SOMERLEYTON ASHBY & HERRINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 11th January 2024, commencing with the Public Forum at 7.15pm in Somerleyton Village Hall

The Public Forum commenced at 7.15pm

The Chair opened the Public Forum by paying tribute to Tony Jones who died suddenly in November. He said that it was difficult to state the limits of Tony's contribution to village life. He brought his music to every village event, and inspired many local people to express themselves through music. He was also a good friend and neighbour, always ready to offer support and help with village affairs. He will be much missed.

There was one member of the public in attendance. She asked the Parish Council to write to the Waveney MP Peter Aldous about the poor to non-existent mobile phone coverage in the villages. This affected all residents, but was particularly problematic in times of an emergency, or for the ordering of prescription medicines which are likely to be on line only soon, making it impossible for those who rely on mobile phones for connectivity. The Meeting agreed to discuss this at item 6, when a decision can be made.

The Chair called for reports from the East Suffolk and Suffolk County Councils Councillors.

East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown reported that the New Strategic Plan, from the new Leadership Team was presented in November, and Councillors are adjusting to this. There will be a Planning Forum for Parish and Town Councils on 24th January. The Council needs to increase Council Tax this coming year to meet increased costs of providing services. The Community Partnership Forum will meet on 30th January. The local Partnership Forum's Healthy Living Programme aimed at older primary school children has been so successful that it has been rolled out District wide. The box scheme providing recreation Grounds and Parks with sports equipment is being trialled at Normanston Park in Lowestoft. If successful, it will be rolled out to other sites, including some in villages. The Buzzaround Bus is still in operation.

Suffolk County Councillor Robinson reported than in order to protect services for Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), services in other areas, some to the most needy have had to be reduced. Cuts of around £60 million have been necessary. He said that there will be in future two Police Officers for Lothingland, working out of Lowestoft Police Station, but maintaining a noticeable presence in the community.

The Business Meeting commenced at 7.45pm

In attendance were: D. Ainslie, C. Diggins, J. Foster, G. Gibbs, J. Griffith, P. Johnson, N. Livingstone, D. Owen, S. Phillips (in Chair), C. Reynolds and S. Tull. Also in attendance were East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown, and Suffolk County Councillor K. Robinson.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None were received.
3. **Requests for Dispensation.** There were none.
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Meeting approved, and the Chair signed as a correct record, the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2023. Proposer: C. Diggins; Seconder: N. Livingstone. All in Favour.
5. **Clerk's Report on Ongoing Matters.**

6. The Clerk is sending a further email to Hugh, Lord Somerleyton. Following a further exchange of emails, the Memorial Bench on The Green has been removed for repair. The assessment of the condition of the Estate Wall continues and ivy is being removed where it is thought to be seriously affecting the fabric of the wall.

7. The Clerk had also followed up on the suggestion from Wayne Saunders during the last Public Forum, that the Parish Council considers the Self-Help Scheme for Parish Councils to carry out minor Highways work with support and training. She has sent a link with details of this scheme to Parish Councillors, and asked the Meeting whether it wished to take this

further. The Meeting discussed briefly the nature of the tasks that could be carried out, specifically in relation to cleaning the Speed Sign near to the junction of Market Lane and The Street, in the run up to the Primary School. It was agreed that the Parish Council did not wish at this stage to join the Self-Help Scheme.

6 **Requests from Parishioners.** The Meeting agreed with the proposal made during the Public Forum, that the Parish Council should write to Peter Aldous, MP, regarding the poor to non-existent mobile phone coverage in the Villages. The Chair and Clerk will agree the wording of the letter. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder: G. Gibbs. All in Favour.

7. **Parish Plan Working Groups.** The Meeting considered the following updates/reports from the following Working Groups.

7.1 Defibrillator Group. Presented by C. Diggins.

Deployment of Defibrillator, issues arising and action taken*:*

The defibrillator was deployed on November 23rd.

The volunteer who collected the defibrillator reported that she had phoned the Volunteer Emergency Telephone Support (VETS) line to ask for some help, but she got no response from any of the other volunteers. It transpired that no one was at home meaning that there was no one to receive her call. However, Claire Diggins' mobile number is on the system and when she tried to answer the call, the line was silent and she was not able to be connected to the caller.

The VETS line has been tested and although it works with landline numbers it does not work with Claire's mobile number – the only mobile number in use on the system. This is being investigated by the Community Heartbeat Trust who provides the VETS line and they will report back once the issue has been identified and hopefully resolved by the telephony company.

Claire has been in contact with the two other people who assisted with the resuscitation attempt, to thank them for their efforts and also to find out whether any counselling was required. Both of them reported that they were well-supported and had no need of counselling. They both felt that everything that could have been done was done and although they were distressed by the outcome, they were at peace with themselves. There did however, appear to be some lack of awareness in relation to retrieving the defibrillator from the cabinet and/or calling the VETS line for assistance – it transpired that the volunteer who collected the defibrillator just happened to be walking past at the time.

