

## Somerford Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 August 2025

#### Holmes Chapel Community Centre, 7.00pm

#### Present

- Councillor Geoff Bell (Chairman)
- Councillor Jeanette Hardman (vice-Chair)
- Councillor Paul Crompton
- Councillor Trevor Massey
- Councillor Bill Chorlton
- Mr Carlton Evans – Clerk
- Councillor Jake Saxton (co-opted during the meeting)
- Mr John Wray – Ward Councillor

#### Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Hardman – any Loachbrook Estate discussions
- Cllr Chorlton – any Loachbrook Estate discussions
- Chair Geoff Bell – planning application **25/2774/RES** – see item **119/25** below

#### Part 1 Public Forum

Mr Jake Saxton attended the meeting (see item **116/25** below).

#### 114/25 – Apologies

The Council **resolved** to accept and approve apologies from:

- Cllr S Hughes – travel commitments

#### 115/25 – Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

#### 116/25 – Co-option of a new Councillor

Councillors interviewed Mr Jake Saxton and **resolved** to co-opt him onto the Parish Council. Mr Saxton duly read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

#### 117/25 – Cheshire East Ward Councillor report

Cllr Wray reported that Cheshire East Highways had secured additional Government funding for road repairs and Councillors asked the Clerk to explore whether a CEH

representative could attend a future meeting. Councillors Crompton and Wray will make further enquiries with Cheshire East/the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) about the creation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and installation of noise cameras on the Congleton Link Road.

## **118/25 – Accounts**

**See Annex 1**

## **119/25 - Planning Applications**

### **25/2577/HOUS**

Two storey front extension, single storey side and rear extensions, erection of front porch, landscaping, associated external alterations and remodelling.

#### **Ivy Cottage, Back Lane, Somerford**

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection

### **25/2663/HOUS**

Erection of single storey rear extension and internal alterations.

#### **5 Black Firs Lane, Somerford,**

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection

### **25/2774/RES**

Reserved Matters application for layout, scale, access, landscaping and appearance of the dwelling, in accordance with condition 3 of the approved Outline application 22/0829C.

#### **25 Chelford Road, Somerford**

Having declared an interest the Chair left the room and later returned after the Council had made its decision. This agenda item was chaired by Cllr Hardman.

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection but would note to the planning department that adequate vehicular access should be provided.

## **120/25 – Christmas Tree lights at the Blackfirs Lane/Chelford Road junction**

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote from a contractor to dress the fir trees with Christmas lights in December and remove and store them in January. The Council **resolved** to accept the quote and engage the services of the contractor.

## **121/25 - Goodwins Pool Fencing**

The Clerk reported that the angling committee would seek quotes for the replacement of or repairs to their boundary fence. Should they have insufficient funds to cover the full costs they may approach the Council for a grant. In any event the Clerk will ask if their contractors could quote to repair/replace the short stretch

of fencing at the opposite side of the road at the same time. The hedging encroaching onto the footway will also likely need to be cut back in the autumn.

### **122/25 - Rhead's Meadows**

The Council asked the Clerk to try to arrange another meeting with Bellway Homes to discuss, *inter alia*, the proposed cycle track at the perimeter.

### **123/25 - Blackfirs Wood**

Having resolved to replace the dog bins at Rhead's Meadows the Clerk will investigate with Streetscape whether they could install them and relocate the 'old' bins to the entrances to Blackfirs Wood. The Chair had made a site visit to see the work Streetscape had done and noted that access to some of the areas of Himalayan Balsam infestation was difficult, and the Clerk will also ask Streetscape if they could move and stack the fallen branches that are in the way.

### **124/25 – Highways**

Ward Cllr Wray will seek information from CEH about costs and success or otherwise of the new traCE system which seems to be worse than the system it has replaced.

### **125/25 – Policies to review – Comms and Social Media**

Cllr Hardman reported that she is continuing work on a new policy (including the Newsletter) which incorporates ChALC guidance and good practice from other Quality Gold Councils.

### **126/25 – Housing Developments**

Cllr Hardman has contacted Bovis/Vistry again for an update on progress with outstanding works but is still waiting for a response.

### **127/25 - Chairman and Members' Reports**

Cllr Hardman urged Councillors to update their email accounts and the Clerk was asked to invite the new PCSO to a future meeting.

### **128/25 - Clerk's Report**

Nothing further to report.

**The meeting ended at 2120 hrs.**

X

Chairman

## Annex 1 - Accounts

### Finances as of 01 August:

Account Balance: **£54,294.32**

### Receipts since 01 July 2025:

- **£nil**

### The following payments since 01 July 2025 were noted:

- £48.42 – NEST, Clerk pension
- £43.65 – Clerk, mileage reimbursement for Q2
- £69.12 – TCS Management, payroll services
- £179.39 – HMRC
- £551.73 – Clerk Salary

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

- £125.95 – Streetscape for works at Blackfirs Wood
- 1029.22 – Streetscape for works at Rhead's Meadows
- £1,300.56 – Crewe Colour Printers, Newsletter
- £574.08 – ChALC affiliation fee