

# SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Somercotes Parish Council held at 7pm, on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 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; Mrs B Hannant; T. Marriott; C. Langton; J. Gardiner;  
Clerk: G. Blackmore

**55/2011 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr's J Spiby (holiday); S Walker (Prior Commitment); M Barron (Illness)

**56/2011 Variance of business:** None

**57/2011 Declaration of Members Interests:**  
Cllr B Lyttle – all planning matters  
Cllr's J Gardiner & P Curran-Bilbie – Shady farm  
Cllr Mrs B Hannant: AVA/2011/0534

**58/2011: Public Speaking – (30 minutes)**

a) **Public:** None

b) **Outside Bodies:**

**Police (Not in attendance)**

Concerns were raised that Somercotes Recreation Ground was becoming an area suffering from increased vandalism and anti-social behavioural problems. The Chairman said he has raise the matter at the Police Consultative Committee Meeting asking that it is treated as a priority area.

**DCC:**

**Community Pay back Scheme:** Cllr P Smith reported that he had been pursuing the agenda on working with Community Safety. The Chairman and Clerk had met with Alfred Smith (Probation Service), Sue Furniss (DCC) and PCSO Chris Bannister to agree a programme under the Community Pay Back Scheme to clear the stream at the rear of Scott Drive and the footpaths on the South Spires Estate. The Windmill Rise Estate will be part of the programme, at a later date.

**Street Lighting:** Two new lighting columns, under the Community Safety Scheme, are to be installed on Bank Street (outside the School) and an unlit footpath off Thurston Avenue. Both are adopted routes under DCC highways so there will be no cost to the Parish Council.

**Newsletter:** An error occurred in the newsletter that should have read half price 'rail' travel and as rail was omitted it was interpreted by many as the bus concessions would be affected.

B-Line travel concessions will be reduced from August 2011 and the school bus service will end next year.

**Grant Opportunities:** Grants of up to £1k are available from DCC to support small community groups.

**AVBC:**

Cllr J McCabe reported that challenges had been made to the Borough Council by both Borough Councillors to seek an 'Air Quality Test' for Somercotes, the last survey being conducted in 2002. The Borough Council have refused to conduct a further test. The Environment Agency are satisfied that there is no risk to health should the new Incinerator planning application be passed at Pye Bridge.

The Clerk was asked to raise the lack of respect for the Parish Council at the next Clerk's Network Meeting.

**Core Strategy on Housing:** A public Consultation is to be held at the Parish Hall between 3pm – 7pm next Tuesday (19<sup>th</sup>). Councillors are encouraged to attend. Website to be updated providing details of the event

**59/2011: Minutes** – The Council **RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Annual Parish Council and Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Minutes held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

**60/2011: Car Park Agreements**

Chapman & Chubb Solicitors has been instructed to act on the Council's behalf to complete the legal work required for the transfer of ownership of the two car parks.

**Parking Spaces:** A complaint has been received that there is insufficient parking for residents on Market Place Car Park

The Council **RESOLVED** that the matter be referred to AVBC who own the car park. The Council will consider parking / restrictions once the car park ownership is transferred.

**61/2011: Allotments**

- **Bridle Lane:** Tenancy Agreements still outstanding – to be followed up.  
Proposals for tree removal – The Council **RESOLVED** that if the tree is not diseased it would only be trimmed back and any work is subject to financial constraints.  
Unauthorised vehicular access onto the allotment by a resident on Swanwick Road: The Council **RESOLVED** that this is a matter for the Allotments Association as a member was complicit in allowing the resident to remove a wall and allow the resident unauthorised access through the allotments. The Allotments Association must ensure security of the site by keeping the access gate onto Bridle Lane secure. The Council is to write to the householder re no access to motor vehicles should the Allotments Association request.
- **Birchwood Lane:** Tenancy Agreements still outstanding – to be followed up.
- **Flash Allotments:** The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £500.00 to the allotment group to assist in the restoration of the land.
- **Drunken Close:** The two areas of allotment land known as Drunken Close have been leased. One of the tenants has yet to pay the rent and notification of eviction has been given if the 28 days for payment expires. The lease holder has 5 horses/ponies on the land when the agreement states only three and she will be requested to remove the additional animals.

**62/2011: New Recreational Facility – Somercotes Park**

The provision of a new play area equipment that includes a zip wire and health play equipment has been approved through AVBC's tendering process. The Zip wire and 5 items of health play equipment are to be installed in the next 3-4 weeks.

**63/2011: Hockley Way – Pedestrian Central Refuge Proposal  
Old Viyella Site – Development Brief: Recreation & Social Opportunities**

**Pedestrian Refuge:** The Council RESOLVED at the previous meeting to liaise with Alfreton Town Council on a joint financial agreement with DCC to pay for the safe pedestrian central refuge. Alfreton Town Council has been requested to consider making a financial contribution to the cost, but no reply has been received to date. The cost of the pedestrian refuge has been cost at £9,466.00 that is above the original estimate.

The Clerk reminded the Council that this was a DCC Highways responsibility and that there was a need to remain within the budgets approved by Council.

The Council **RESOLVED** to pay up to 50% of the cost of the Pedestrian Central Safe Refuge should Alfreton Town Council not contribute.

**Old Viyella Site:**

The Council has contacted Mr D. Stafford (AVBC – Head of Planning & Regeneration) and proposed the use of the Old Viyella site to be redeveloped as a recreational zone with a cinema and other leisure activities, such as, a bowling alley that will be put before the Core Strategy Group. The next Core Strategy Core Group public consultation runs from July to September 2011.

