SOMERLEYTON ASHBY & HERRINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 6th March 2025 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.15pm.

Public Forum:

Commenced at 7.15pm. There was one member of the public in attendance, who wished to speak about the junction of Green Lane and Blundeston Road. He requested support for a change of sign at the junction at Green Lane, from 'Give Way' to 'Stop'. This would warn drivers that they are about join a busy road with limited visibility. He also asked for support for a new 'No Overtaking sign on the Blundeston Road leading up to the Green Lane junction from the Blundeston direction. He had observed that some cars tend to speed up and overtake as they come on to the straight section of road just before the junction**. The Clerk will write to Wayne Saunders, with copy to K. Robinson, on this matter.**

The Chair called for a report from East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown.
Councillor Ashdown advised the Meeting that the Council Tax Bills for 2025-6 were now being sent There have been updates on the restructuring of Local Government. The next Mayoral elections will take place in 2026; with the first elections for the newly formed Councils following in 2027 or 2028. With regard to these new authorities, Suffolk County Council is recommending a Single Council for the whole of Suffolk; it is rumoured that there will be two or three Councils. Deadline for Council response is 21st March; the Government will be organising a consultation at the next stage.
With regard to Enabling Communities funding for the coming year, Councillor Ashdown advised the Meeting that he would be recommending that up to £1000 would be available to our Parish Council to build on the success of our Monday Hub. The focus of the project should be the Community Partnership Forum's priorities of Mental Wellbeing Social Isolation and Child Obesity.

The Business Meeting commenced at 7.30pm
In attendance were: Parish Councillors D. Ainslie, C. Diggins, G. Gibbs, N. Livingstone, S. Phillips (in Chair), D. Owen, and C. Reynolds. Also in attendance was East Suffolk Councillor P. Ashdown.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were accepted from J. Griffith, R. Lindsay, S Tull, J. Foster and P. Johnson. Apologies also from County Councillors K. Robinson and E. Back.
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 the Chair signed as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2025. Proposer: G. Gibbs; Seconder: N. Livingstone. All in Favour.
5. **Clerk's Report on Ongoing Matters.**

5.2. The Meeting heard that the Clerk had written to Lindsay Martin, the Grit Bin coordinator thanking her for her commitment to keeping the footpath safe on the slope from the Pond to the Street/Slugs Lane corner. The Clerk asked if the equipment, a small scoop, was sufficient. Lindsay replied that it was not really fit for the task and agreed to look into alternatives. **S. Phillips met with Lindsay and it is proposed that a grit spreader be purchased at a cost of £300, which will make the task much easier. This was agreed. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder: G Gibbs, All in Favour**. N. Livingstone suggested that the task could be further eased by the relocation of The Grit bin to the top of the slope. It was noted that this would mean placing it on Estate land. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Councillor Robinson and Lindsay about this.
5.6 The seat on the corner of The Green. The Chair called for a vote on how to proceed with this seat. It was agreed with one abstention that the seat should be repaired.
5.8. Overgrown Hedge. The Clerk has not yet been able to identify the Gardener at the property. She will try to establish contact with the owners of the property.

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6. Requests from Parishioners. The Clerk has been approached by several allotment holders who have received a letter from Lord Somerleyton which suggested that the Estate wished to undertake an overhaul of the allotment site, and that also suggested that the provision of allotments would be sited elsewhere. Individual allotment holders were invited to speak with the Estate Manager and Lettings Manager, and a number have done this. It seems that there is currently no intention to change the use of the current allotment site, but to bring some of the land into an alternative use. The Meeting noted and understood parishioner concern on this matter. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation, and if any concrete proposals are forthcoming will respond. The Meeting noted that the Allotments site is designated a Special Landscape Area. Any development that could restrict the view of the cottages in their setting from the B1074 as it comes from Herringfleet, would be resisted.

A parishioner had asked what the Parish Council would be doing to mark VE Day. After discussion it was decided not to provide a Parish event.

7. Parish Plan Working Groups. The Meeting reports received from working groups.

7.1 Defibrillator Group. See following report from C. Diggins and Gerda Gibbs

'Annual refresher training for the defibrillator volunteers

Roxy King of East Coast Community Health Care C.I.C. has agreed to provide us with refresher training once more. We are very pleased that she has agreed to do this as her training was excellent. Subject to the availability of sufficient defibrillator volunteers, this will take place on Thursday 20th March at 7pm.

It is proposed that we invite others in the community to attend so that as many people as possible are familiar with using the defibrillator.

As agreed at the last Parish Council meeting, we will give Roxy a gift voucher to the value of £50. Village Hall rent will amount to £20 and the Parish Council is asked to fund this.

The Meeting agreed to fund the £20 Village Hall fee for the above Training. Proposer: C. Diggins; Seconder G. Gibbs. All in Favour.

7.2 Green and Environment Group See following Report from the Group.

'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.

The event was planned together with the Somerleyton School, and we are hoping to be able to re-arrange with the school during their science week.

Recycling

The Tetra Pak bin collection continues with the help of a team of volunteers.

Pavement gritting

During the cold, frosty mornings the pavements in The Street have continued to be gritted by our volunteer team from The Cedars.

G&E Group Members: Jenni Livingstone, Doug Owen, Lindsay Martin, Steve Tull and Gerda Gibbs'

Latest news from the Group: The Food Waste bins are on order. Future plans include a walk.

