

Somerford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 March 2025

Holmes Chapel Community Centre, 7.00pm

Present

- Councillor Geoff Bell (Chairman)
- Councillor Jeanette Hardman (vice-Chair)
- Councillor Paul Crompton
- Councillor S Hughes (arrived 7.35)
- Mr Carlton Evans – Clerk

Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Hardman – any Loachbrook Estate discussions

Part 1 Public Forum

One member of the public was present, Congleton Town Councillor Robert Douglas who updated the meeting on his further investigations into lost, unused or uncollected s106 monies which might benefit the local area and more instances of fly tipping. (S106 refers to 'planning obligations' on developers in return for planning permission being granted.)

028/25 – Apologies

The Council received and **resolved** to approve apologies for absence from:

- Cllr B Chorlton, illness

No apologies received from:

- Cllr T Massey

029/25 – Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th February 2025 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

030/25 – Accounts

See Annex 1

031/25 - Cheshire East Ward Councillor Report

No report in Cllr Wray's absence.

032/25 – Possible Savings Account

The Clerk reported that he had not completed his research into the options available, so the Council will return to this matter at its next meeting.

033/25 - Planning Applications

None received.

034/25 - Holiday arrangements

To accommodate the Clerk and Councillors' holiday arrangements the Council **resolved** to hold its June meeting on 25th June.

035/25 – Documents to review

The Council reviewed its asset register, noted the addition of four new noticeboards and proposed no further changes.

036/25 – Newsletter

The Council will aim to have a final draft ready for discussion at the April meeting so that an agreed version could be printed and circulated in May.

037/25 - Rhead's Meadows

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote from Congleton Town Council's Streetscape team for a comprehensive and potentially longer-term maintenance contract. The Chair and Clerk had also made a site visit with Streetscape to discuss our needs in more detail. Their quote was competitive and moreover the Streetscape team has all the necessary licences to dispose of the broken plastic tree guards and stakes etc., and the equipment and licenses to remove the grass clippings from the wildflower areas. On that basis the Council **resolved** to offer the maintenance

contract to Streetscape – including for the work needed at Blackfirs Wood. To start, the Council **resolved** to set aside a budget of £2,500 and then take stock of how much has been done and how much will still need to be done once they have spent a few days on site.

038/25 - Blackfirs Wood

See discussion above.

039/25 – Highways

The Council asked the Chair to arrange the installation of the new parish boundary signs. Cllr Hughes reported that the perimeter fence at Goodwins Pool at the junction of Chelford Road and the Holmes Chapel Road has completely collapsed and is an eyesore. He will approach the angling club to discuss their plans for its repair or replacement.

040/25 – Housing Developments

Despite the pace of build having slowed Bellway have made good progress at Somerford Gate and the pathway around the perimeter of Rhead's Meadows will be tackled in 6-12 months. Despite promises that the roads at the Loachbrook estate would be completed by 18th March they had not been. Some contractors had turned up but not for a full day, the road surfaces are still 'patchy' with raised ironwork etc. Cllr Hardman is in touch with Sarah Russell MP to discuss what more can be done for residents. The Council asked the Clerk to contact Anwyll homes to try to establish a positive working relationship with them as their development progresses.

041/25 - Chairman and Members' Reports

No further reports.

042/25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk discussed options for advertising the current Councillor vacancies and the Council **resolved** to take out adverts in the local press etc. before launching the formal process with Cheshire East Council, and to make letter drops etc. to try to encourage more applicants. The vacancies will be advertised again in the Newsletter.

The meeting ended at 2125 hrs.

X

Chairman

Annex 1 - Accounts

Finances as of 01 March 2025:

Account Balance: **£35,854.92**

Receipts since 01 February 2025:

- £nil

Payments to note since 01 February 2025:

- £56.89 – NEST, Clerk Pension
- £41.25 Everybody Health, HCCC room hire
- £54.00 – Parish Online mapping software
- £249.00 – Smartwheelie
- £660.00 – BHT Nursery, weed suppressing mats
- £1,379.71 – Nuneaton Signs, Boundary Signs
- £169.94 – HMRC
- £363.16 – Congleton TC, dog bins
- £2016.00 – John Harding mowing
- £643.53 – Clerk Salary

Payments to approve:

none