# SOMERLEYTON ASHBY & HERRINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

There were two members of the public in attendance; one an applicant for co-option to the Parish Council; the other wishing to raise questions and concerns about the planning application to improve facilities and provide moorings for residential boats at Somerleyton Marina. The Chair answered a number of questions about the proposals; and the Broads Plan which is under revision and which supports the up-dating and improvement at the Marina. The Chair gave details of how the enquirer may access the relevant documents through the Public Access website.

East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown updated the Meeting on the re-organisation of Local Government. East Suffolk is in favour of three Unitary Authorities in Suffolk. One would be largely the current East Suffolk, but would not include Felixstowe. He hoped that this proposal would preserve and may improve the contact of councillors with their electors. It would continue to be based at Melton with an Office at Riverside in Lowestoft. Independent of this review, there would be at Strategic level, an elected Mayor for the whole of Suffolk and Norfolk.

Before moving on to the Business Meeting, The Chair told the Meeting that he had been checking what the correct title of our Parish Council should be**.** He believes that it should be: **Somerleyton Ashby & Herringfleet Parish Council,** but is waiting for confirmation of this.

**The Business Meeting commenced at 7.38 pm**

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

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies due to ill health were accepted from P. Johnson. Apologies too, from County Councillors E. Back and K. Robinson
2. **Declarations of Interest** in items on the agenda. There were none.
3. **Requests for Dispensation.** There were none.
4. **Co-Option to Parish Councillor Vacancy.**

a) In accordance with Standing Order 3(d), the Meeting resolved to exclude from the Meeting the press and public owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Proposer: S. Phillips; Seconder: C Reynolds. All in Favour.

b) Parish Councillors considered the application of I. Lomax, the Applicant for the Parish Councillor vacancy. It was agreed unanimously to co-opt Mr Lomax to the Parish Council. Proposer: D. Owen; Seconder: D. Ainslie. All in Favour.

P. Ashdown and I. Lomax returned to the Meeting. The Chair invited I. Lomax to join the Parish Council and he signed the Acceptance of Office of Office.

5. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Meeting approved and the Chair signed as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13th September 2025. Proposer: D. Ainslie; Seconder: C. Reynolds. All in Favour.
6. **Clerk's Report on Ongoing Matters.**

6.1 Green Lane/Blundeston Road junction. The Clerk had heard back from the local Highways Manager, who has undertaken to visit the site with Councillor Robinson to decide how to respond to local concern about the signage at this junction.

The Meeting learnt that the Clerk has liaised with the Clerk at Blundeston and Flixton about the hedges at Peto's Corner, the right-angled bend at the crossroads of the B1074, which is close to the border between our Parish Councils. The Meeting noted the concerns of Blundeston Parish Council, acknowledged that this potentially dangerous section of the B1074 is heavily used by our

parishioners. The Clerk has linked the Blundeston Clerk with the appropriate Manager at Somerleyton Estate.

6.2 The circular seat has been removed from around the tree on The Green. The plaque has not been located. It may come to light when the pieces are collected together for disposal. J. Foster to organise this. With regard to the moving of the bench in the corner of The Green, towards the Play Equipment, D. Ainslie said that the bench was regularly used in its current position. It was agreed that the Infrastructure Group would consider the purchase of a new bench for the Play Equipment area. This could be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy balance, which needs to be spent by next summer.

6.3 J. Griffith up-dated the Meeting on the misleading wooden signposts in the village. She has examined the wooden signposts; it will not be an easy task to remove the misleading information, as the posts are made of extremely hard wood. The Parish Council will take this on. Chair to organise a group.

**7. Requests from Parishioners.**

7.1 A parishioner has approached J. Griffith with concerns about the Post Office. He had been told by the Post Office employee that his working conditions were poor. The interior is cold and dirty with a broken window. He clearly does not enjoy his visits to Somerleyton. The point was made that his employer would be responsible for ensuring his working conditions are satisfactory. It seems that he is not directly employed by the Post Office. The parishioner uses the service weekly and is concerned that it may be at risk. The Clerk will write to the Somerleyton Estate Manager about these concerns.

7.2 The Meeting noted that it has been a year since a group was established to address the dump of green waste into the Jam. Alternative ways of dealing with this waste have been considered, but a solution has proved problematic; not least because the practice of using the Jam to dump green waste has been established over a long period of time. It was agreed that the group, (S. Tull, J. Griffith and N. Livingstone) would combine with the Green and Environment Group to look for a solution to which all parties could agree.

**8. Parish Plan Working Groups.** The Meeting received reports and updates from working groups.

8.1 Defibrillator Group Nothing to report.

8.2 Green & Environment Group. The Meeting received the attached report. The Meeting agreed to fund replacement combination padlocks for the grit bin which went missing when the bin was refilled. Proposer: D. Ainslie, Seconder C. Reynolds. All in Favour.

8.3 Advice, Information & Infrastructure Group. The Group has received a report from the Play Equipment Inspector, that a number of repairs need to be made.

8.4 Speed Awareness Group. The Speed Indicator Device is not working and may be no longer fit for purpose. The Group will contact Councillor Robinson, to discuss how or if it can be repaired, and if it is not repairable to ascertain whether it can be replaced.

8.5 Warm Hub Group. The Meeting received the attached Report from C. Diggins. The Warm Hub has started well; with a successful Cookery Demonstration from Nanna Lay.

**9. Planning.**

**9.I Recent Applications.** The Meeting noted the following Consultee activity by the Parish Council's Planning Committee**.**

Ref. No: DC/25/3290/LBC Listed Building Consent - Install EV charger on inside of car port
The Rosery, The Street Somerleyton Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5PS **The Parish Council supported this application.**

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Ref. No: DC/25/3466/FUL, 2 Savile Lea, The Street, Somerleyton, LOWESTOFT, NR32 5PS. To install two vent covers to the front elevation and to install 10x solar panels to the roof at the rear of the property, these will be attached to the roof using fastenol roof mounting system**. The Parish Council supported this application**

Ref No: DC/25/2791/FUL

Placement of 6 repurposed beach huts for the use of Somerleyton Men's Shed headquarters. North East Corner of Somerleyton Playing Field Adjacent to Cricket Ground, Station Road Somerleyton Suffolk

The Planning Committee of the Parish Council met to consider this application on Thursday 16th October. Members of the Public were invited to give their views. These were all positive.

The Planning Committee then met in a formal Meeting to consider the application.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should support this application. All were in favour

**9.2 Recent Decisions. Ref. No: DC/25/3290/**LBC Listed Building Consent - Install EV charger on inside of car port at The Rosery, The Street Somerleyton Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5PS **The Parish Council supported this application. Application Permitted.**

**9.3 Planning Application for Solar Farm** DC/25/2853/FUL | Construction, operation, maintenance and eventual decommissioning of a circa 30MW Solar Farm comprising the construction of solar panels mounted on metal frames, inverters, auxiliary transformer, substation, storage container, DNO substation, new access tracks, underground cabling, perimeter fencing with CCTV cameras and access gates, landscaping, temporary construction compound, and all ancillary grid infrastructure and associated site works. | Land At Ashby Dell Border Lane Somerleyton, Ashby and Herringfleet Suffolk NR32 5EE

S. Phillips presented the attached report and informed the Meeting that the Parish Council Planning Committee will hold a Public Meeting on Thursday 13 November. Members of the Public will be invited to learn about this application and share their views. The Planning Committee will then decide on its response as Consultee.

**9.4 East Suffolk Local Plan: Call for Sites**. S. Phillips said that it is likely that Somerleyton Estate will respond. The Parish Council will monitor this process, and will respond to any request for consultation.

**10.Village Events – Review.**

Sunday 5th October Brick Kiln Tidy**; a** successful morning's work.

Saturday 27th September Green and Environment Group's Recycling Day. Another successful event. See G&E Report at item 8.2.

**11.Village Events – Forthcoming.**

Friday 5th December 6.30pm (to be confirmed). Xmas lights switch- on followed by carol singing around the village. The Parish Council has agreed to fund the beverages, at Crown House afterwards, in the sum of £65.

**12. Finance.** The Meeting received the Second Quarter Financial Report ending 29th September 2025.

**13.Insurance**. The Meeting learned that the Clerk is continuing to request Proposals and Quotations for the Parish Council's Insurance; the Group will convene when she has sufficient to be able to compare, and seeks the go-ahead from this Meeting to choose the most appropriate for our needs. This was given.

**14. Payments to be Approved.** The Meeting approved the following payments:

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| 09/09 | Enix Domain Renewal | 7.80 |
| 01/10 | S. Read Clerk's Salary 3rd Quarter | 476.00 |
| 01/10 | HMRC Clerk's Income Tax | 119.00 |

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06/11 Women's Link: Beverages at Xmas Lights Switch-on/Carols 65.00

Proposer: C. Reynolds; Seconder: C. Diggins. All in Favour.

15/10 Sally Phillips Hall Hire and Materials for Free Art Class for Children 50.00

Please note: This payment was made prior to this Meeting with the agreement of the Vice Chair, because the event was Imminent. The Clerk read a report from Sally Phillips learning that this Free Art Class was attended by 8 children and parents who had a great time. The Meeting approved this payment as a separate item. Proposer: N. Livingstone; Seconder D. Ainslie. All in Favour. N.B. S. Phillips declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion or vote.

**15.Correspondence.** The Meeting noted the following particular items of correspondence. D. Owen attended the Green-Issues organised Visit to Holton Pits, which was very good.

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| 04/09 | Update on Local Government Re-organisation |
| 16/09 BA | Local Plan for The Broads Reminder to Stakeholders |
| 16/09 PCC | Public Meeting Dates |
| 16/09 SCC | Local Government Re-Organisation |
| 16/09 BFI | Broadland Futures Newsletter |
| 16/09 KYB | Business Guidance |
| 16/09 ESPA | Notes of Meeting held on 9th June |
| 16/09 SCC | Bus Passenger Meeting |
| 01/10 Sizewell | Community Newsletter |
| 01/10 Groundwork UK | Nature at Work One-to-One |
| 01/10 RSN | Weekly News |
| 01/10 ESC | Housing Position Statement |
| 02/10 ESCEP | Energy Projects Meeting |
| 02/10 ESC | 'Game Lowestoft' Briefing |
| 16/10 SCC | Learn Suffolk Adult Learning Service |
| **16/10 ESC** | **'Green Issues' Visit to Holton Pits** |
| 28/10 SCC | October Town & Parish Newsletter |
| 28/10 ESC | New Street Trading Policy |

**16. Forthcoming Meetings.**

**Thursday 22nd January 2026:** Parish Council Meeting commencing at 7.15pm in the Village Hall

There being no further Business the Meeting ended at 8.42pm

Sue Read parish.clerk@ashvillages.org.uk 01502 450623
Parish Clerk
31st October 2025