

Ashby, Herringfleet and Somerleyton Parish Council Clerk's Report to be used in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting on Thursday 6th September 2018

Refreshments: Jamie

1. **Apologies for Absence.**
2. **Declarations of Interest** in items on the agenda.
3. **Requests for Dispensation.** To decide on any requests received **prior to the meeting** to participate in discussion and/or voting despite disclosable pecuniary interest(s).
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th July 2018.
5. **Parish Councillor Vacancy.**
 - 5.1 Claire Diggins has signed the Declaration of Acceptance and will be attending her first meeting.
 - 5.2 Jess Alderton has left the Parish Council, resulting in another vacancy. The initial posters have been posted on the Notice Boards and Website. The result of this initial election part of the process will be known by the day of the meeting, and the clerk will be in a position to update parish councillors.
6. **Clerk's Report on Ongoing Matters.**
 - 5.4 Passing Places on Station Road. The Clerk contacted Suffolk Highways, requesting that the signs for the passing places in Station Road, be made doubled-sided so that they can be read from both directions. The response received is as follows:
'Thank you for your recent report. We can now provide you with the following update: The Safety and Speed Management team have advised that the signs have been correctly located so that cars will pull over to the left hand side to enable vehicles to pass. It was never intended that vehicles would pull over on the off-side to allow vehicles to pass which is why the signs are so positioned'.
 - 8.1 Disturbance by motor bikes on The Street, 4th July. The Clerk visited the parishioner who reported this issue, and agreed with the Clerk that the following concern be sent to the Suffolk Police Commissioner.

Dear Mr Passmore,

I am the Parish Clerk to Ashby, Herringfleet and Somerleyton Parish Council and I have been asked to contact you following a parishioner concern which was discussed at the last meeting of the Parish Council in July.

The concern arose from an incident which occurred around 1.15am on 4th July, in The Street, Somerleyton. An older resident, who lives alone, was disturbed by the approach of, what she describes as, a low-powered motor bike, which came to a halt outside her bungalow. She could see that the rider was sitting on the ground just outside the hedge boundary of her property. She decided not to confront anyone, and after 10 minutes or so, another similar vehicle approached and they both drove off together. The lady was not at the time concerned or alarmed enough to call the police. The next morning, however, she spoke with another neighbour, who had also been disturbed, and felt that, while she was clear that no actual offence had been committed outside her property, the behaviour was unusual, and may link to anti-social behaviour or offending elsewhere. She decided that she should ring Suffolk Police's non-emergency number for advice, and to pass on this information. She reports that she rang the 101 number for a good length of time on the morning of 5th July, but there was no answer. (Her exact words were 'It was a waste of time'). She is left disappointed, and, it seems, unhappy about what might happen if she needed to contact Suffolk Police about something more concerning.

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*I would be grateful to receive a response to this concern together with any advice you may wish to pass on.
Kind Regards'*

The following reply was received from the Office of the Police Commissioner.

'Mr Passmore was sorry to hear of the difficulties that have been experienced in attempting to report matters via the 101 system. The new telephony system installed within Suffolk Constabulary's Contact and Control Room is designed to ensure those callers most in need get the prompt help they require. This is a major investment for the PCC and Suffolk Constabulary and will improve communications significantly. The system enables control room staff to identify and prioritise the most important calls that come through on the 101 number. Calls are then triaged to ensure that the most urgent calls are given priority. This will help ensure the force is dealing with its core business whilst other non-urgent or non-relevant calls are redirected elsewhere with signposting to the correct agency. Mr Passmore personally monitors the performance of call taking closely and raises issues with the Chief Constable at their regular meetings. The continuing improvement of this service remains a high priority for Mr Passmore and public feedback is an important element of this. Whilst some callers will still experience a delay in speaking to the Constabulary, it is hoped that the details provided to the caller will assist in suggesting an alternative way to provide this information that could save waiting for a call operator to become available. Mr Passmore would encourage the sharing of information or reporting of non-urgent crime through the Constabulary website www.suffolk.police.uk. It is important to note the 999 system remains unchanged. Mr Passmore would echo the Constabulary advice that if a crime is in action or someone is in danger the public should not hesitate to call 999. Thank you for contacting the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Mr Passmore always welcomes feedback from all areas of the community.'

The meeting of small groups of motor bike and moped riders late at night in rural areas is an issue for other local parishes and was discussed at the Northern Parishes meeting on 30th July. In the absence of a Police presence at that meeting, the Parish Clerk proposes to attend the Locality Meeting called by the Lowestoft Safer Neighbourhood Team for 12.00pm on 7th September, where she will raise this issue, and the lack of response from the 101 number.

8.2 Overgrowing verge at road junctions. The Clerk reported the overgrown ditch on the Morton Peto Close side of the junction of Station Road and The Street and received a reference number. No work has yet been carried out. The Clerk has been advised by the Vice Chair, that the signs, (Road Name and the Sign indicating the direction of the Station), at this junction are both damaged. The Station sign seems to be propped up against the Road Name sign. The Clerk has contacted both Waveney District Council, (road name sign) and Suffolk Highways, (the Station direction sign), for urgent repair. The junction of Market Lane and Blocka Road seemed to have been cleared shortly after the last meeting.

