

SECOND DRAFT of Minutes of AHS Parish Council meeting held on 12th January 2017

Minutes of the Ashby, Herringfleet & Somerleyton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2017 from 7:15 p.m. in Somerleyton Village Hall

Present: Mrs G Gibbs (Chair), Ms J Alderton, Mr N Favell, Mr J Foster, Mrs M Gibbs, Mr N Livingstone, Mr P Johnson, Mr T Pace, Mr C Reynolds, Mr R Wild & Mr M Wright. Also attending were Councillors B Poole, P Ashdown and L Jacklin, and Mrs J Wild for the Lowestoft Journal.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum commenced at 7.15pm.

Concern was raised about the loss of the Post Office and Shop and confusion expressed about whether these were to be replaced.

Bert Poole informed the Meeting that applications for the development of housing within the Parishes from landowners and their agents would soon be considered at Waveney District Council.

Len Jacklin informed the Meeting that he was actively involved in negotiating for the Passing Places on Station Road, to be completed as a matter of urgency.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at 7:42 p.m.

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. S Phillips had sent his apologies.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the agenda. P Johnson was agreed to have an interest in item 7.
- 3 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION.
None received
- 4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.
It was proposed by M Wright that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2016 are an accurate record, seconded by M Gibbs and unanimously agreed.
- 5 CLERK'S REPORT ON ONGOING MATTERS.
 - 5.1 Litter/ dog bin, The Green. Ongoing.
 - 5.2 Benches, The Green. J Foster explained that this work should be completed in the next month.
 - 5.3 Herringfleet Hills. Ongoing. R Wild will contact Adrian Clark to invite him to a future meeting of the Parish Council.
 - 5.4 Station Road, Somerleyton. Councillor Jacklin's update on this matter was noted. It was also noted that the WDC officer previously involved has been transferred to another post The Clerk will liaise with Councillor Jacklin to press for the work to be completed as a matter of urgency.
 - 5.8 Village Shop and Post Office. Please see item 7.
- 6.1 The Meeting considered the Clerk's update on this item. P. Johnson said that the Estate can now proceed to clear one side of Station Road at this junction. It was proposed by N Livingstone and seconded by J Alderton that the Parish Council set up a working group to clear the ground and ditch on the other side. This was agreed. The group will seek permission from the landowner to carry out the work.
- 6 REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS.
 - 6.1 Parishioner concern has been raised about the condition of the Dog and Litter bins at the Playing Field. It was acknowledged that the litter bin was the responsibility of the Community Association. It was also noted that the Association is in the process of purchasing an improved bin. T Pace is happy to ensure that the bin is emptied regularly and will speak with Simon Phillips of the Community Association about this.
 - 6.2 The Meeting acknowledged the high level of concern about the recent developments relating to the Village Shop and Post Office. There is also parishioner concern about the apparent lack of activity at the Forge Garage site, where a Post Office service was due to be opened. See item 7.

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7 THE VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE AND THE FORGE GARAGE SITE.

Before leaving the meeting for this item, P Johnson reported that a Post Office service should be available at the Forge Garage by the 17th January.

The concern expressed by parishioners was echoed by members of the Parish Council. This focussed on the use of retrospective planning applications, which seeks permission for changes, in this case the Post Office and Shop, after the work has been carried out, and important features of this much valued building have been lost. The other major concern was that the post office service has been lost to the community, and there is little sign that it is to resume at the Forge Garage site. Concern was also expressed about the fate of the Red Telephone Box, which is owned by the Parish Council, and whose relocation to the Forge Garage site is part of the planning application. It was proposed by M. Wright, seconded by R Wild, and unanimously agreed that these concerns warranted the Planning Committee of the Parish Council to meet soon to construct a response. If there is considered to be the time and the need to call an extraordinary meeting of the full Parish Council, the Planning Committee will ask the Clerk to do so. Councillor Paul Ashdown advised the meeting that he will ask that the application be submitted to the Planning Committee at WDC. It was proposed by N Livingstone, seconded by C Reynolds and agreed by the meeting that the Clerk should write to Lord Somerleyton asking him to write a report for the Parish Council in which he details all his plans for the old Post Office and Shop, and all activities planned for the old Garage site.

