

# SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Somercotes Parish Council held at 7.30pm, on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in the Somercotes Parish Hall, Nottingham Road, Somercotes.**

**Persons Present:** Cllr's P Smith (Chairman); B. Lyttle (V. Chairman); J. McCabe; A Stringer; P Curran-Bilbie; B Hannant; T. Marriott; M. Barron; C. Langton; J. Spibey; J. Gardiner; S. Walker  
**Clerk:** G. Blackmore - There were two members of the public present.  
Cllr's Hannant & Stringer left the meeting at 8.55pm

**36/2011 Apologies for Absence:** None

**37/2011 Variance of business:** 42/2011 Drunken Close allocation moved to Confidential

**38/2011 Declaration of Members Interests:**

Cllr B Lyttle – all planning matters

Cllr P Curran-Bilbie & J Gardiner (any matters raised relating to Shady farm)

Cllr P Smith item: Upgrade of Old Tennis Courts / Multi-User area

**39/2011: Public Speaking – (30 minutes)**

**a) Public:**

A member of the public spoke on her views and concerns relating to a retrospective planning application submitted for Shady Farm, Lower Somercotes and the use of the site for the disposal of rubble and other materials.

The Council **RESOLVED** to inform the relevant members of the Borough Council on the issue relating to the disposal of rubble and other materials. A letter to be written to Derbyshire County Council – Environmental Services.

Cllrs Curran-Bilbie and Gardiner left the room during the above matter (Declaration of Members Interest)

**b) Outside Bodies: Police, Cllr's from DCC, AVBC**

**DCC: Reported from Cllr P Smith**

**B600** resurfacing that was rescheduled to three Sundays contrary to the working programme has caused issues.

Other resurfacing approved are Bridle Lane, Leamoor Avenue and Ralph Drive

**Lighting Scheme Improvements:** Tower Close; Warwick Ave, Coupland Place and Brenden Close with new low energy lighting.

**Bus Services:** The evening bus services for Pye Bridge have now ended.

The School Bus Service for Pye Bridge and Somercotes to Swanwick Hall School will end next year as there will be no further subsidies from DCC.

**AVBC: Report from Cllr J McCabe**

Requests have been made to AVBC for an 'Air Quality Check' that has been refused by the 'Clean & Green' member. The matter was raised again at 'Full Council' last Wednesday. The impact on health with the cancer and heart disease in the area were of major concern for Somercotes that may be associated with the air quality from industry and other pollution.

**40/2011: Minutes –** The Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the as a correct record the Parish Council Minutes held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

**41/2011: Car Park Agreements**

The finalised draft documentation for the car park agreements for Market Place & Mill Yard has now been received from AVBC.

**The Council RESOLVED to appoint solicitors to deal with the legal completion of car park and the land registry transfers.**

**42/2011: Allotments**

- **Bridle Lane** The Allotments Association have implemented the signing of individual agreements and in the process of having them signed.  
The Ash tree that was to be pruned and reshaped has been cut down due to serious diseases that made it unsafe. The work has been undertaken at a cost of £1,150.00. Another tree requires work on the allotment that needs to be assessed. It was agreed to ascertain the tree ownership and complete the work in late August/September (if appropriate), as birds are nesting in it.
- **Birchwood Lane:** The Allotments Association have implemented the signing of individual agreements and in the process of having them signed. The trees on the Birchwood lane side of the allotment have been lowered, as agreed by the Council.
- **Flash Allotments:** The tree in the allotment as agreed by the Council has been cut back. The ploughing of the land has not been undertaken as two of the members using the allotments were concerned about environmental issues of the methods being used and being contrary to their eco-friendly beliefs.

The Council **RESOLVED** that this matter be followed up by the Clerk

- **Drunken Close: Re-entry of land & Allocation for lease as Grazing Land:** The Council has re-entered the land & chains and locks placed on the two entrance gates. A letter was sent to the previous tenant notifying him of the Council's action.

Allocation for lease as Grazing Land – moved to Confidential

**Roadside Hedge Cutting:** The Council **RESOLVED** that the roadside hedges on Bridle Lane & Birchwood Lane be carried out by the contractor at the end of August/ early September.

**43/2011: Pye Bridge Waste Incineration Plant – Comments to Environmental Agency by 27 May 2011**

The Council discussed the proposed Waste Incineration Plant and considered there were major concerns relating to the 'air quality monitoring' and health of residents that may be affected by the plants processing methods. The parish already suffers from high levels of cancer and heart disease that may be associated with the air quality from industry. Although, there was an air quality test in 2010 this has not been made available to the public.

There were concerns that the raw material provider in the application, would no longer be providing the brickettes before incineration and that another provider was being sought.

The Council **RESOLVED** to write to the Environment Agency, DCC and AVBC that the need for an 'Air Quality Test' is essential to the consideration of the planning application and requires a test to be conducted before the Environmental Agency licence or planning approval is granted

**44/2011: Public Conveniences – Somercotes Market Place**

The Council discussed AVBC's request that the Parish Council considers taking ownership of the Public toilets on Market Place, Somercotes

The Council **RESOLVED** that due to the long term financial implications and on-cost that it could not support the take over of ownership.

