the route via Honeypot Lane which would avoid traffic. The reply given was landowner permission issues. It was suggested to the Member of the Public that Burnley Hall Estate be contacted and Cllr.Beard offered to do this. The PC would revisit this issue if necessary.

g. Refurbishment of bus shelters

Nothing further had been done since the last meeting. The Chair noted that the bench at the shelter opposite the Lion carried a plaque noting that it had been funded by proceeds from the pub quiz at the Lion and this should be preserved as and when the bench is refurbished or replaced.

8. Financial matters

- a. The bank account balances were circulated and bank statements were available for inspection.
- b. The following payments were agreed;
 - i. Nicola Ledain – clerk salary August and September: £414.78 (chq no.200043)
 - ii. Ross Bird – grass cutting: £506.00 (chq no. 200044)
 - iii. Clare Roullier – reimbursement for sending HMRC letter back by recorded delivery £7.95 (chq no. 200045)

9. Policies

The latest (May 2024) NALC model financial regulations and the sickness absence policy would be amended to reflect the options appropriate for Somerton Parish Council and then considered at the next meeting.

10. Highways Matters

Cllr Starling reported that the road surface water drain, opposite Ivy House, has had it's cover knocked off and he had reported it to Norfolk County Council. Cllr Bensly offered to follow this up.

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 Correspondence received from a resident was noted and circulated on 7 November 2024.
- 11.2 Correspondence from Norfolk ALC had been received and noted.

11.3 Correspondence relating to mud on Collis Lane was noted and had been acted upon. Reference was made that individuals can, if needed, report mud on roads on the Report a highways problem – Norfolk County Council website under 'Obstructions, spillages and mud'.

12. To receive items for the next agenda

Parish council action tracker, planning protocol, replacement of cottage road sign, budget and precept, grasscutting quotations.

13. To note the date of next meetings: Tuesday 7 January 2025

Meeting finished at 8.55pm