SOMERLEYTON ASHBY & HERRINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 4th September, 2025 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.15pm with the Public Forum

PUBLIC FORUM: Commenced at 7.15pm. There were 6 members of the Public in attendance.

Marina. Concern was raised by residents of Brickfields, about the redevelopment of the Marina, particularly regarding the access to and from the site. S. Phillips responded citing the consultee response by PC to the Planning Application. The Parish Council has been clear that it should be a condition of Planning Approval that this access should be improved and wide enough to allow two cars to pass. He advised them to look at the new proposed Broads Plan, which is currently out for consultation and can be viewed at local Libraries. This would give them the opportunity to gain a wider view of the Broads Authority's plans for the future. They can then respond with their concerns with regards to the Marina. He also said the Work on the Marina Development is not planned to commence before 2030, and to be finished before 2032.

Solar Farm. Request for information. The Chair responded with supporting info from J. Foster. The planned Solar Farm would spread over 6 fields; part of one field falls within our Parish Council boundary, but is not close to the Ashby Dell settlement, nor to Ashby Church. The total power of the proposed site is 30 megawatts. The land is low grade (3A/B). It is long term set aside. There is concern about how the power will be transferred from the Solar Farm to the Grid. The most direct route would be through Lound Lakes and would not be acceptable to local people. A Planning Application has been received by East Suffolk, but is not yet validated; the local East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown has asked for public consultation before this application proceeds.

Suffolk County Council. Councillor Robinson updated the Meeting on the SCC proposal for Local Government Re-Organisation. This follows a consultation with the public around a proposed One Suffolk Unitary Authority.

East Suffolk Council. Councillor Ashdown also gave an update on East Suffolk's preferences for Re-Organisation. He said that this would probably result in a proposal for three Unitary Authorities, but emphasised that the Business Case and Proposal would not be confirmed until later in September. He informed the Meeting that preparations were now beginning for a new Local Plan, to be completed by 2028/2029. This would include a call for new Sites for Development, and new Guidelines for Solar Farms. He reminded the Meeting that the next Community Partnership Meeting will be held on 25th September in Lound Village Hall, commencing at 6.00pm.

The Business Meeting of the Parish Council commenced at 7.36pm

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

1. **Apologies for Absence.** The Meeting accepted apologies from P, Johnson, R. Lindsay and S. Tull.
2. **Declarations of Interest** There were none.
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 last Meeting held on 3rd July 2025. Proposer: C Diggins; Seconder: N Livingstone. All in Favour.
5. **Clerk's Report on Ongoing Matters**
   5.1 The Clerk has sent a letter to Hugh, Lord Somerleyton regarding the allotments, reiterating the core concerns about the proposed diminution of this valuable community resource. Prior to its dispatch the letter had been circulated to Parish Councillors and approved by them. There has been no response from the recipient.

The Clerk has also sent a letter of thanks to Lord and Lady Somerleyton for the use of the Manor Barn for the Village Barn Dance.

The letter regarding the Savile Lea Bungalows has not yet been sent. On reflection, the Clerk felt that it would not be appropriate for her to write and send this. The Meeting considered the situation. It was agreed that a letter would not be sent, as the Landlord is apparently not currently considering selling the two bungalows other than to the tenants; or someone who would continue to let the properties to the existing tenants; or if either became vacant.

5.2 The Chair confirmed that the School has been given notice by Somerleyton Estate to vacate their allotment; the notice cites that the reconfiguring the provision of allotments is in accordance with the Local Plan. This is not correct; the document referred to is the 'Vision for Somerleyton', which was produced some years ago by Hugh, Lord Somerleyton. The Parish Council's Planning Committee will look into the matter.

6. **Requests from Parishioners.**

A parishioner has contacted the Clerk regarding the regular drop in internet speeds in the village. The Chair has discussed the matter with the parishioner and offered advice.

J. Griffith has been approached about signs in the village which are still indicating the Post Office and Shop. There is concern that this is misleading to visitors. The Meeting discussed the matter and J. Griffith agreed to inspect the signs to see how this misleading information may be erased. She will feed back to the Chair and Clerk.

Parish Plan Working Groups

The Meeting received/updates reports from working groups.

7.1 Defibrillator Group. C. Diggins reported that the Defibrillator is in good working order. She added that the defibrillator is now registered on The Circuit, a database of defibrillators that is maintained by the British Heart Foundation and used by the Ambulance Service to locate available defibrillators when a cardiac arrest is suspected.

7.2 Green and Environment Group. D. Owen updated the Meeting on plans for the Recycling Day on Saturday 27th September. Report Attached. The Green & Environment expects to break even on the costs of this day but asks that the Parish Council meets the cost of any shortfall from its Social Fund. The Meeting agreed this request. Proposer: S. Phillps; Seconder: C. Reynolds. All in Favour.

