

Draft MINUTES of the Ashby, Herringfleet & Somerleyton Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 19 May 2016 from 7.30pm in Somerleyton Village Hall.

There were 26 people present, 22 of whom were electors of the parishes. Gerda Gibbs, Chairman of the Parish Council, was in the Chair. Simon Phillips, Temporary Parish Clerk, took the minutes.

- 1 WELCOME AND VIEWING OF REPORTS – the meeting opened at 7.30pm when everyone was welcomed, refreshments were served and all were invited to view the reports from clubs and organisations on display. These reports are available on the parish website.
- 2 START OF MEETING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – at 8.05pm the Chairman commenced the meeting with the recording of the apologies for absence received from: Paul Johnson, Michael Wright, Sue Wright, Bob Wild, Jennie Wild, Erina Keleher and Tracey Miller
- 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 4 MATTERS ARISING from the previous minutes – None.
- 5 UPDATES TO THE REPORTS ON DISPLAY –
 - 5.1 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS – The Councillors said that they are always there to support local residents. Len Jacklin added that he was continuing to pursue remedial works to the verges on Station Road.
 - 5.2 BLUNDESTON & SOMERLEYTON CRICKET CLUB – Nicola Gooch said they are grateful to be playing in Somerleyton. She invited spectators and said they would receive a cup of tea. She said that finding volunteers to maintain the field and pitch is a hard slog and that this year a lot of their equipment has failed. Waveney Norse is currently cutting the grass on a contract. The club is trying to introduce a sponsorship scheme for banners around the pitch at matches.
 - 5.3 SOMERLEYTON PRIMARY SCHOOL - Louise Spall, the Headteacher, drew attention to the reports on the boards and particularly emphasised the enrichment on offer to the children, over and above the curriculum. She urged everyone to see what the school is doing. She said that as a rural school they do more for children than other schools.
She thanked the Somerleyton Award charity and the Parish Council for their contributions to the new computers for the school. She said that it all makes a difference as budgets are tight and she emphasised that all money raised by the school goes to the children.
She advertised the fete, which will take place on 2nd July and the art exhibition on the same day in the village hall.
There are 4 children learning to play the ukulele at the school and she invited the Somerleyton Ukulele Strummers to join them at a lunchtime.
There is a Somerleyton Primary School app which gives access to news and newsletters from the school. It is available for Android and Apple and is free.
 - 5.4 SOMERLEYTON AWARD CHARITY – Ingrid North said that she reiterated that the charity is open to requests from anyone. They had recently helped with donations to the badminton club, a new lawnmower, the World War One memorial tree and plaque and the film equipment in the village hall. Further applications are in hand.
All students in further education are invited to apply for assistance with text book purchases etc.
Residents with special needs are invited to request financial assistance and all applications are kept confidential.
Anyone who wishes to apply for assistance should contact Jill Howard, their clerk.
The Charity is responsible for the Pond and Ingrid thanked Ivan Dorrofield and David Cook for the maintenance they carry out.
 - 5.5 SOMERLEYTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Sandy Leonard, the chair, said that following the AGM the charity had received feedback on its Big Lottery application. The Lottery is obviously keen to work with them and they will meet to discuss the application in 2 weeks' time.

5.6 TENNIS CLUB – Will Bailey reported that the club had started for the season and he invited anyone to just turn up; the club is very social.

5.7 PRE SCHOOL – Chris Reynolds reported that it is going very well. There are currently 19 children on the roll, of whom 6 will be moving to the Primary School in September.

5.8 SOMERLEYTON TOGETHER – John Shreeve said this group had been formed to address the lack of engagement across the community. Its purpose is to run events and support other groups – particularly by use of the comprehensive email database it is building. He advertised the 40's Dance to be held in 3 weeks' time. He said that Somerleyton Together had been instrumental in the formation of the gardening club and the new dance classes, which will continue after the 40's Dance.

5.9 ASHBY CHURCH – There will be a coffee morning and sale at Somerleyton Hall on Saturday (21st) starting at 10am.

5.10 SOMERLEYTON UKULELE STRUMMERS – Tony Jones said they are very happy to support other events, especially charitable. They will be playing at the Barn Dance and the School Fete.

5.11 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – Jenni Livingstone emphasised that a Neighbourhood Plan is different to the village plan completed in 2013. The neighbourhood plan looks at development within the villages. She said that it is important to note that the final process of the Neighbourhood plan is a local referendum to bring it into force. When approved the plan will have statutory status. She gave an example of the power of a neighbourhood plan in St Ives, Cornwall where the sale of new homes to “second-homers” has been banned.

Jenni said that Ashby Herringfleet & Somerleyton Parish Council has joined with Lound Parish Council to develop the Plan. She said that the current consultation on the “Call for Sites” has been an example of what people *don't* want whereas a Neighbourhood Plan is about what people *do* want.

6 FORTHCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS

Saturday 4th June. 40's Dance. Tickets are available and it promises to be a fun evening.

Thursday 16th June. A Have Your Say meeting on the consultation on a new Local Plan. A leaflet explaining the consultation will be delivered to all households in the 3 parishes shortly. The details of how to access the consultation and make personal responses will be included in the leaflet.

Saturday 18th June. Barn Dance in the village hall. Details are being finalised and tickets will be on sale soon.

Saturday 2nd July. School Fete with a 1950's Rock & Roll theme. Starting at 1pm.

Sunday 24th July. Village Rounders and BBQ on the playing field, starting at 1pm.

10 RECENT TOPICS AT PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman, Gerda Gibbs, said she has only recently been elected. She thanked Mick Wright, her predecessor, for all his hard work and excellent leadership. She also thanked the previous Clerk, Paul Douch, for his excellent support and commitment to the Parish Council. Gerda said that the Parish Council is now looking for a new Clerk. She thanked all Parish Councillors for all their support.

Gerda thanked the Paul Johnson for organising the Estate's refurbishment of the wording on the memorial seat at the Common.

She said she was very pleased that the Highways Department has now placed an order for skirting work on Station Road, which will see the verges cut back to increase the width of the road.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:37pm