12.3 Lights on Somerleyton Station. The Clerk sent the attached letter to the local Customer Service Manager following the last meeting, and after a discussion with the Chair. A reference number was received from the Central Customer Service Centre, but no further response was received. A follow-up email was sent on 27th August, and the Clerk made a phone call on the 29th August. A response was promised before the 6th September to enable the Clerk to update this meeting of the Parish Council.

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7. **Requests from Parishioners.** The Clerk has received one concern about the lack of water in the pond.
8. **Defibrillator.** A report has been received from the working group, and is included with these papers.
9. **New Community Centre.** We have received a letter from Somerleyton Community Association, requesting that the application for outline planning permission for which the Association proposes to apply, be sent in the name of the Parish Council, in order to take advantage of a 50% reduction in fees. The letter is attached.
10. **Assets Register.** The Chair and Vice Chair carried out an assessment of the condition of Parish Assets on the 12th July, and their report and recommendations are attached to this report. It seems that a number of assets are now deteriorating, and the Parish Council will need to make decisions on how to repair and ensure the regular maintenance of these assets. It was also noticed that a number of significant features of the villages, not parish assets, were in need of repair or refurbishment. These are listed in the attached report.
11. **Commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice.** The meeting will be updated on the work of this group.
12. **Parish Plan Working Group.** The meeting will receive a verbal report from the Green and Environment Group.
13. **Neighbourhood Planning.** M. Gibbs will give a verbal update.
14. **Waveney Local Plan.** On 1st August the Clerk forwarded to Parish Councillors an email from WDC which lays out the Timetable for the Examination of the Waveney Local Plan, and gave guidance on the nature and format of the process. The deadlines are mid-September for submission of questions, and the actual Examination Hearings are in October. This meeting gives the Parish Council an opportunity to agree any questions it wishes to be considered by the Examiner.
15. **Planning.**
 - 15.1 Recent Applications.
 - 15.11 DC/18/2499/FUL Proposal to replace existing twin garage doors to a new single up and over door at 7 Marsh Lane, Somerleyton. **Parish Council has no objection.**
 - 15.12 BA/2018/0234/FUL Non material amendment to previously approved planning permission at Chimneys, Brickfields, Somerleyton. **Parish Council has no objection.**
 - 15.13 BA/2018/0220/FUL Removal of two existing staging moorings, replacement with five floating pontoon moorings and provision of associated concrete pathways at Somerleyton Marina, Brickfields, Somerleyton. **The Parish Council has no objection, saying that it supports 'the principle of this application as it will improve the appearance of the Marina as well as creating a few extra moorings', but suggested the following condition: 'We believe the concrete pads at the head of each pontoon are inappropriate in the rural setting of the Marina serving recreational moorings. We believe the current gravel path adjacent to the quay at the eastern end of the dyke should be extended westwards to service the new pontoons.'**
 - 15.14 DC/18/3261/FUL and DC/18/3293/LBC (Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent) Replacement first floor extension to create two bedrooms and a bathroom at The White House, The Street, Somerleyton. **The Parish Council has no objection.**

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15.2 Recent Decisions.

15.21 BA/2018/0234/FUL Non material amendment to previously approved planning permission at Chimneys, Brickfields, Somerleyton. **Parish Council has no objection. Planning Permission Granted by Broads Authority.**

16. Village Events. – Review.

16.1 7th July School Fete. Lovely weather for this popular event. As usual, the Parish Council ran the Car Park. It was noticed that far fewer cars used the car park this year, which suggests that overall attendance was also down from last year. The timing of an England football match at the World Cup Finals at the same day may have had an impact.

16.2 7th July Art Sale. This was another successful event organised by Dee Smith.

17. Village Events – Forthcoming.

17.1 12th September Defibrillator Awareness Session. As reported at item 8 above, this session has been widely advertised.

17.2 7th October. Brick Kiln Clear-up. This date is proposed after discussion with Mike Foster.

18. Finance. Nothing to report.

19. Payment to be Approved.

S. Read Clerk Printer Cartridges. 34.50

20. Herringfleet Smock Mill. As agreed at the last Meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair have met, identified a Parish Councillor, J. Foster, who is able and willing to serve on this Charitable Trust, and liaised with Lord Somerleyton.

21. Community Speed Watch. The Parish Council has participated in this service for a number of years in conjunction with other local parish councils. The coordinator, Louis Smith, from Lound Parish Council has retired from this post, and we, along with other participating parish councils, have been invited to propose someone to take on this role.

22. Correspondence.

The meeting is asked to decide what, if any, action should be taken regarding any particular of the following items of correspondence.

01/08 Stakeholder Consultation on Draft East Suffolk Area Parking Plan

01/08 Suffolk Coastal 1st Draft Local Plan – Consultation Document

01/08 Greenprint Forum Newsletter

01/08 Waveney Local Plan – Examination

01/08 UK Power Networks – Thunderstorms and Electricity – Network Preparedness

27/08 Governors at James Paget University Hospital

27/08 Specials Recruitment – Suffolk Police

27/08 Temporary Road Closure on Browston Lane. Blocka Road part of diversion route.

27/08 Broads Briefing

30/08 Notice of Broads Parish Forum- Event to be held on 19th September.

23. Forthcoming Meetings.

Northern Parishes Meeting Thursday 11th October, 7.30pm at Lound Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 1st November, 7.15pm at Somerleyton Village Hall

Refreshments: Tom

30/18

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