One of the other issues that arose was that the ambulance service had difficulty in locating The Brickfields because there is no road sign so this led to delays in them arriving at the property.

Gerda Gibbs, Claire Diggins and Sue Read met on Monday 27th November to discuss the above issues. It was felt that The Brickfields and The Common and possibly other unadopted roads were both difficult for the emergency service to locate and that the situation would be helped by road signs. The issue of What3 Words was also raised as 85% of emergency services use it as an aid to navigation. It was therefore decided to refer the matter to the Advice and Information Working Group and this was done on December 2nd. The matter is ongoing and the Advice and Information Working Group will update the Parish Council on progress.

A debrief was held for the volunteers on December 11th where the volunteer who was involved in the resuscitation attempt fed back to the group. In addition to the VETS line we have a WhatsApp Group so it was agreed that we would make use of that to notify all other volunteers if help is required. It was also felt that we should open up our Basic life support and defibrillator refresher training to the wider community to familiarise more people with

the defibrillator so that they have the confidence to use it if no volunteers are available. It will also give us the opportunity to recruit additional volunteers.
It is also proposed that a leaflet with clear instructions on retrieving the defibrillator and calling the VETS line is distributed to all properties in the Parish.
Refresher Training:
The annual refresher training for the volunteers will be due in February. It is proposed that we ask Simon Drewitt of ECCH to provide this once more and the Parish Council is requested to approve a budget of £75 for this. To be added to payments to be approved at item 14. *As per the above, it is proposed that this is opened up to the wider community as Simon has indicated that he is happy with any number of attendees.*
Mobile Reception:
*In the event of an emergency, our ability to respond may be handicapped by the very poor mobile signal in the Parish**. It is proposed that the Parish Council writes to our MP to see if he can do anything about it.***
In other news:
1)Somerleyton School has installed a community defibrillator on the outer wall of the school. Claire will get in contact with the Head Teacher for further information and will update our volunteers accordingly.
2)The empty defibrillator cabinet at the boatyard has been removed.
7.2 Green and Environment Group. Presented by G. Gibbs and D. Owen
Narcissi Bulbs
500 Narcissi bulbs from ESC 's first 'East Suffolk Blooms' scheme were distributed to households in our three parishes in early November.
Dark Skies:
The response rate to our questionnaire was a very respectable 30% of households supporting. The percentages of responses saying 'Yes' to each of the questions were as follows
1. Would you support Dark Skies status for our villages? 95%
2. Would you support NO installation of street lights? 90%
3. Guidance on reducing 'stray lighting' such as restricting external lights to motion sensitive lights on your own property? 80%
4. Interested in joining a Dark Skies Walk or a wildlife & bat walk? 74%
5. CPRE organise a national star-count in February. Interested in taking part? 74%
Overall, the results show there is very strong support for protecting and enhancing our dark skies.
In December we carried out initial light meters checks around the 3 villages, and plan to take more in January.
Next steps:
1. Explore feasibility and costs of sourcing and erecting 'Dark Skies Village' signs for our 3 villages.
2. Organise a Star Count event, possibly for February half terms holidays
3. Develop guidance on how to reduce stray lighting from your property.
It was agreed that it was important that guidelines were drawn up particularly around safety lights; movement sensitive lights eliminate the need to have lights on continuously at night.
7.3 Advice and Information Group.
The Group is making the proposal below in conjunction with the Defibrillator Group. Lord Somerleyton has expressed support for the proposal (the signs would be on Somerleyton Estate land) and Suffolk County Council has been approached for support - we await their response once the holidays are over.

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Proposal to erect 2 road name signs in Somerleyton.

Following a recent occasion when an emergency ambulance was slightly delayed by a lack of a road name sign members of the Defibrillator Group and the Advice & Information Group investigated whether such delays could be avoided in future within Somerleyton.

The emergency services navigate using electronic mapping services but road name signs are needed to provide clarity when the mapping is either inadequate or inaccurate. The length of The Street from Green Corner to Slugs Lane was investigated and most lokes and lanes were properly identified by Google, Apple & Garmin mapping services. However, The Common and Brickfields were not properly identified by all mapping services; The Common is sometimes labelled The Street and Brickfields is not normally labelled at all.

The Groups recommend that road name signs are provided at the entrances to The Common and Brickfields. At the entrance to The Common the sign could be mounted on the existing post for a footpath sign. At the entrance to Brickfields a sign complete with posts could be erected to the southwest of the existing Marina sign. Both signs should be of the same design as the existing one for Station Road.

The meeting agreed a budget of up to £400 from the Social Fund for 2 Road signs, one at Brickfields and the other at the turning to The Common from The Street. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder: G. Gibbs. All in Favour. (The possibility of some funding support is to be investigated).

7.4 Speed Awareness Group.

D. Ainslie updated the Meeting on the present siting of the Speed Indicator Device, which can now record the speed of vehicles coming past the school. The positioning of traffic coming along the B1074 towards the bend before the school was raised; together with concerns about the usefulness and condition of the sign warning drivers of the school. N. Livingstone offered to join the Group to assist in pursuing these issues, and this was accepted.

