SOMERLEYTON ASHBY AND HERRINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 23rd January 2025, in the Village Hall commencing at 7.15pm with the Public Forum

Public Forum commenced at 7.15pm: One member of the public was in attendance. He did not wish to raise an issue, and had come to observe the Meeting.
The Chair called for reports from East Suffolk and Suffolk County Councillors.
East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown said that there had been a slow start to the year, due to his ill health but that, with the Government's decision to re-organise Local Government there would a lot of work to do. He said that this could mean cancelling Local Government elections in May. He informed the Meeting that the Beach Huts allocated to Somerleyton for their Shed's Project needed to be collected before the end of March, so that their storage site can be handed back to the developers. He also advised that funding was available to the Shed Project for their Pre-Planning Application.
Suffolk County Councillor Robinson said that he thoroughly enjoyed the Radio Daze Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk.
He spoke about the Mayoral Tier of Local Government which oversees Transport, Infrastructure Rail Transport at a strategic level. Mayors will join the Head of Authorities Board. County Councils will absorb the functions of District Councils; there will fewer Councillors overall. Town and Parish Councils will be unaffected.
The Rural Services Grant has been abolished.

The Business Meeting commenced at 7.28pm
In attendance were: Parish Councillors D. Ainslie, C. Diggins, J. Foster, G. Gibbs, J. Griffiths, P. Johnson, R. Lindsay, N. Livingstone, S. Phillips (in Chair), D. Owen, and S. Tull. Also in attendance were East Suffolk Councillor P. Ashdown and Suffolk County Councillor K. Robinson
1. Apologies for Absence. Apologies were accepted from C. Reynolds.
2. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda. There were none
3. **Requests for Dispensation.** There were no requests for dispensation to participate in discussion and voting despite disclosable pecuniary interest(s).
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The Meeting approved and signed as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 7th November. Proposer: S. Tull; Seconder: D. Owen. All in Favour.
5. **Clerk's Report on Ongoing Matters.**
5.1 Grit Bin: Our bin was locked in November when the SCC Grit Team arrived to fill it. The Manager could not confirm when they may be able to re-fill and suggested we bought combination padlocks and gave him the codes, which we did (cost 7.99, VAT reclaimable). We also bought some bags of rock salt as cold weather was expected, (cost 42.50, VAT reclaimable). I spoke to Councillor Robinson about the matter. The Grit Bin was re-filled on 5th January. We are asking for these two payments to be approved. The Meeting approved these payments. D. Ainslie; Seconder: J. Griffith. All in Favour.
5.8 As agreed at the Meeting in November the Clerk has written to the owners on The Street whose front hedge is overgrowing the footpath. There has been no response. The Meeting was advised that It could ask for an order to be made obliging the owners to cut back the hedge; the Parish Council wishes to avoid this. It is understood that the owners have a gardener who could be approached. The Clerk will take this forward.
5.13 Insurance Cover. The Chair, Vice Chair, C. Reynolds and the Clerk met on 21st November to consider two Insurance Quotations obtained by the Clerk for the year beginning 1st December. It was agreed that they would accept the Quotation from Community Action Suffolk. The Meeting noted the new Insurance Provider.
6. Requests from Parishioners. The Clerk had received no parishioner requests. N. Livingstone raised his concern that the seat on the corner of The Green has lost a large part of its back. It was established that the back is still functioning and that the commemorative plaque is still attached. It

was suggested that the change in the back was a positive one; most Councillors did not feel that the seat needs to be repaired or replaced; with one Councillor preferring that it be replaced with a more conventional bench. This will be discussed further and a decision made at the next Meeting.

7. **Parish Plan Working Groups.**

7.1 Defibrillator Group See attached report from C. Diggins and G. Gibbs. The Meeting agreed to meet the cost of £50.00 for training of Defibrillator Volunteers. Proposer: D. Ainslie; Seconder: G. Gibbs. All in Favour.

7.2 Green and Environment Group See attached report from the G&E Group. J. Griffith raised her concern that spreading the grit manually seems to be very arduous, and wondered if this is the case. She was aware that grit spreaders can be obtained to make the job easier. The Clerk was asked to contact the volunteers to thank them for their commitment to this valuable service.

7.3 Advice Information and Infrastructure Group. The Xmas Lights have been in service again over the festive period.

7.4 Speed Awareness Group. The SID has continued to monitor the speed of vehicles coming past the School. They were asked to move it to the other end of The Street over half term to test complaints that cars are speeding along the stretch where cars are parked on the right-hand side of the road.

7.5 Warm Hub Group. The Meeting received the report from J. Livingstone; noting that the Hub continues to be popular with attendances of 26 in November; 26 in December; and over 40 in January for the first three monthly sessions The Meeting also received a financial update from C. Diggins, which noted the following:

'We are now at the halfway point. To date we have spent £201.32. In addition, there will be £60 due in village hall rent for this period making a total of £261.32. This will leave us with a balance of £338.68 for the remaining 3 sessions. Bob Coutts will charge £100 for Gardener's Question Time in March and there will be a further £60 to pay in village hall rent for the remaining sessions. This will leave us with a balance of £178.68 so we expect to be within budget.'

