SOMERLEYTON, ASHBY AND HERRINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 16th July, 2026, commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Parish Council response to the East Suffolk Council Scoping Consultation on the New Local Plan

The Public Forum commenced at 7.30pm. There were 58 people in attendance.
The Chair, Simon Phillips, gave a presentation outlining the purpose of the consultation and how the new local Plan might affect Somerleyton Ashby & Herringfleet. During and following the presentation he sought the views of those present.
The existing Local Plans' allocation of 54 dwellings in Somerleyton will result in a 44% increase in the dwellings within the settlement boundary. The meeting was unanimous that until the housing allocation under the existing East Suffolk Local Plan and the residential moorings allocated under the Broads local Plan are complete and the effects of such a large number of new residents are fully known no further sites should be allocated for development. It was further agreed that none of the new sites proposed in the Call for Sites consultation is suitable for development in its own right.
The Parish Council was requested to attempt to have Somerleyton's designation as a "large village" removed because Somerleyton has a much smaller population than other "large villages".
Claire Diggins outlined the Parish Council's concern that too many second homes and houses for short term let has a detrimental effect on the cohesion of the community and the measures the Parish Council has taken and is proposing to take to attempt to limit these. The meeting supported these. The Chair said that some of the actions will be best accomplished by amending the Neighbourhood Plan and that this Parish Council will be meeting with Lound Parish Council, with whom the Plan is shared, in September to agree a programme of amendment.
When considering infrastructure, the meeting requires much improved mobile signal coverage throughout the parish.

At the completion of the presentation and public questions the general public were invited to stay for the formal Parish Council meeting but all departed.

The Business Meeting of the Parish Council commenced at 8.40pm

In attendance were: C. Diggins, J. Foster, J. Griffith, N. Livingstone, S. Phillips (In Chair and note taker), C. Reynolds and S. Tull. Also in attendance was new Clerk R Lark.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** received from P. Johnson, who is unwell, I Lomax and D Ainslie.
2. **Declarations of Interest** in items on the Agenda. None.
3. **Requests for Dispensation.** The Meeting will decide any requests for dispensation to participate in discussion and voting despite disclosable pecuniary interest(s). None.
4. **Discussion of the questionnaire.** The questionnaire was discussed and the Parish Council responses were agreed. S Phillips will complete the questionnaire and forward it to Parish Councillors before it is submitted.
5. **Next meeting.** Will be the scheduled Parish Council meeting on 10th September 2026

The meeting ended at 9.20pm