

SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Somercotes Parish Council held at 7pm, on Friday, 16th March 2012 in the Somercotes Parish Hall, Nottingham Road, Somercotes.

Present: Cllr P Smith (Chairman); Cllr B Lyttle (V. Chairman); Cllr M Barron; Cllr P Curran-Bilbie; Cllr J Gardiner; Cllr C Langton; Cllr T Marriott; Cllr J McCabe; Cllr P Price; Cllr A Stringer.
Clerk: G Blackmore; Cllr S Hayes (AVBC); Mr D Stafford (AVBC) and 20 members of the public

19/2012: Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mrs B Hannant (Illness); Cllr S Walker (Church Meeting)

20/2012: Variance of business: None

21/2012: Declaration of Members Interests:

Cllr B Lyttle (All Planning matters 7 Schools); Cllr P Smith (Schools); Cllr J McCabe (Schools); Cllr J Gardiner (Planning 2012/0061)

22/2012: Public Speaking – (30 minutes)

a) **Public Speaking:** Mr J Rayson made representation concerning the proposed Alfreton 'Outseats' farm housing development that would also affect Somercotes. Further issues were raised on developing 'Greenfield' rather than 'brown-field' sites and the lack of local infrastructure to support large housing developments. A second representation was made on behalf of AVSOS a group set up to save towns and villages by retaining their identity and not developing on 'Greenfield' & 'Green Belt land'.

b) **Reports from Outside Bodies**

Police Liaison Officer: Apologies received due to policing commitments

County Council: Cllr P Smith reported that £38k from S106, Welbeck Site development, has been released by AVBC and allocated to street lighting improvements on Windmill Rise and an additional £6k for Spencer Drive.

Youth Consultation: A petition of over 10,000 signatures has been received on the withdrawal of Youth Clubs and mobile services. There will now be a full council debate by DCC in April.

Next week there will be pre-application talks on potential open-casting between Lower Birchwood and Pinxton.

Borough Council: The community charges for housing for AVBC is zero so no increase for house-holders. Business rates will increase to well over 5% and concerns were raised that this would have an adverse affect on all business, particularly small businesses and local shops.

23/2012: Minutes – The Council RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Ordinary Parish Council Minutes of the 20th January 2012.

24/2012: Councillor Vacancy:

Mrs Elaine Pace was co-opted as a member of the Parish Council and duly signed the Local Election Compact for Amber Valley – Borough & Parish Elections and a Declaration of Office. Cllr Pace was welcomed and invited to sit on the Council.

25/2012: Housing Strategy and Consultations with Parish Councils: Mr D Stafford & Cllr S Hayes (AVBC) attended on behalf of AVBC to address the Council on the housing strategy.

Mr Stafford gave a verbal presentation of the Councils housing and business site development strategy. The housing need was seen at 510 houses per annum although

the current rate is below this level in the economic down turn. It is anticipated that by mid 2012 the AVBC Officers will complete the current housing strategy and put it before full council who will agree on housing and locations to meet the needs of the Borough. A public consultation will then take place before a final decision is made by the AVBC.

- 26/2012: Car Park Agreements:** The car park agreements, memorandum of Understanding and land registry transfer documentation had now been received and the **Council RESOLVED** that they be signed on behalf of the Council. The affective date of transfer is to be 1st April 2012 or as soon as practicable thereafter. The Borough Council has been asked to repair large potholes on Mill Yard prior to transfer, as agreed.
- 27/2012: Public CCTV:** The contracts are currently being re-negotiated and a new camera will be fitted into the location to be financed by Somercotes Parish Council
- 28/2012: Neighbourhood Planning:** The **Council RESOLVED** to wait for further information and understanding of the Neighbourhood Plan system before deciding if it should prepare a local plan.
- 29/2012: The Queen's Diamon Jubilee Celebrations:**
The **Council RESOLVED** to pay for a medallion for each child at the Infants and Junior Schools at a cost of £556 + carriage. The schools are to arrange and invoice the Council. There will be no grant application for the Somerfair this year.
- 30/2012 Allotments:**
(i) Bridle Lane: Palisade gates – The **Council RESOLVED** to pay for the palisade gates and installation at a cost of £895 (+ Vat, if appropriate).
(ii) Birchwood Lane & Sleetmoor Lane: Hedges cut had been completed, as agreed.
(iii) Drunken Close: Moved to confidential
- 31/2012: Parish Hall – Report on PH Condition & Re-Decoration Tenders**
The **Council RESOLVED** to accept the report and viewed the sealed tenders. Due to the implications and cost of the Parish Hall upgrade and the large discrepancy of the tenders it was **RESOLVED** that the matters be referred to the Parish Hall Sub-Committee
- 32/2012: Report on Grit Bins and Snow Warden Scheme**
The **Council RESOLVED** to accept the report and consider on the appropriate action and snow warden duties in due course. The work of the Parish Wardens during the snow period was commended by the Council particularly relating to gritting outside OAP bungalows. Cllr Lyttle is to speak with AVBC about their in-action in relation to OAP complexes during adverse weather conditions. .
- 33/2012: Christmas Lights/Hanging Baskets:**
DCC has now made specific requirements for Xmas lighting displays on lamp columns and paying the electrical cost. Annual applications have to be made and lamp columns strength tested. This is causing additional work for the Council that is disproportionate to the fitting of Xmas lights and floral displays.