7.3 Advice, Information and Infrastructure Group. The seat around the tree near to the Play Equipment on The Green is deteriorating quickly. J. Foster informed the Meeting that it is on the programme to be dismantled in the next fortnight.

7.4 Speed Awareness Group. The Speed Indicator Device is not working. Councillor Robinson advised the Group to check the guarantee.

7.5 Warm Hub Group. Report. Attached. Councillor Ashdown has invited the Warm Hub Group to apply for a Grant from his budget. This should meet the full cost of the project.

8. **Co-option of New Parish Councillor.** The Meeting agreed the process for the co-option to the Vacancy on the Parish Council. The Vacancy will be announced on Noticeboards and online, with a deadline of mid-October for applications. Candidates will be interviewed at the next Parish Council Meeting. Notice of Co-Option attached.

9. **Planning.** The Meeting received the following updates from its Planning Committee.

9.1 Recent Applications:

Application No: BA/2024/0454/FUL

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

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

Applicant: Mr M Horton
This is confirmation of the amendment to the Application which reduces the number of moorings to 10. The Parish Council Meeting in July agreed that this anticipated change would not affect the Parish Council's response; this has been confirmed by our Planning Committee to East Suffolk Planners.

9.2 Recent Decisions:

Planning reference: DC/25/2238/FUL
Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension and porch addition.
Site address: 1 Saville Lea, The Street, Somerleyton, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 5PS
The Parish Council Planning Committee discussed this application and agreed that it had No Objection to this application. **Planning Permission granted by ESC on 4th August 2025.**

9.3 Broads Local Plan. The Parish Council is a Consultee. The consultation deadline is 26th September, and S. Phillps, Planning Committee Chair reported on progress in agreeing its response. See attached report.

9.4 Proposed Solar Farm Ashby/Lound. S Phillips up-dated the Meeting on this proposal which is in its very early stages, with no public consultation yet arranged and no Planning Application yet made. See attached report.

10. **Village Events-** Review. Saturday 5th July: The School Fete on the Village Green drew a good number of visitors, raising £4000 for School Funds.
11. **Village Events** – Forthcoming. Saturday 27th September: the Green & Environment Group will hold a Recycling Day. See details in the attached leaflet.
    Brick Kiln Tidy. The Meeting agreed that the Brick Kiln Tidy will commence at 10.00am on Sunday 5th October.
12. **Insurance.** The Meeting agreed that Councillors C. Diggins and C Reynolds will meet with the Parish Clerk/RFO to discuss and to recommend at the next Meeting, the Parish Council's Insurance provider for the year commencing 1st December 2025.
13. **Digital Presence.** The Meeting received the report from the Group considering the Parish Council's Digital Presence with regard to current regulations. It agreed with the Group's recommendations and noted the work needed to comply fully with regulations. The full report is attached.
14. **Payments to be Approved.** The Meeting approved the following payments.
    Proposer: C. Diggins; Seconder: D. Ainslie, All in Favour.

S. Read:	Clerk's Salary 1st Quarter	476.00
HMRC:	Clerk's Income Tax	119.00
Enix Ltd:	Web Hosting	84.00
SCA:	Village Hall Hire for Meetings (11hrs @ £10 per Hour)	110.00

15. **Correspondence.** J. Griffith asked the Meeting to order and distribute the leaflet produced by Safe Suffolk Renters to all private renters in our Villages. This was agreed. J Griffith will order the leaflets and co-ordinate distribution, with support from S. Phillips.

08-07 ESC:	Planning and Building Control Newsletter
08-07 NPT&S:	New Training Courses
08-07 info Sizewell:	June Project Update
08-07 RSN:	RSN Weekly News
08-07 ESC:	Funding Opportunities
08-07 NPT&S:	Training Opportunities
24-07 NPT&S:	Subscriber News

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24-07 RSN:	Weekly News
01-08 Keith R SCC:	July Newsletter
01-08 NPT&S:	Subscriber News
12-08 info Sizewell:	July Project Update
12-08 Suffolk Police:	Selling a Vehicle Advice from Brian Sivyer
12-08 JPH:	James Paget Hospital AGM
12-08 CAB:	Citizens Advice Bureau AGM
22-08 Groundwork:	Nature at Work Webinar
22-08 ESC:	**Safe Suffolk Renters. Free Resources**
22-08 RSN:	Weekly News
22-08 NPT&S:	Training Update

16. **Dates and Times of Next Meetings:**
    Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 6th November 2025

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

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