SOMERLEYTON ASHBY & HERRINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 10th September 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 raised an issue regarding speeding through the street, leading to the death of three ducklings. The speed limit is currently at 30mph however it was suggested that a speed of 20mph should be revisited as 30pmh is too fast for a small village. Also Slugs Lane the signage for the 30mph is hidden behind overgrown foliage. A question was asked regarding the speed indicator sign which was broken and if this was going to be fixed or if we will be obtaining a new one.
East Suffolk Councillor Paul Ashdown stated normal district elections will take place in May next year considering the upheaval of the 3 Councils has been paused. There is a planning meeting tomorrow (Friday 11th September) which will be very informative and he encourages at least one or two Councillors to attend. As from November 2026 planning meetings will go down to every 2 months rather than monthly. Paul has spoken to Melissa about the Solar Farm Planning and this will be looked at in October by the Planning Committee however both Somerleyton, Ashby and Herringfleet Parish Council and Lound Council can attend the meeting where if wanted both can give a speech on this for a maximum of 3 minutes. From the 1st of November any property decisions will be delegated by the office however Council will still be asked an opinion. Mill Farm and the Old Forge has been agreed upon. If there is a material change within this application, Council will get another look at it. The meeting is scheduled for the 2nd week of October. Paul will let either Simon (Chair) or Rebekah (Clerk) know the exact date.
Suffolk County Councillor Paul Sutton began by saying the speed indicator can't be fixed so a new one will have to be obtained, he is willing to find out a price for a new one. It was said that a new one can cost anywhere between £3,000 to £5,000 or more depending on the one you get as there is now a variety of them. D.Ainslie, heading the Speed Awareness Group, said that the old speeding indicator picked up on 7,000 car speeds and only 70 of these were over 35mph. It was asked if something would work more effectively on reducing speeding rather than the speed indicators, like speed bumps or rumble strips. Paul said he can investigate but there are strict regulations in regards to having speed bumps or rumble strips but he will investigate all options and let Council know in the next meeting in November.

The Meeting of the Parish Council commenced at 7:40pm
In attendance were: S.Tull, C.Reynolds, D.Owen, S.Phillips, I.Lomax, J.Griffith, D.Ainslie, C.Diggins, J.Foster. Also, in attendance East Suffolk Councillor P.Ashdown and Suffolk County Councillor P.Sutton.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** P.Johnson and N.Livingstone. Apologies were accepted by Council.
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 minutes of the meeting from the 2nd of July approved by C.Diggins and seconded by D.Owen.
The minutes of the meeting from the 16th of July approved by S.Tull and seconded by C.Diggins.

5.Clerk's Report on Ongoing Matters.
Nothing to report.

6. Requests from Parishioners.
Nothing to report.

7. Parish Plan Working Groups
The Meeting is asked to receive reports from working groups and to make decisions on any recommendations.
7.1 Defibrillator Group.
The meeting received a report from C.Diggins. Council is awaiting reimbursement for the termination

of the VETS line.

7.2 Green and Environment Group.

The meeting received a report from D.Owen. The Group plans to run a Bat Walk on the 11th of September meeting at 19:15pm at the Village Hall, Somerleyton and finishing at 20:30pm at the Dukes Head.

7.3 Advice and Information Group.

The meeting received a report from S.Phillips. Investigation into obtaining a microphone system was done after the July Parish Meeting where one suitable was found. An amount of up to £200 would be required to buy a suitable system, all Councillors were in agreement for this amount to be spent.

7.4 Speed Awareness Group.

As previously stated in the public forum Suffolk County Councillor P.Sutton will investigate the best option to help reduce the speed. J.Foster has offered his help to D.Ainslie on this matter going forward. There will be a report made to Suffolk Highways regarding the overgrown foliage covering the 30mph sign.

7.5 Warm Hub.

A meeting took place on Monday the 7th of September where after careful consideration it was decided the Warm Hub will cease after 4 great years. The decision was not made lightly however due to a decrease in members, main leaders having other commitments and it becoming increasingly difficult to generate fresh ideas for the programme, it was ultimately decided it was time to finish. C.Diggins expressed her gratitude for all the help received, for the speakers who came in to present and for East Suffolk Council, mainly Paul Ashdown for all his support over the years. J.Griffith said that the Council was extremely thankful for Claire for all her hard work, commitment and for being a brilliant leader.