7.3 Advice Information and Infrastructure Group. Nothing to report

7.4 Speed Awareness Group. D. Ainslie distributed graphs showing the speeds of vehicles as captured by the SID. The SID was placed at the Pond end of The Street over half term, to capture speeds of vehicles coming along past the parked cars on the stretch from Station Road to the Pond. There was no indication of speeding along this stretch. This compliance could be due to the presence of the SID, which will now be returned to the approach to the B1074 to capture speeds on that road at its junction with The Street.

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7.5 Monday Hub: See following report from the Group.

'Since our last Parish Council meeting in January, we have had an art class with pastels led by Sally Phillips. Sally's class was well attended and very much enjoyed by all who took part. (There were 23 people in attendance.) As a result of this success, Sally is thinking of holding some art classes in Somerleyton.

At the time of drafting this report we are preparing for a Gardener's Question Time on March 3rd with Bob Coutts, formerly Head Gardener at Somerleyton Hall. Questions are being collated for what we anticipate will be a popular and enjoyable event.

The final session will be held on Monday April 7th, when we look forward to a variety show by Radio Daze, fresh from their pantomime success. Again, we anticipate that this will be a very popular and enjoyable event.

Finances:

We anticipate a small deficit, as follows:

Current balance (to include payments due for village hall rent) = £55

Estimated forthcoming expenditure:

Refreshments: £15

Radio Daze expenditure (guesstimate): £60 max.

Chocolates for volunteers: £30

Total: £105

This will leave us with a deficit of £50. The Parish Council is kindly asked to make up the shortfall

Claire Diggins Gerda Gibbs Julia Griffith Jenni Livingston Neil Livingston Doug Owen Sue Read

S. Phillips proposed that a shortfall of up to £100 be funded by the Parish Council. Seconded D. Ainslie. All in Favour

8. Planning

8.1 Recent Applications

The Meeting noted the following Planning Application; the Meeting called by the Planning Committee of the Parish Council, and its Consultee response to the Broads' Authority.

Application No: BA/2024/0454/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of Marina to accommodate 15 residential moorings, upgrading of pontoons & parking area

Address: Somerleyton Marina, Somerleyton, Lowestoft, NR32 5QW

Applicant: Mr M Horton

Received 31st January. Meeting of the Parish Council's Planning Committee was held on Friday 14th February which was attended by 35 members of the Public. A number of issues of concern were raised. (See Minutes attached.)

The Parish Council Planning Committee agreed its consultee response, (also attached), which has been sent to the Broads Authority and published on its website.

8.2 Recent Decisions There have been none

9. Village Events – Review None.

10. Village Events – Forthcoming

Sunday 6th April: 10.00am Annual Litter Pick. Meet at the Village Hall. (If weather is inclement this event will be postponed to 13th April.)

Saturday 7th June: Summer Barn Dance at Manor Barn. There is now a small organising group of 6, who amongst other things will be looking for volunteers to organise Car Parking on the night.

11. Ashby Village Sign. N. Livingstone gave an update on the repairs to the Village Sign at Ashby. The frame has been repaired at a cost of £150 and the sign is now back in place.

N. Livingstone has obtained one quotation of £2500 for the repainting of the sign. He will now look for more quotations.

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12. Annual Parish Meeting. The Meeting agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will follow the same format as in previous years. N. Livingstone will organise beverages.

13. Finance. The Meeting agreed the Financial Risk Assessment/Management Plan for the next Financial Year. (2025-2026). Proposer: C. Diggins; Seconder: C. Reynolds. All in Favour.

14. Payments to be Approved. The meeting approved the following payments. Proposer: G. Gibbs; Seconder: D. Owen. All in Favour.

04/02	C. Diggins Warm Hub Supplies.	14.25
26/02	D Ainslie Music Downloads for Community Choir.	7.47
26/02	Clerk's Office Supplies	92.86

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

21/01	ESPA	Invitation to AGM
21/01	Sizewell C	Project Update
21/01	NPT&S	Spring Seminar
23/01	SALC	Devolution Update
31/01	ESC	Planning Data Link
31/01	NPT&S	Subscriber News
31/01	ESC	Culture in East Suffolk Network Events
31/01	C. Advice	Request for Volunteers
31/01	Sizewell C	Community Forum News
31/01	SCC	Learn Suffolk Newsletter
31/01	NPT&S	Courses on Offer
07/02	ESPA	AGM Update
07/02	SCC(KR)	Town and Parish Newsletter forwarded by K Robinson
07/02	CAS	Rural and Community Led Housing
07/02	SCC	Passenger Interest Group Minutes
07/02	ESC	Loft Insulation Offer
07/02	ESC	Planning Forum Presentation papers
07/02	NPT&S	Gov't Survey re Standards & Conduct
07/02	NCC	Notice of Emergency Road Closure at Browston
18/02	NPT&S	Spring Seminar
19/02	SOB	Suffolk on Board Timetable Updates
19/02	ESPA	East Suffolk Planning Alliance AGM Minutes
19/02	ESC	Green Issues Events from Green Forum
19/02	ESC	Ditto
19/02	ESC	Ditto
19/02	ESC	Green Issues: Surveys and Consultations
21/02	NPT&S	Subscriber News

16. Dates and Times of Next Meetings

Annual General Meeting: **Thursday 1st May at 7.15pm** in Somerleyton Village Hall

The Meeting approved the Change of Date for the AGM. This was due to the Village Hall being doubled booked for 8th May, and the first Thursday of May becoming available because of the cancellation of Elections.

Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 15th May at 7.30pm in Somerleyton Village Hall

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

There being no further Business, the Meeting closed at 8.20pm

SR/3/25