

→ SOMERLEYTON

Parish council: A meeting of the Ashby, Somerleyton and Herringfleet parish council was held on Thursday, January 11. The following points of general interest were noted: Permission having been gained,

work has started on the damaged tree on The Green under which the new bench will be located.

Visitors have been parking in the passing places on Station Road, so a request has been made for 'no parking' signs to be put in place.

A parishioner was concerned that village events held on Sundays discriminated against parishioners who wished to attend church. This will be taken into account when planning events, but balancing different preferences whilst still ensuring viable numbers for each event could prove difficult.

There have been problems with people putting notices on the notice boards and not properly locking the glass doors. This may cause damage and the locks may need repairing.

Bulbs have been purchased and planted around the hovercraft monument.

The village shop group met

with Justin Morris from the estate before Christmas. Mr Morris will discuss with Lord Somerleyton the proposal to open a community run store at the Forge Garage.

The neighbourhood planning steering group has looked in more detail at the responses to the questionnaire and has analysed some of the responses. The employment and tourism section has not yet been analysed and the housing section needs further discussion. The working groups will complete this in due course. Work has started on the draft of the neighbourhood plan and the team intend to meet frequently. The draft sections will be discussed, amended and approved as they become available.

The neighbourhood plan must be compliant with the Waveney local plan which is due to be published in late spring or early summer this year.

Three members of the parish

council attended a Suffolk preservation society workshop in November on design training for parish councils. They will share information with the steering group in order to ensure that the quality of the design for the new developments in Somerleyton and Lound is of an exceptionally high standard. Simon Phillips reported that more information and guidance is now becoming available with regard to general data protection regulations. It will be relatively straightforward to amend the parish council's policies to comply, although a privacy statement will also be needed. A data protection officer will be required. The role is straightforward but the specifications are onerous for a very small authority like this parish council. Work is in process with Waveney district council to try to overcome the problems. It was agreed that any changes to policies and procedures that Mr Phillips proposes will be checked by another parish councillor.

The quiz and chips evening raised £70 for the village hall fund, together with a similar amount for Children in Need. The new year village walk to Lound was well-attended and excellent soup was provided by the Village Maid. The litter pick-up will take place on Sunday, March 25 at 10.30am, starting at the village hall. Suitable equipment will be provided for the volunteers. Somerleyton Together intend to organise a village walk for Monday, April 2.

A barn dance is planned for mid-summer and a working party was formed to organise the event.

The parish council has been requested to nominate a voluntary trustee for a four-year term for the Somerleyton Charities which act for the benefit of the local population. The trustees normally meet twice a year. Adult residents of any of the three parishes of Ashby, Somerleyton and Herringfleet can apply for nomination by February 23. For further information contact the parish clerk on 01502 732377 or by email to parish.clerk@ashvillages.org.uk or go to the website www.ashvillages.org.uk under news and what's on.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1 at 7.15pm in the village hall.

Women's Link: Will be holding their first meeting of 2018 on Thursday at 7.30pm in the village hall. This will be a rag rug making workshop and is a taster session. Sufficient material will be provided on the evening so that everyone can have a go at this easy and rewarding craft. Contact one of the organisers for further information. Admission costs £4 which includes refreshments.

Church services: On Sunday a songs of praise service will be held at 3pm in St Mary's Church, Somerleyton.