SOMERLEYTON ASHBY AND HERRINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 7th March 2024, commencing at 7.15pm in Somerleyton Village Hall

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum began at 7.15pm

There were no members of the public attending.

The Chair called for a report from East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown who gave the following information:

1) There will be an overall increase in the Council Tax demand of 2.9%
2) There will be an election for the Police and Crime Commissioner in May.
3) The window for applications for grant aid has closed for this financial year and will re-open in early April.
4) The Buzz Bus has received funding for a further two years. He expects that there will be news about an improved service in the near future.

The Business Meeting began at 7.20pm.

In attendance were: C. Diggins, J. Foster, G. Gibbs, J. Griffith, R. Lindsay, N. Livingstone, D. Owen, S. Phillips (in Chair), C. Reynolds and S. Tull. Also in attendance was East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown,

1.Apologies for Absence. Apologies were accepted from D. Ainslie, P. Johnson and received from County Councillors K. Robinson and E. Back.

2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda sent in writing to the Clerk. None received.

3. Requests for Dispensation. to participate in discussion and voting despite disclosable pecuniary interest(s). None received.

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 11th January 2024. Proposer: N. Livingstone Seconder: C. Diggins. All in favour.

5. Clerk's Report on Ongoing Matters. The Meeting will decide on any actions required following review of the clerk's update.

6. The memorial bench has now been repaired and is back in its spot by the Pump on The Green.

6. Requests from Parishioners. In January, a parishioner drew our attention to a mistake on the new Information Boards at the Duke's Head and at Herringfleet. On both boards the track from Slugs Lane down to the Staithe is marked as a Permissive Path when it is in fact a Public Right of Way. The mistake has been acknowledged by Hugh, Lord Somerleyton and his agent at Savills. The Estate will be looking for a way to amend the Boards. Arising from this contact, the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk met with the Estate's Land Agent on 28th February to discuss the possibility of the path from The Street along the Jam to the Playing Field be designated a Permissive path. It is already used as a pleasant short cut between the Pond and the Playing Field and the Estate wishes to formalise its use.

7. Parish Plan Working Groups. The Meeting called for reports from Working Groups

7.1 Defibrillator Group Report. The Meeting received the following Report, presented by C. Diggins. It noted the new cost of this training.

On Friday, March 1st we had CPR and defibrillator training provided by Roxy King of East Coast Community Heartbeat Trust C.I.C. It was attended by 8 volunteers and 12 members of the community. The session lasted for 2 hours and was much enjoyed by everyone who attended. Dummies were available to practice CPR and a very interesting video was played which showed the effect on the heart and brain of effective CPR.

At our last Parish Council meeting it was agreed to pay Roxy £75 for providing us with this training. This was considered to be very good value for money compared to the Community Heartbeat Trust training which costs almost £200 and was not as good. However, Roxy declined payment. As we would like to invite her back on an annual basis, it was decided to give her a box of chocolates and a gift voucher for £50. This came to £56 in total. She was very happy with this and said that she would be more than happy to provide us with training in the future.

Claire Diggins

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7.2 Green and Environment Group Report. The Meeting received the following Report from G. Gibbs

Star count event

We reluctantly cancelled the Star Count event planned for the half term week in February as we needed clear skies and dry ground and had neither.

We hope to reschedule for the autumn in combination with a dark night walk.

***Dark Skies**.*

Doug Owen has enquired about procuring Dark Skies signs from a company called 'Sign of the Times'. Our proposal is as follows:

Signs – Wording & Size

Wording, size etc as per Darsham sign (see pic): 90mm high Kindersley letters; with channelling to rear and clips to fix to existing 76mm diameter posts

To fit to existing posts of current village entrance signs.

The plate size is approximately 1600 x 150mm.

Number and Location

A total of 2 signs: 1 for attaching to the Somerleyton sign westbound from Oulton Broad towards Somerleyton) and 1 for the Herringfleet sign (heading eastbound from St Olaves towards Herringfleet). This combination captures traffic travelling along B1074 in both directions.

***Somerleyton** - As there is only 1 existing Somerleyton entrance sign, on the B1074 (Blundeston Road), seen when heading West from Oulton Broad to Somerleyton. That sign already has 'Birthplace of the Hovercraft' under 'Somerleyton', and 'A Dark Skies Village' would go beneath that.*

***Herringfleet** – using the Eastbound sign on B1074 (Herringfleet Road) near St Olaves captures traffic coming from St Olaves.*

We see little additional value to be gained from adding a further westbound sign to the other Herringfleet sign (opposite Somerleyton Farms entrance).

Ashby does not have any village entrance signs, and a standalone sign or attaching it to the heritage Ashby village sign would be inappropriate.

Cost

1 No. die press sign (as per Darsham)

A DARK SKIES VILLAGE, each at …£115.10

Plus carriage (estimate at £25.00) and VAT.