8. Planning:

22nd July – BA/2024/0454/FUL – APPROVED

Change of use of Marina to accommodate residential moorings upgrading of pontoons and parking area.

10th August – DC/26/2673/LBC – APPROVED

Listed Building Consent – Repair and reinstate aviary, incorporate a new surface water drainage and remove concrete floor.

24th August – DC/26/2883/TCA

Tree work at the Crown House, The Street. Council has supported this and an email will be sent.

Water pipe from East Suffolk Water. S.Phillips and D.Owen attended a pre-meeting in Beccles and advised the committee of Council's point of view. It was expressed how roads shouldn't be dug up. The planning committee will look at this and decide if more of a discussion will be required. The application hasn't been made; this meeting was just a consultation of what is needed to be included.

9.Village Events – Forthcoming.

11th September the Bat Walk will be commencing. Next year on the 3rd of May it has been noted this will be the Spring Nature Walk and either the 5th or 12th of June will be the Green Day.

10. Concerns about the changing nature of Somerleyton.

The upcoming changes will include the neighbourhood plan which will be amended with Lound Parish Council as both share this plan. S.Phillips said there is hope to meet with Lound Parish Council soon to discuss this, C.Diggins and I.Lomax have expressed their interest in attending this meeting. C.Diggins had previously been in contact with East Suffolk Council regarding this matter. It was said that the new officer taking on this role is Dickens. Council is still passionate about preventing the amount of 2nd homes and holiday homes in the three Parishes. Unfortunately, there is 23 empty properties at the moment. One home at present has been registered as a second home.

11. Tipping of waste into the Jam.

Nothing to report.

12. Request from Somerleyton Award Charities for a new nominative Trustee.

An advertisement will be put out with a closing date of mid-October. Once applications have obtained three or more Councillors will need to go through the paperwork and pick a suitable candidate to

nominate. I.Lomax, J.Diggins and C.Reynolds have volunteered to go through the applications.

13. Update on the recruitment of a new Parish Councillor.
Advertisement will be going out promptly after the Parish Council meeting and this will stay open until close to the November meeting where all applicates will be invited to that meeting.

14. Review of Assets.
Review was completed on the 13th of August, the report was sent out to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that the all the noticeboards needed to be rubbed down, oiled and the hinges re-aligned. I.Lomax will be taking care of the Ashby noticeboard. J.Foster said he potentially has some Danish Oil that can be used for them. The telephone kiosk has broken windows and looks like an eyesore; it was agreed to ask the Estate to dispose of it. Following the decision on the telephone kiosk it was said about the garage site it currently stands on, which belongs to the Estate, which equally looks run down and derelict. All agreed a letter to the Estate stating the Councils disappointment in the abandoned state of the site and how it would be appreciated if it was cleared and the telephone kiosk removed.

15. Payments to be approved:
30th June – Sue's Tax - £135.20
30th June – Sue's Pay - £540.80
6th July – Climbing Frame Repair - £30.00
10th July – Sue AGM Drinks - £18.12
20th July – Sue's Tax - £35.60
20th July – Sue's Pay - £142.40
31st July – PC Website Host - £90.00

S.Phillips left the room at this time as it was discussed about Sally Phillips requesting financial help for the Children's Art session on Wednesday the 29th of October. A request of £50 for 3 hours at £10, materials and use of the hall. - Agreed all in favour. C.Reynolds proposed payments and I.Lomax seconded.

S.Phillips returned back to the room.

16.Correspondence:
3/8 – Neighbourhood planning online workshop – Sat 19th September
5/8 – East Suffolk Community Partnership Forum Registration open
5/8 – Suffolk Highways grit bins
20/8 – Town and Parish Forum Sep 2026
20/8 – Citzen Advice East Suffolk AGM Invitation
20/8 – Greenprint summer newsletter
20/8 – Greenprint member's events update
20/8 – Invitation to site visit 2nd Sep
20/8 – Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045 Scoping Consultation
20/8 – East Suffolk Council Community Cycle Parking Fund
1/9 – PCC Update Suffolk Police
3/9 – Suffolk WRTS. Suffolk Water Recycling transfer and storage. EIA Scoping, consultation and regulation. Deadline 30th Sep

17. Date and time of next Parish Council meeting.
5th November at 7:15pm
Refreshments Steve

Rebekah Lark – Clerk SAH – parish.clerk@ashvillages.org.uk - 07534250260