P Johnson rejoined the meeting.

8 PARISH PLAN WORKING GROUPS.

Green & Environmental Group. A new convenor, Mike Brackenbury. will start working for this group in the Spring . The bulbs around the Hovercraft will be planted later this year.

Information & Advice. N Favell is repairing both the Church and Parish Notice Boards at the Post Office/Shop. M Wright will be unable to publish the Newsletter this Spring.

9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING.

The Meeting received the progress report from Jenni Livingstone. Jenni then addressed the meeting regarding the Community Right to Bid legislation, which gives communities the right to identify a property or asset that is believed to be of value to their social interests or social wellbeing and gives them a fair chance to make a bid to buy the property/asset if the owner decides to sell. The meeting identified a number of assets of community value within the parishes, and instructed the Clerk to make contact with the relevant officers at WDC to gain more information about this process.

10 PLANNING.

The Meeting noted the following applications and decisions:

Recent application:

10.1 DC/16/4791/TCA: Crown House, The Street, Somerleyton.

Application for works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order (TPO), and/or notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. In rear garden to reduce the crown in height and width of a viburnum shrub and bring back to within the shrub border. Also to reduce a prunus to approx. 6-8ft matrix to allow a new low canopy to form – currently in small courtyard and crown tall and thin.

Recent Decisions

10.2 DC/16/3894/LBC: Green Farm Somerleyton. Listed Building Consent Granted.

DC/16/4791/TCA: Crown House, The Street, Somerleyton. No Objection to works to trees in rear garden being carried out.

11 VILLAGE EVENTS - Review

11.1 Quiz and Chips Evening. The Meeting acknowledged that this had been a highly successful event, with

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the added benefit of raising £67.17 for the Social Fund.

- 11.2 Carol Singing. The Meeting acknowledged the success of this well attended event which was organised by Women's Link and raised £99 for the Children's Society.
- 11.3 Xmas Lights Switch-On. Went without any hitches; thanks to Chris and Sanya Morris for storing the lights and Somerleyton Estate who arranged for Sam Beales to put up the lights on The Green. The Meeting agreed to offer the Village School £15 for the supply of electricity, and asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Sam Beales.

12 VILLAGE EVENTS - Forthcoming

- 12.1 Village Litter Pick-up. Date agreed: Sunday 2nd April 2017. Participants to meet at the Village Hall at 10.00. Clerk to organise supply of bags from WDC.
- 12.2 Open Gardens. The Clerk, Sue Read, is interested in joining the committee organising this event. Jess Alderton and Denise Lloyd are also members, and they will be joined by Mick Wright when he returns from his holiday.

13 FINANCE.

- 13.1 It was proposed by N Livingstone, seconded by C Reynolds and unanimously agreed that the Third Quarterly Financial Report be accepted.
- 13.2 It was proposed by G Gibbs, seconded by C Reynolds and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should apply for an unchanged precept for the coming year, (2017-18). M Wright and other Councillors expressed their appreciation of the clear documents produced by S Phillips, which facilitated this discussion.

14 PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

It was proposed by M Wright, seconded by R Wild and unanimously agreed that the following payments should be made:

Cheques to be approved:

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| Came and Company for Insurance Premium 2017 | 275.00 |
| Somerleyton Community Association for Hall Hire | 224.00 |
| Sue Read for Travel Expenses to Seminar | 22.90 |
| SLCC for Annual Membership for Parish Clerk | 48.00 |
| Suffolk Preservation Society Annual Membership | 30.00 |
| Sue Read for Clerk's Quarterly Salary | 287.03 |
| HMRC for Clerk's income tax | 71.60 |

Payment Pending and agreed

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| Xmas Lights: Payment to Village School for electricity. | 15.00 |
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15 CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk told the meeting that she was preparing to reinstate the Black Book for communication. There was a discussion about whether this was necessary; most members were happy for the book to be brought to each meeting for members to view as they wish.

16 DATES AND TIMES OF NEXT MEETINGS.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 2nd March 2017 at 7.15pm at Somerleyton Village Hall. Refreshments: Simon

The next Northern Parishes Meeting will be held on Thursday 16th February 2017 at 7.30pm at Lound Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm