SOMERLEYTON ASHBY & HERRINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 2nd July 2026 commencing at 7.15 p.m. in Somerleyton Village Hall

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum commenced at 7.20pm. There was one member of the public in attendance, who was there to observe the Meeting rather than raise an issue.

The Chair then invited the East Suffolk and Suffolk County Councillors to speak.

East Suffolk Councillor Ashdown informed the Meeting that not every household had received their new black bin yet. This prompted concern from the Meeting that the collection of food caddies had been absent during the very hot weather with the result that food was rotting, and in at least one case the contents were infected with maggots. Councillor Ashdown appreciated that this was unsatisfactory. He agreed to pass on concerns to the Operations Manager.

Suffolk County Councillor Sutton who had been elected on 7th May, told the Meeting that these were early days for County Councillors, and he had no changes or developments to report yet.

The Meeting of the Parish Council commenced at 7.25pm

In attendance were: D. Ainslie, C. Diggins, J. Foster, J. Griffith, I. Lomax, D. Owen, S. Phillips (In Chair), C. Reynolds, N. Livingstone and S. Tull. Also in attendance were East Suffolk Councillor P. Ashdown and Suffolk County Councillor P. Sutton.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** No apologies had been received
2. **Declarations of Interest** in Items on the Agenda None declared
3. **Requests for Dispensation** No requests received.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Meeting approved and the Chair signed as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2026. Proposer: C Diggins; Seconder: I. Lomax. All in Favour.

5.Clerk's Report on Ongoing Matters

21. Parking on The Street at School drop off and pick up. Following the Meeting on May 14th, the Clerk has had further contact with the School Admin worker, who has contacted Somerleyton Estate about the possibility of the field adjacent to the School being used as a car park at peak times. The Clerk has passed on contact details of the new County Councillor. The school have been in touch with Suffolk Highways, who have advised that the School would need to speak with the Parish Council initially. The Clerk has asked for the contact details of the officer who advised this. The School have bought traffic cones to line the riskiest part of The Street during peak times. Parents seem to be using the Forge Garage site to park. The Meeting noted that the provision of a safe car park for children and their parents was implicit in the Neighbourhood Plan, and there have been discussions about this for a number of years. The School will continue to press the matter with the Estate and the Tenant Farmer who rents the field adjacent to the School.

6. Requests from Parishioners

The Clerk has been approached by two parishioners and by Councillor Diggins about the irregular timing of the collection of food caddies by East Suffolk Council. One has not been collected for 4 weeks and now contains maggots. This was discussed during the Public Forum, and Councillor Ashdown advised that the Head of Service be contacted. It was suggested that the staff collecting the food caddies have not been fully trained on their routes.

7. Parish Plan Working Groups

The Meeting is asked to receive reports from working groups and to make decisions on any

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 2nd July 2026 commencing at 7.15 p.m. in Somerleyton Village Hall

recommendations.

7.1 Defibrillator Group. The Meeting received the report from C. Diggins. The Meeting agreed to fund her proposal that an updated leaflet should be delivered to all homes in the three villages. The sum of £23.50, seconded by D. Ainslie, was agreed with all in favour.

7.2 Green and Environment Group. The Group plans to run a Bat Walk on the 4th September. It will start from Home Farm.

7.3 Advice and Information Group. Nothing to report.

7.4 Speed Awareness Group. Suffolk County Councillor Sutton will investigate whether the Parish Council can have a Speed Indicator Device of its own; preferably with an encouraging smiling face, rather than the stark '30mph' notice of the previous sign.

7.5 Warm Hub. C. Diggins presented her report on the successful Warm Hub season. This has again been a well-attended, much enjoyed monthly event; which has been delivered within the Grant awarded by East Suffolk Council.

8. Annual Parish Meeting.

35 people attended the Annual Parish Meeting. All but 2 were electors from our three Villages. It was a sociable occasion with a good range of reports and plans for the future from local organisations. The Formal Meeting was chaired by I. Lomax. (APM minutes will be available to view on the Main Noticeboard in Somerleyton and on the Parish Website). To round the evening off the Community Choir sang some familiar songs, and Revd. Andrew Avery gave a warm and wise account of his first year as Rector of the Somerleyton Benefice.

J. Griffith asked the Meeting to consider the purchase of a microphone to make it easier to hear speakers in the Hall. S. Phillips will investigate.