**45/2011: Sports Provision – Multi User Synthetic Surface at old Tennis Courts & Somercotes Recreation Ground.**

**The Council discussed two items relating to sport and recreation provision.**

- a) The provision of a synthetic surface for the old tennis courts / multi user area that was part of a £70k project to regenerate the area.

Cllr P Smith having declared an interest left the room during the discussion.  
Cllr B Lyttle took the chair

The Council **RESOLVED** to support the project with a grant of £10k providing the additional funding was obtained.

- b) The provision of a new play area equipment that includes a zip wire and health play equipment - £15k. AVBC have agreed to project manage the works, installation and maintenance of the equipment after completion.

The Council **RESOLVED** to support the financing of the new recreational equipment to a maximum cost of £15k and accept the conditions, as agreed by AVBC, on project management and maintenance responsibilities after completion of the installation.

**46/2011: Newsletter: New format & Editions, Calendar Competition, Sub-Committee Minutes**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the sub-committee that there would be 3 editions per year in March, July & November making it easier to manage due to other Council requirements. The new format would provide an 8 page newsletter with interesting and relevant content.

The Council **RESOLVED** to support the promotion of a photo competition based on the old & new Somercotes and produce a calendar for sale to the public.

**47/2011: Hockley Way – Pedestrian Central Refuge Proposal  
Old Viyella Site – Development Brief: Recreation & Social Opportunities**

**Pedestrian Refuge:** The Council **RESOLVED** to liaise with Alfreton Town Council and DCC to endeavour to have a safe pedestrian central refuge installed on Hockley Way through a joint funding agreement. The actual project cost will not be known until DCC provide the light installation cost. The works cost is estimated at £6-8k.

**Old Viyella Site:**

The Council **RESOLVED** to write to AVBC Core Strategy Group requesting that the site be redeveloped as a recreational zone with a cinema and other leisure activities, such as a bowling alley.

**48/2011: Clerk's Report**

- a) **Parish Hall, Central Heating Boilers** – The contractor will be installing the new boilers in August 2011
- b) **War Memorial Cleaning:** The new company taking over from the current contractors will be contacting the Council in early June re the annual cost of cleaning the memorial.
- c) **Poop Scoop Bags** – The Post Office will no longer be distributing the Council's free poop scoop bags.
- d) **Community Response Plan** – This matter is on-going with difficulties of obtaining all the information required.
- e) **Staff Training:**  
Three members of staff have attended the Kenetic Manual Handling Course and found it very useful. Four members of staff attended the 'working alone' session at the Infants School. Further training is being sought on First Aid and H&S.
- f) **Review of Standing Orders** – discussed under the review at the APC Meeting
- g) **Damage to Palisade Fencing:** The fencing on the car park side of the Parish hall has been extensively damaged by a vehicle and repairs will be carried out.

**49/2011: Planning:**

There were no comments on the planning applications, as on Appendix 'E'.

**Licensing: Rugby Club – RESOLVED** to comment on the possibilities of nuisance and noise to neighbours, need for licensing controls and noise monitoring.

**50/2011: Finance:**

- a) **Accounts for Approval:** The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts as at Appendix 'F'
- b) **Annual Audit / Annual Return for 2010-11:** The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Accounts Audit and the Chairman and RFO signed the Annual Return 2010-11 for the Audit Commission
- c) **Bank – Deposit Account:** This DBS bank deposit account was not recorded in the Annual Return for 2009-10 and has now been included.
- d) **Chairman's Allowance:** The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Chairman's Allowance for 2011-12
- e) **HMRC – Income Tax & NIC Demand**  
There was an underpayment to HMRC, believed to be related to a staff illness period that has now been paid.
- f) **Insurance Renewal:** The Council **RESOLVED** to pay the annual insurance renewal that met the insured risks of the Council.
- g) **Bar Account:** The account has now been transferred, as required.
- h) **Section 137 – Grants:** The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the S137 Grants, as in Appendix 'G', and make increases, where appropriate.

**51/2011: Derbyshire Association of Local Council – Circulars**

**5/2011 – 28/2011:** These are available to the Councillors in the PC Office

**52/2011: Items for information - None**

**53/2011: Urgent Matters raised by Councillors:** Subject to approval of the chairman - None.

**54/2011 a) Staff Contracts, Roles & Responsibilities**

The negotiations with the staff are now completed and the revised contracts and job descriptions are ready for signing.

The Council **RESOLVED** to issue the contracts and job descriptions to the staff.

**b) Clerks Hours:** The Council **RESOLVED** to approve 2 additional hours per week for the Clerk and that a review can be conducted when necessary.

**c) DCC Pension Plan request & Parish Council Contributions:**

The Council considered the information presented and felt that it was not in a financial position to agree to start a Pension Scheme based on a 15.2% employer contribution.

The Council **RESOLVED** to review the Pension Scheme in April 2012 or if any government legislation changed.

**d) Allocation of Grazing Land – Drunken Close, Leabrooks**

Due to the large number of applications the Council **RESOLVED** that the Chairman & Vice Chairman would meet with the Clerk on Tuesday (24<sup>th</sup> May), to discuss the applications and allocation of land.

**The meeting closed at 9.35pm**