

Draft minutes of the Ashby, Herringfleet and Somerleyton Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2017 from 7.30pm in Somerleyton Village Hall.

There were 27 people present, 21 of whom were electors of the parishes. Gerda Gibbs, Chair of the Parish Council, was in the Chair. Sue Read, 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 7.48pm the Chair introduced herself and the parish clerk. The Chair then commenced the formal meeting with the recording of the apologies for absence received from: Carolyn Greer-Walker, Tom Pace, Peter Carter, Maureen Gibbs and Mary Truman.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. – the minutes of the previous Parish Meeting, held on Thursday 19th May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the previous minutes. - there were none.

5. Updates to the Reports on Display. - Mr Justin Morris introduced himself as the new Somerleyton Estate Manager. His is a role new to Somerleyton Estate, and he will report direct to the Estate's Board of Trustees. In his previous role he worked as the Public Engagement Manager at the Natural History Museum. After an initial period completing some important tasks for his previous employers, he is looking forward to developing close links with residents and community stakeholders. Mr Morris stressed that the re-opening of a Shop and a permanent Post Office in Somerleyton is something which will happen; probably later this year, in the autumn, after the planning process is complete.

Sandy Leonard from the Somerleyton Community Association spoke about the Bid for a new Village Hall. Funding is being withdrawn at short notice, and the group preparing the bid will need to look at the application again. Large Capital Bids generally are not proving to be successful. She encouraged everyone to join the 100 club which raises funds for community facilities.

6. Forthcoming Events.

29 th May	Craft Fair in the Village Hall
8 th July	School Fete.
16 th July	Rounders and Barbeque

7. Recent Topics at Parish Council. – The closure of the Village Post Office and Shop has been the most significant issue confronting the community and its Parish Council this year.

Of major concern has been the seeming inability of the Local Planning Authority to protect what is seen to be a vital local service, despite a planning policy which seeks to do so. The Parish Council is addressing this with Waveney District Council. The nature of the possible replacement store at the Forge Garage has also been a focus of concern.

8. Any Other Business. – District Councillor Ashdown introduced the two newly elected County Councillors for our Ward: Councillor James Reeder and Councillor Keith Robinson.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending, and thanked the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their work throughout the year.

The formal meeting closed at 8.05pm and made way for further informal discussion and networking.

Sue Read
Parish Clerk

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