7.5 Warm Welcome Steering Group.

The Meeting was informed that there was a regular attendance of around 18-20 people, and that the programme of activities was proving popular. The Monitoring Team at East Suffolk Council are offering to assist our Group in assessing the social inclusion benefits of the Warm Welcome, which seem to be significant.

8. Planning.

The Meeting noted the following:

8.I Recent Applications.

The Parish Council was consulted by the Broads Authority on the following Planning Application and Application for Listed Building Consent

BA/2023/0397/FUL Herringfleet Marsh Mill and Pumping Shed
St Olaves Road Herringfleet Suffolk ESC
Underpinning & restoration inc. removal & restoration of sails

BA/2023/0398/LBC Herringfleet Marsh Mill and Pumping Shed
St Olaves Road Herringfleet Suffolk ESC
Underpinning & restoration inc. removal & restoration of sails.

The Planning Committee of the Parish Council held a Public Meeting on Thursday 23rd November and decided on the following response.

'Somerleyton Ashby & Herringfleet Parish Council welcomes these applications and supports the intentions. It looks forward to the eventual total refurbishment of the Mill to full working order.'

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The following Applications had been received on the day of the Meeting.
DC/23/4827/FUL and **DC/23/4745/LBC,** for permission to install a Woodburner at Green Farmhouse, Green Lane, Somerleyton.NR32 5PW.
8.2 Recent Decisions. There have been none.

9. Village Events – Review.
9.1 Christmas Lights switch on: with Carol Singing and Mulled Wine and Mince Pies at Crown House, organised by Women's Link. This was popular as always, and this year there was a poignancy to the event as Tony Jones, whose death we all mourn, would normally have led the Carols. We are grateful to Mary Truman who agreed to lead them this year. The Meeting agreed that £20 should be paid to Somerleyton Primary School as contribution to cost of electricity. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder: C. Reynolds. All in favour.

10. Village Events.
10.1 Annual Litter Pick. The Meeting agreed that this should take place on Sunday 24th March at 10.00am commencing at the Village Hall.

11. Clerk's Review. The Clerk's Review will take place in the next couple of weeks.

12. Finance. The Meeting received the Financial Report for the 3rd Quarter ending 31st December 2023.

13. Budget Estimates and Precept 2024-25.
13.1 The Meeting considered the budget estimates previously circulated by the clerk/RFO. These amount to £3800.
13.2 The Meeting agreed by a majority a Precept demand of £3465 for 2024-25, an increase of 5% on last year, but below the expected expenditure. The balance will be taken from the Parish Council's reserves. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder: D. Owen. 10 in favour; 1 abstention.

14. Payments to be Approved. The Meeting agreed that the following payments be made. Proposer: D. Ainslie; Seconder: G. Gibbs. All in favour.

S. Read, Clerk: Printer Ink and Replacement Mouse for Laptop	66.09
Community Heartbeat Trust: Replacement Pads for Defibrillator	163.80
S. Phillips: Replacement Screen for PC Laptop (reimbursement)	95.00
SLCC: Annual Membership Renewal	76.00
W.E. Bailey: Clay for Warm Welcome Workshop	20.00
Somerleyton Community Association: Village Hall Hire	263.00
S. Read, Clerk: Salary 3rd Quarter	390.10
HMRC: Clerk's Income Tax	97.40
Defibrillator Refresher Training for Volunteers	75.00

15. Correspondence. The Meeting noted the following items of correspondence.

07/11 NPTS:	Subscriber News
07/11	Poster looking for a Volunteer Recorder for our Villages
07/11 P&C Commissioner:	November Update
07/11 Buzzaround:	Publicity and Updates on Buzzaround bus service
07/11 ESC:	Litter and Fido Waste Bin Policy
24/11 ESC:	Draft Healthy Environment and Draft Rural Develpt. Supp. Planning Document
24/11 ESC:	Green Issues Newsletter
24/11 ESC:	Update on Healthy Habits for Community Partnership Meeting
24/11 ESC:	Updates on Green Issues – dates of events
24/11 Keep Britain Tidy:	Buy Nothing Month 2024
24/11 Literacy Trust:	Request for Information for Intergenerational Project

24/11 ESC:	Wellbeing Walk for Practical Action for Environment
28/11 Scottish Power:	Newsletter x 2
28/11 Passenger Int'rst Group:	Minutes of Meeting
04/12 K. Robinson:	Town and Parish Newsletter
06/12 Parish Clerk Belton:	Notifying us of Joint Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Reg 14 Consultation
06/12 Suffolk Police:	New Model of Policing in Suffolk: Property in Cars
15/12 Broads Authority:	Broads Briefing

16. Forthcoming Meetings.

Next Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Thursday 7th March, 2024 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.15pm with the Public Forum.

Sue Read (Parish Clerk) parish.clerk@ashvillages.org.uk 01502 450623