8. **Planning.**

8.I Recent Applications. None Received

8.2 Recent Decisions. Ref. No: DC/24/3494/FUL

Conversion of a single storey garage into a gym

Oak Cottage The Street Somerleyton Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5QB. The Parish Council had no objection. ESC has permitted the application.

9. **Village Events** – Review.

9.1 Quiz and Chips. A sell-out event organised by Mick and Sue Wright and Chris Reynolds. A donation from the proceeds of the evening went to a Fund, which supports the family of a young Somerleyton girl, who is undergoing treatment at Addenbrookes Hospital, leaving a balance of £19 for the Social Fund.

9.2 Christmas Lights switch on. Well attended event went ahead on the 6th December; followed by carol singing around the village ending with mince pies, mulled wine and other warm drinks at Crown House. Many Thanks again to Jenni and Neil Livingstone for their hospitality; and to Women's Link for organising the refreshments.

10. **Village Events** – Forthcoming.

10.1 Barn Dance 7th June. The Meeting discussed the attached paper prepared by N. Livingstone. The Meeting agreed that the Barn Dance should go ahead. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder: N. Livingstone. All in Favour. N. Livingstone asked for volunteers to join an organising group: This will comprise: Neil and Jenni Livingstone, Paul Johnson and Ron Lindsay. (More volunteers will be welcome).

10.2 Litter Pick. The Meeting agreed 6th April as the date for this annual event, with a back-up date of 13th April if the weather is inclement. It will start at 10.30 am at the Village Hall. S. Phillips will prepare a poster. P. Johnson informed the Meeting that the fortnightly Estate-organised litter picks will commence on 26th January at 10.30 with lunch provided.

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11. **Refuse Collection**. The Meeting considered the reform of Waste Collections, as set out in S. Phillips' attached paper, with additions from S. Tull. Councillors concentrated on particular aspects of the proposals as they affect rural areas; for example, the number of households who might qualify for more frequent black bin collections might be very small. Will this be feasible? S. Tull outlined the duties of manufacturing in paying for kerbside collection of packaging. The Parish Council noted that these new arrangements and regulations will come into force around the time of Local Government reorganisation, and decided not to respond at this stage.

12. Clerk's Review. The Meeting agreed in full the recommendations from the Clerk's Review, held on 10th January.

13. Finance The Meeting received the Financial Report for the 3rd Quarter ending 27th December 2024.

14. **Budget Estimates and Precept 2025-26.**

14.1 The Meeting considered the budget estimates previously circulated by the Clerk. Parish Councillors learned that after two years of requesting a Precept of considerably less than the expected expenditure, its reserves have been reduced to lower levels than are considered wise.

14.2 The Meeting decided to request a Precept matching the expected Budget for the next financial year. This is £4454. Proposer: R. Lindsay; Seconder: N. Livingstone. 10 in favour; 1 abstention.

15. **Payments to be Approved.** The Meeting agreed the following payments. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder: J. Griffith. Allin Favour

05/11 C Diggins Monday Hub Supplies	14.84
12/11 SLCC Annual Membership	80.00
13/11 K Robinson Battery for SID	86.12
22/11 CAS Annual Insurance	486.54
02/12 C Diggins Monday Hub Supplies	13.55
02/12 S Foster Refreshments for Xmas Lights Switch On	30.00
09/12 D Owen Reimburse Rock Salt	42.50
17/12 D Ainslie Community Choir Music Downloads	22.41
17/12 SCA Room Hire at Village Hall 2024	370.00
30/12 S Read Clerk's Salary 3rd Quarter	476.00
30/12 HMRC Clerk's Income Tax	119.00
02/01 L. Martin Combination Padlocks for Grit Bin	7.99
07/01 Community Heartbeat Trust Cover for renewables to May2028	115.26
13/01 C Diggins Monday Hub Supplies	16.05
13/01 I Bunn Presentation on Samuel Morton Peto at Monday Hub	50.00

16. **Correspondence.** The Meeting noted the following items of correspondence

12/11 ESC:	Historic Buildings Grant Scheme
26/11 NPTS:	Subscriber News
26/11 ESPA:	Newsletter (East Suffolk Planning Alliance)
26/11 BA:	Call for Sites
26/11 ESC:	Box Up Statistics
29/11 NPT&S:	Training
11/12 Police	Have your say on Direction of Travel
11/12 Sizewell	Community Newsletter
17/12 S. Estate	Invitation to Xmas Drinks
02/01 SCC:	Passenger Group Meeting
10/01 SCC:	Passenger Group Meeting Minutes
10/01 SCC:	Newsletter

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10/01 SCC:	Passenger Group Survey
10/01 Police:	Have your Say on the Direction of Policing
10/01 SCC:	Invitation to Webinair
10/01 SLCC:	Standards & Conduct Framework
10/01 SALC:	Devolution Update
14/01 ESC:	Invitation to Planning Forum

17. **Forthcoming Meetings**.

Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 6th March 2025 7.15pm, Village Hall

There being no further business, the Meeting ended at 8.37pm

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