Lead time is about 4 weeks.

So, the total cost for 2 signs would be £280 + VAT.

Permissions

Highways did not offer a view on this, so no one would appear to own it. We could always remove them if there were valid objections raised in the future.

Fitting

Would be straightforward for a couple of us to fit the signs with a few tools and taking safety precautions e.g. wearing high vis jackets, parking safely off road nearby, etc.

We are applying to the Parish Council for funding for this project.

East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown told the Meeting that he would welcome an application for Grant Aid for one half of the cost of this project i.e. £140. This would need to wait until the new financial year in April. The Parish agreed to underwrite the cost of the project up to the total of £280. Proposer: G. Gibbs; Seconder: D. Owen. All in Favour.

Future plans:

- *Healthy nature walks for adults and children, jointly with Somerleyton Together.*
- *Plant sale and building of bug hotels.*

***'A Load of Rubbish'** - a talk by Steve Tull on plans to reform kerbside collection and responsibility, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regs.*

*This talk is planned for the **Annual Parish Meeting** on the 16th of May.*

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S Tull informed the Meeting that his talk would explain how the the changes would affect both manufacturers and Council Tax payers. Councillor Ashdown told the Meeting that these changes would be discussed by East Suffolk Council at their Meeting in late March.
Jenni Livingstone, Doug Owen, Lindsay Martin, Steve Tull and Gerda Gibbs.
7.3 Advice and Information Group. S. Phillips spoke about the planned road signs for The Common and Brickfields. He had ascertained that if purchased through East Suffolk Council, they could cost £450 per sign. He is investigating further and will report back to the next Meeting.
7.4 Speed Awareness Group. R. Lindsay reported that he had changed the SID battery, and D. Ainslie had downloaded the recorded data from the device over the past few months. Copies of this data had been sent to Councillors. The data shows that there is very little excess speeding within its range: around 3% of total vehicles. Concerns were raised about the settings of the device, which flashes 30mph as each vehicle approaches not as an indication of the vehicle's actual speed, but as a reminder that 30mph is the legal limit. There have some complaints about this confusion. The Meeting briefly discussed whether a more sophisticated device would be preferable, but no decision was made. J. Griffith asked whether the pole opposite the Pond has any purpose as it is not being used for the SID; no decision about its future agreed. We have been informed that the changing of the safety signs at the school is imminent. Councillor Ashdown will check this.
7.5 Monday Hub Group Report. *The Hub has now met on a fortnightly basis on 7 occasions. Numbers attending have largely increased week on week. The last session, held at half term and themed to attract families, did not attract so many people and no local children came along. The best attended session so far has been the Stars and Bats talk by Doug Owen, with 30 people.*
Feedback:
We circulated a short survey to attendees at the midway stage and received responses from 57% of the people in attendance. We agreed with our funders at East Suffolk Council to carry this out to assess the success of the Hub as socially inclusive. The feedback was very positive, and we received ideas about future events, should a similar project run again next winter. The Hub was described as welcoming and purposeful. It has drawn on the talents of local people who have led workshops. People who attend are quite evenly spread in terms of how long they have lived in the villages: from 6 months to 50 years. The theme of meeting old and making new friends is constant.
Funding:
The Hub has received three quarters (£375) of the Grant allocated by East Suffolk Council; we are awaiting notification that the final quarter (£125) is on its way. Claire Diggins has completed an account of expenditure so far, which accompanies this document. It is not possible to predict what final expenditure will be; it is not expected that it will exceed the £500 Grant. If it does it will draw on the (so far unused) £150 contribution to the Hub, which the Parish Council agreed at its November Meeting.
Future Sessions:
There are four more sessions. 4th and 18th March; 8th and 22nd April.
The Meeting noted that the Monday is going well; with very positive feedback from attendees. It received the Income and Expenditure Account and noted that the Clerk is chasing up the second tranche of the Grant from East Suffolk Council.
Claire Diggins, Gerda Gibbs, Julia Griffiths, Jenni Livingstone, Sue Read, Doug Owens.
8. Planning
8.1 Recent Applications
Re-consultation BA/2023/0397/FUL
Re-consultation BA/2023/0398/LBC
Underpinning & repair inc. removal & re-instatement of sails
Address: Herringfleet Marsh Mill and Pumping Shed, St Olaves Road, Herringfleet, Suffolk.