9. Planning.

9.1 Recent Applications:

DC/26/1874/TCA

Application: Received: Wed 20 May 2026

Address: Rose Dene The Street Somerleyton Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5QB

Proposal 1no. Oak (marked on submitted plan) - Prune overhanging branches back to boundary

Status Awaiting decision. Parish Council has no objection.

9.2 Recent Decisions None

9.3 Solar Farm Nothing new to report.

9.4 New Local Plan S. Phillips updated the Meeting on the process of the New Local Plan. It is at In the scoping stage with no concrete proposals yet. He reminded the Meeting that this is not Simply about building houses; but about what we want our village to look like. The Parish Council will be holding a Meeting on 16th July to open the discussion with parishioners.

10. Village Events- Review.

Monday 25th May: Spring Nature Walk went very well; a good collaborative event with Somerleyton Estate.

Saturday 6th June: Grandma's Attic was well supported.

Sunday 7th June: Open Garden at Manor Farm. Very successful event. £860 raised from refreshments will go to Herringfleet Church Funds.

11 Village Events – Forthcoming. 4th July School Fete on The Green; a highlight of village life.

12. Concerns about the Changing Nature of Somerleyton.

12.1. The Meeting noted the exchange of letter and email between the Parish Council and Hugh, Lord Somerleyton on the closure of this popular local business. This important and flourishing enterprise and its popular owners will be sorely missed by both residents and visitors.

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 2nd July 2026 commencing at 7.15 p.m. in Somerleyton Village Hall

12.2. The Meeting to addressed the concerns of C. Diggins and J. Griffith that the sale of houses, hitherto providing housing to people who want to live long term in the village, may be purchased for second home ownership or for holiday rentals. They asked the Parish Council to ascertain whether a cap on the number of such uses can be instigated, and by whom. There is a number of steps the Parish Council can take that could protect the character of our villages. This would require liaising with East Suffolk Council. It agreed that a Group of Parish Councillors should be formed to take this forward, and to report back to the September Meeting. It was agreed that
I. Lomax, C. Diggins and J. Griffith would take this task on. The Group will speak with Melanie Seabrook, and liaise too with the Councillor in Southwold who has had some success in stemming the increase of second homes and holiday lettings in the town.

13. Tipping Of Waste into The Jam. The Meeting noted that all parties are happy with the proposals to fence the part of the Jam where the tipping is taking place.

14. Request from Somerleyton Award Charities for a new Nominative Trustee, to replace Sue Read, who resigned at the last Meeting of the Trustees. The Clerk will prepare a notice for posting on the Parish Council Noticeboard, and through 'Somerleyton Together'.

15. Update on the Recruitment of a Parish Councillor following Ron Lindsay's resignation. The Vacancy has been advertised on the Parish Noticeboard. If there are no applicants by 9th July the Parish Council will be able to advertise and co-opt to the vacancy.

16. Review of Assets. The Chair, Vice Chair and new Clerk will inspect Assets during July and report back to the September Meeting.

17. Finance.

17.1 The Accounts for the year, which were approved at the AGM have now reached the Public Right to View stage which will run until Friday 24th July.

17.2 The Meeting received the First Quarterly Financial Report, to end of June 2026.

18. Payments to be Approved.

Sue Read, Clerk. Reimburse: Wine and Fruit Juice for Annual Parish Meeting 18.12

19. Correspondence.

The Meeting noted the following items of correspondence

13/05 ESC:	Quality of Place Awards
13/05 NPT&S:	Training Opportunities
13/05nwl.co.uk:	Suffolk Water Recycling
13/05 ESC:	Rest Centre Training
13/05 ESC:	Thriving Places Investment Fund
13/05 ESC:	App available re changes to recycling
04/06 Sizewell C:	Construction Update
04/06 ESPA:	Update
04/06 SCC:	Trading Standards: Stamp Out Rogue Traders
04/06 escep.org	Local Impact Assessment of National Grid Ventures
04/06 ESC:	Local Plan Timetable
04/06 ESC:	Green Issues Event
04/06 ESC:	Invitation to Local Plan Briefing
17/06 ESC:	Ditto: Invitation to Local Plan Briefing

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 2nd July 2026 commencing at 7.15 p.m. in Somerleyton Village Hall

20. Dates and Times of Next Meetings:

Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 16th July 2026
Scheduled Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 10th September 2026.

Sue Read parish.clerk@ashvillages.org.uk 01502 5077726