

Somerford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 July 2024

Holmes Chapel Community Centre, 7.00pm

Present

- Councillor Geoff Bell (Chairman)
- Councillor Jeanette Hardman
- Councillor Paul Crompton
- Councillor Simon Hughes
- Councillor Bill Chorlton
- Councillor Trevor Massey
- Mr Carlton Evans – Clerk

Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Chorlton – Loachbrook Estate discussions
- Cllr Hardman – Loachbrook Estate discussions

Part 1 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

100/24 - Apologies

- Cllr Derbyshire (prior commitments)

101/24 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 June 2024 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

102/24 Accounts

See Annex 1

The Council **resolved** that from now on the Clerk is authorised to pay the TCS Management payroll fee as it is a recurring fixed amount, even though it is above the usual £50.00 delegated authority limit.

103/24 Ward Councillor Report

No report in Councillor Wray's absence.

104/24 Planning Applications

24/2167C - 164A, HOLMES CHAPEL ROAD, Retrospective permission for a dormer roof extension and oak porch.

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to this application.

24/2242C - 36 Blackfirs Lane, resubmission of refused 24/1720C, non-material amendment to approved application 16/0325C.

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to this application.

24/2230C - 21, BLACK FIRS LANE, SOMERFORD, CW12 4QG Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling.

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to this application.

24/2367C - Land to the north of the existing Radnor Park Trading Estate and to the east of Back Lane - Reserved Matters Application for electrical substation and associated high-voltage cabling

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to this application.

24/2093C - 1, CYPRESS GROVE, CW12 4ZD Demolition of existing bay window & single storey side/rear extension.

The Council **resolved** to object to this application on the grounds that the design and choice of materials is not sympathetic to the house and neighbouring properties. The apex of the proposed extension is quite high and as such it will negatively affect the visual amenity for the neighbouring properties and the area more generally.

105/24 - Spring/Summer Newsletter

Councillors undertook to make any final changes in the next 48 hours and the Clerk will then send it for printing and posting.

106/24 - Somerford Chapel Support

Cllr Massey had had discussions with those parishioners who look after the chapel about installing outdoor matting to improve the car parking facilities. They are very supportive and suggested covering an even larger area than initially proposed, and would also support getting water to the church and the possible installation of toilet facilities. Chairman Bell will visit the site again to take more measurements for the car park.

107/24 Rhead's Meadows

Unforeseen availability problems with our usual contractor had meant that the planned re-varnishing of some of the RM benches and the re-siting of the latest bench had not been completed. Chairman Bell will contact him again. Chairman Bell and the Clerk had visited the Meadows with a representative from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust to seek their advice about future plans/maintenance etc. They were delighted by how the project is progressing and suggested they might be able to top, bale and remove the grasses and wildflowers, and the Clerk will contact the CWT to discuss this further.

Chairman Bell was disappointed however by the amount of dock, ragwort and thistle that is growing there. He has contacted a contractor and asked them to tackle these in the next few days. CWT had also said that they might be willing to enter into a longer term contract for the maintenance of the Meadows.

108/24 Blackfirs Wood

Chairman Bell and the Clerk had also visited the Wood with CWT. Again, they were very pleased with what we had done though we noted that the Himalayan balsam was still a problem. However, CWT were less concerned about the brambles taking over, though we could take some action to make sure that the brambles and ferns don't encroach onto the paths. The Clerk will look into replacing the current information board by the pond.

109/24 Highways

The Council noted again that there was a good deal of speeding or car racing on the Link Road causing a nuisance for parishioners especially in the late evening. The Clerk has invited the new Police and Crime Commissioner to meet us and discuss the matter.

110/24 Housing Developments

Cllr Hardman reported that the drainage contractors had not given a date for their return. If they don't by September, Bovis/Vistry will have the roads topped-off during October and November so that they at least have the appearance of being finished, even though the drains might not be completed. Cllr Hardman will prepare a briefing note for the new Congleton MP to make her aware of all outstanding matters.

111/24 Chairman and Members' reports

Cllr Hughes reported that while walking his dogs recently in the parish, they and he had been attacked by two large huskies who were not on leads and clearly not under control. The Clerk will contact the PCSO to report the incident.

112/24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk will resend the instructions for setting up our new email accounts as some appeared not to have received them. He will schedule a full discussion on additional or replacement signage across the parish at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 2050 hrs.

X

Chairman

Annex 1 – Accounts

Finances as of 30 June 2024:

Account Balance: **£27,521.70**

The Council Noted the following payments since 31 May 2024:

- £53.36 – NEST, Clerk Pension
- £41.25 – HCCS Room Hire
- £50.00 – Mr Gary Roberts, Internal Auditor
- £153.17 – HMRC PAYE
- £630.42 – Clerk Salary

The Council Noted the following receipts since 31 May 2024:

- £NIL

The Council **resolved to approve the following payments:**

- £162.00 – Community Heartbeat Trust for Defib support package
- £69.12 - TCS Management for payroll services