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The Planning Committee of the Parish Council discussed these applications and gave the following Consultee Response to both:
'The Parish Council continues to support these applications. However, it is concerned that the applicant suggests in the response to Historic England comments that the standard 3 years in which to commence might be extended. The Parish Council believes that this work is vital to the long-term viability and sustainability of the Mill and should be expedited rather than delayed.'
8.2 Recent Decisions. The Meeting learned that both applications had been granted with conditions. J. Foster informed the Meeting that work had already begun on the foundations of the Mill.
9. Village Events – Review. The Meeting noted the success of the Somerleyton Playhouse organised by S. Verney; a monthly screening throughout the winter months of a Musical film adaptation. It takes place at the Village Hall.
10. Village Events – Forthcoming:
Sunday 24th March: Annual Litter Pick, starting at 10.00 am at the Village Hall.
Saturday 16th March: 7.00pm The Somerleyton Playhouse presents a showing of West Side Story.
Saturday 6th July: from 12 noon to 5.00pm. Advance notice of the School Fete. The theme this year is Country and Western.
The Meeting considered the re-instatement of popular Village events, which have not taken place recently. It was agreed that the following would be organised next year: the Barn Dance at the Village Hall, (N. Livingstone to initiate planning), Quiz and Chips, (C. Reynolds to initiate planning).
It was also agreed that the Open Gardens event should be reinstated. In the past this has alternated with the Barn Dance, so it is proposed to hold this event the year after next (2026.)
11. Jubilee Tree and Table Tennis Storage Box
The Meeting is asked to agree arrangements to replace these two items. The Jubilee tree has died. The Vice Chair has a healthy sapling which he proposes to donate as a replacement. The plastic storage box on the Playing Field has deteriorated and is no longer fit for purpose. The Vice Chair has been able to purchase a metal replacement locally. He seeks reimbursement for £50. The box will need to be painted using specialist metal paint which will cost £30. **The Meeting agreed to cover the full cost at a cost of £80. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder C. Reynolds. All in Favour.**
12. Annual Parish Meeting. The Meeting discussed arrangements for the APM. It considered whether the current format continues to be fit for purpose and whether changes need to be made. It agreed that S. Tull will give a presentation on 'a Load of Rubbish', and that reports will be sought from the local groups and organisations. What form these should take could not be decided, and this and other matters, for example name badges, were deferred for an online discussion after the Meeting**.** N. Livingstone agreed to organise beverages
13. Nomination to The Board of Trustees for Somerleyton Charities. There was one application, from the Current trustee, David Cook. The Meeting agreed that he be nominated for a further four-year term. In doing so, it was pleased to acknowledge the important role Mr Cook has played in the role of Board accountant. Proposer: J. Foster; Seconder: G. Gibbs. All in favour
14. Clerk's Annual Review. The Meeting considered the proposals agreed at the Clerk's review, held in January, and agreed these. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder: N. Livingstone. All in Favour.
15. **Finance.**
The Meeting agreed and the Chair signed the Financial Risk Assessment/Management Plan for next Financial Year. (2024-2025). Proposer: N. Livingstone; Seconder: D. Owen. All in Favour.
16. **Payments to be Approved.** The Meeting approved the following payments. Proposer: C. Reynolds; Seconder: R. Lindsay. All in Favour.

C. Diggins:	Reimburse: Miscellaneous items for Warm Hub	65.38
S. L. Phillips:	Reimburse: Art Materials for Workshop at Warm Hub	25.90
G. Gibbs:	Reimburse: Refuse Sacks:	14.49
S. Read:	Clerk's Office Supplies	48.88

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N. Livingstone: Reimburse: New Storage Bin for Table Tennis Equipment 50.00

17. Correspondence. The Meeting noted the following item of correspondence:

23/01	ESC:	Greenprint Forum Update
23/01	ESC:	Plug in Suffolk and Greenest County Awards
25/01	ESC:	Planning Delivery Dashboard
31/01	NPTS:	January Subscriber News
31/01	P Ashdown:	Buzz Bus Leaflets
31/01	BACT:	Transport and Warm Welcomes
12/02	ESC:	Review of Street Trading Policy
12/02	ESC:	Green Issues Dates
12/02	ESC:	Greenprint Winter Newsletter
12/02	ESC:	Latest VCSE Funding Opportunities
12/02	ESC:	Misc. Grants/Offers incl. Loft Insulation
12/02	ESC:	Green Issues – More Events
12/02	N'hood Watch:	Information re Contacting Local Police
12/02	P Ashdown:	New Funding Stream
27/02	GYBC:	Design Code Adoption
27/02	NPTS:	February Subscriber News
27/02	SCC:	Local Transport Consultation
27/02	NCC:	Re: Greater Norwich Local Plan
27/02	ESC:	Funding Opportunities
27/02	ESC:	Green Issues, Green and Environment themed Events
27/02	ESC:	Network Rail Recovery. Information Webinair.

18. Dates and Times of Next Meetings

Annual General Meeting: Thursday 9th May at 7.15pm in Somerleyton Village Hall
(*Refreshments: Gerda)*

Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 16th May at 7.30pm in Somerleyton Village Hall

There being no further Business, the Meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

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