**64/2011: Public Footpath Clearance work**

The Parish Wardens have been tasked with clearing public footpaths of rubbish and foliage. A strimmer was hired so that a 2 week programme of work could be carried out.

**Sleetmoor Woods Footpaths:** DCC has agreed that the Parish Wardens can complete a monthly litter pick of the Sleetmoor Woods Footpaths and DCC will pay for the work through an agreement with the Parish Council. The agreement is for 12 months from July 2011.

**South Spires and Windmill Rise Estates:** As reported by The Chairman in public speaking (DCC Cllr Report) DCC Community Safety & the Probation Service will work to clear up the estates under the 'Community Pay Back Scheme'.

**65/2011: School Sports Partnership**

Letter from the SSP concerning the reduction in funding

The Council **RESOLVED** that a grant of £1000.00 be made to the SSP to support school projects in Somercotes. The initial grant would be for £500.00 and once proof of spend in Somercotes was provided the second £500.00 would be released.

**66/2011: Part Time Lighting Scheme; Survey**

The Council **RESOLVED** that it would not support the turn off of street lighting between midnight and 5.30am. The reasons related to community safety, particularly personal safety, and the reason many lights were installed. The County Council should consider installing state of the art LED bulbs to reduce energy use and PIR's that operate as people walk through vulnerable areas.

**67/2011: Clerk's Report**

- a) **War Memorial Cleaning:** The new company has yet to respond with a cost of annual cleaning.
- b) **Staff Training:**

The Parish Wardens have engaged in clearing foot paths of weeds and strimming public footpaths. It is proposed that both wardens attend a spraying course so the Council can spray off weeds in the future.

- c) **Damage to Palisade Fencing:** The Parish Hall damaged palisade fencing has been repaired
- d) **Shady Farm:** Report from DCC Environmental Services – no further Council action is required.
- e) **Pye Bridge Waste Incineration Plant:** The Council has written to the Environment Agency, DCC and AVBC that the need for an 'Air Quality Test' is essential to the consideration of the application and requires this to be conducted before the Environmental Agency licence or planning approval is granted. Acknowledgement has been received for the Environment Agency. The permit has now been granted by the Environment Agency and no 'Air Quality Test' was mentioned.
- f) **Parish Council Website:** The website needs expanding so that minutes & accounts can be published for public viewing. A further proposal by Cllr Curran-Bilbie was that events could be published on a Face-book link.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve that the Council minutes and accounts could be published on the website. The proposed use of face-book and the implications were referred to the Newsletter sub-committee.

- g) **AVBC – Standards Committee:** to continue until May 2012
- h) An application has been received for the vacant Councillor post on the Council.

The Council **RESOLVED** that notices be displayed on Council notice boards for 21 days as a deadline for any further applications.

#### **68/2011: Planning:**

**2011/0360** Use railway sleepers to level a portion of the garden space. This will be done by raising the level of the portion of garden by no more than 60 cm with the aid of railway sleepers. Then filling the space behind with top soil and turfing the top, at 56 James Street, Leabrooks

**2011/0534** Proposed construction of a 20 x 40 metre horse exercise area for private/domestic use at land off Leamoor Avenue, for Mrs H Sawdel

The Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr B Lyttle would visit AVBC Planning over concerns that the planning application plans were not properly prepared and need better explanation.

**2011/0577** Change of use at 80 Nottingham Road from A1, A3 and Residential to A1, A2, A3 and Residential. New security shutters and shop front to 82 Nottingham Road, for Mr Jamie Watson, Pedley and Co.

#### **Planning Matters Determined (since 20 May 2011)**

**2011/0305** Construction of single storey extension and construction of a double detached garage at Charis, Cinder Road, for Mr Philip Holland  
Permitted

**2011/0293** Demolition of existing premises. Construction of two warehouse buildings to form 3 no. units (B1, B2 & B8 usage), on land at Keys Road  
Permitted

**2011/0367** Siting of mobile home with wooden porch on side, property for own living purpose – Retrospective, at Shady Farm, Lower Birchwood  
Pending Decision

**2011/0545** Time extension for AVA/2008/0609 re noise & Vibration Consult Ltd.,  
56 Leabrooks Road, for Mr Dean Kettlewell  
Delegate Powers 09.08.11  
Time Extension

**69/2011: Finance:**

**a) Accounts for Approval:** The Council approved the accounts for payment as at Appendix 'A' and the two additional payments.

**b) Quarterly Budget Report:** The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the quarterly budget, as at Appendix 'B'

**b) Insurance Renewal:** The Councils Insurance has been renewed, as approved.

**c) Section 137 – Grants:** £1,000 is to be transferred from the Admin budget to S137 Grants.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget transfer

**70/2011: Derbyshire Association of Local Council – Circulars**

**28/2011 – 34/2011:** These are available to the Councillors to read

**34/2011 - Power of Well-Being Training at Somercotes Parish Hall:** Councillors are invited to attend. Cllr's to notify the Clerk next week if they wish to attend.

**71/2011: Items for information**

- AVBC Funding Applications
- Ripley Town Council – Urgent Support re sale of the Town Hall.  
The Council **RESOLVED** to support the retention of the Town Hall as a public building for future generations and that it should become listed.
- Amber Voice – Newsletter for Amber Valley Consultation Members
- Derbyshire Community Health Services - Consultation on becoming a NHS Foundation Trust

**72/2011: Urgent Matters raised by Councillors:** None

**The meeting closed at 8.28pm**