

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Somerton Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7 July 2026 at The Village Hall, Cottage Road, Somerton at 7.00pm.

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

Also present: Nicola Ledain (NL) – clerk, County Councillor Jason Hughes

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from District Cllr James Bensly.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Public Speaking

- a) There were no members of the public wishing to speak.
- b) County Cllr Jason Hughes reported that;
 - i. The Chief Executive of Norfolk County Council (NCC), Tom McCabe had resigned.
 - ii. Government legislation had been brought in to ensure that local councils resurface roads effectively. NCC had one of the best redressing systems in the country so it was currently unknown how the new legislation would affect Norfolk.
 - iii. There had been two trading standards officers recruited for Great Yarmouth.
 - iv. Concern was raised with the County Councillor regarding the resurfacing of Horsey Road following the meeting with the Highways Engineer.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

After a proposal by PB and seconded by RS, the Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2026.

5. Matters for reporting from previous meetings

a) Review action list

- i. With regards to representative on the Upper Thurne Working Group, it was suggested to re-engage with them regarding attendance at meetings, and DS would replace KK as the PC's representative.
- ii. All actions were on the agenda.

b) Footpath Updates

- i. Footpath No.8.(Hundred Stream) – No progress – KK was checking with the Records Office the following week on from the meeting. JC had received no reply from the Broads Authority Local Access Forum and it was suggested that the local representative was contacted.
- ii. Coronation Lane – Mill Lane –RS reported that the case officer had written on 1st May to advise that the consultation period had finished and they will write a report. The decision / conclusion would be sent to legal services and then notice of decision sent to PC. The route was open and could be walked. There had been no update since the last meeting and the last communication from them was 1st May 2026.

c) Feedback from Highways Engineer visit 03/07/2026 – DS had circulated notes from this meeting to all councillors. Various highways issues were discussed and there were actions from that meeting;

- i. Speak to Martham PC regarding a safe walking space on the edge of the field leading to the school.
- ii. A letter to be written regarding the overgrown hedges and Justin would supply a template letter to NL

- iii. Regarding pollarding willows, contact the Arboriculture and Woodland Team
- iv. Details regarding the surface water drainage from Manor Farm Pond would need to be relayed to JLM.
- d) BT Openreach pole, Winterton Road, south side near junction with Collis Lane – Update from MP's office / county councillor**
RS reported that the MP had referred it to the county councillor. The response had been that the pole is in the correct position as it is within the legal limit from the road. The verge has however eroded, and county council had said that they would be reinstating the verge. There was a long term concern that it would erode again and provide another accident spot. It would be monitored.
- e) Horsey Road Willows**
This had been discussed with the Highways Engineer and NL would contact the Arboriculture and Woodland Team.
- f) Repaint Village Sign Lettering**
This has been actioned.
- g) Coronation Lane / Wind Turbine Track footpath application**
- h) Winterton Road Hedge**
RS received a phone call from Burnley Hall to inform him that the hedge had been cut. but the representative later admitted that part of the hedge near the junction with Collis Lane had not been cut owing to road works. At this point, PB raised litter in dykes along the Horsey Road. It was noted that in the recent litter pick, considerable amounts had been picked up and thanks were given to the various helpers in the village who had supported the litter pick. JC would draft a letter to Environmental health regarding the litter that had been found in the recent litter pick to request that security cameras be used in the future.

6. Planning

The council noted the responses of NO OBJECTIONS had been sent to GYBC regarding applications 06/26/0118 and 06/26/0365.

7. Matters for consideration.

a) Litter Picking risk assessment and consideration of the collection of rubbish

A revised risk assessment had been circulated to all councillors for approval. With a proposal by RS, seconded by JC, the revised risk assessment was agreed. It was also agreed that the parish council would not take responsibility for the disposal of the collection of hazardous waste. It would be left in situ. In the meantime, clarification would be sought from GYBC regarding what to do.

b) Welcome Pack

The prospect of developing a welcome pack for new residents to Somerton was discussed, which would contain useful information and contacts for the area. Whilst it was acknowledged it was a good and welcoming idea, it was suggested that it maybe a better option for the village hall committee to organise. DS would report back to the VHC.

8. Financial matters.

- a)** The balances of the bank accounts were reported:
 - i. Current account: £9669.49
 - ii. Business account: £7664.42
- b)** The following payments were agreed, having been proposed by RS and seconded by DS.
 - i. Nicola Ledain – clerk salary June and July: £414.78.
 - ii. Pet Waste Solutions: £33.60 inv 63302
 - iii. Ross Bird: £540
 - iv. Somerton Village Hall: £84

9. Policies

- a) The Asset register was being reviewed. NL would circulate details of assets covered by the insurance costs.

10. Highways Matters

There were no additional highways matters to report.

11. Correspondence

- a) Correspondence from NCC and GYBC was noted.
- b) The Chair reported that she had received an email regarding St Mary's Church ruins which were currently cordoned off due to some damage. Cllr Beard reported that she had spoken to Hickling Church warden who reported that the objective was to make it safe. There was a PCC meeting at the end of July. The parish council hoped it would be reopened as soon as possible and suggested that a notice could be placed on the gate informing visitors of the situation, and the notice from the insurer's. The chair would draft a reply for NL to send. It was recognised by some members of the parish council that the PCC owned the ruins and were bound by the decisions of the insurers.

12. To receive items for the next agenda

- a) St Mary's Church ruins, annual asset maintenance schedule (bus shelter and benches), footpaths, asset register, Coronation Lane.

13. To note the date of next meetings: Tuesday 1 September 2026

Meeting finished at 8.30pm

Action List

1. Contact local representative for Broads Authority re footpath number 8 - JC
2. Actions from Highways Engineer – JC / NL
3. Contact RW re litter picking risk assessment -
4. Review and circulate insurance document for assets - NL
5. St Mary's Church ruins letter - JC