The **Council RESOLVED** to consider, once the current contract expires, for the Xmas lighting to return to connecting the lights, as previously, to shop electrical supplies.
- 34/2012: Floral Displays: Parish Hall & Winding Wheel:** The plants have been ordered for mid-May and will be planted by the Parish Wardens who will also maintain the flower beds during the summer months.
- 35/2012: Parish Council Meetings:** Due to the bookings in the Parish Hall that are considered disruptive (noise levels) during Council meetings it was **RESOLVED** that a change of day would be considered. The new day of meetings is to be agreed for acceptance at the APCM in May for 2012-13 meetings.

36/2012: Wild Flower & Plant areas: The **Council RESOLVED** to endeavour to plant a wild flower & plant area around the location of the Winding Wheel on Nottingham Road. The Clerk is to liaise with Groundwork to ascertain if the work is possible this year or to plan for 2013.

37/2012: Clerk's Report

a) Newsletter: 'The Spring Edition' has been distributed. Now that there is suitable material and a programme for producing the newsletter 4 magazines per annum can be produced. The Scouts have delivered the newsletters and a revised delivery system for the next issue has been agreed.

b) Quality Council Status: The file is almost complete and it is anticipated it will be ready for pre-submission examination next month.

c) Annual Parish Meeting – 11th May 2012: Members of the public living in the parish and registered as electors may ask for any matter to be discussed.

d) Parish Hall – Alarm Activations: 2 User error activations since May 2011 (both by the Church members) may lead to withdrawal of police response and a new alarm system being installed. A letter has been written to the church.

e) Poop Scoop Bags: A new stock of 100,000 'Poop Scoop' bags has been ordered and received due to low stocks. The payment was made under the 2011-12 budgets.

f) Councillor update: In order to keep Councillors updated a list of all information, letters and planning items received will be circulated midway between meetings.

g) Safe Pedestrian Refuge – Hockley Way: A kit form crossing is to be installed by the end of the month at a reduced cost £1,500 - £2,000

h) Calendar Sales – The Council RESOLVED to donate £100.00 to DASG

38/2012: Planning:

Cllr J Gardiner left the meeting during the planning applications

Planning Applications:

2012/0061 Field Shelter and Secure Store at Cockshut House Lower Birchwood, for Mr & Mrs S & S Li.

2011/1139 Provision of buildings for storage and maintenance of large earth moving vehicles and equipment, for EP Industries Ltd., Unit 1 Pye Bridge Industrial Estate.

The planning application involves relocating 2 footpaths 56 & 61 – objection in that no development be approved until the footpath diversions have been resolved - Objections to AVBC Planning & write to DCC (Alison Thomas / Peter White)

2012/0051 Provision of self contained accommodation to existing side extension at 53 Main Road, Leabrooks, for Mr and Mrs Harvey Whysall.

2012/0114 Time extension renewal for AVA/2001/0040 – Outline planning application for demolition of dwelling and redevelopment of site for residential development, at Springfield House, Quarry Road, for Mr R F Aimes.

TPO/369/2012 One Willow and 2 Ash Trees on Footpath off Cockshut Lane, Lower Somercotes.

2012/0154 Change of use from retail outlet to residential unit at Howards Outsize, 54-55 Leabrooks Road, for Ms A Howard.

2012/0215 Retrospective Planning Permission – Erect boundary fence at 583 Lower Somercotes, for Ms Kathryn Revilles

Planning Matters Determined

2011/1202 Conversion of existing commercial building and change of use to domestic dwelling at In Power Tools, 12 New Street.

Withdrawn

2011/1144 Single storey extension at Elmdale, 459 Somercotes Hill.

Permitted

2011/1114 The proposed building will act as extra storage for an expanding business. The proposed building is an extension to an existing gable end. The area is currently an

open area of concrete floor which will be covered with a steel frame, clad with Goose Wing Grey insulated panels, which will match to other existing gable ends on the site. One other gable has old, cracked fire cement sheets. This gable end will be re-clad to improve the visual impact of the road, at Akramatic Engineering Co. Ltd., Nixs Hill, Alfreton.

Permitted

2011/1215 Refurbishment of existing factory and offices at MMD Ltd., GK Capital Equipment Services, Cotes Park, Park Lane.

Permitted

2011/1223 Demolition of fire damaged dwelling and erection of a new 4 bedroom detached dwelling at 7 Brenden Close.

Permitted

39/2012: Finance:

a) **Accounts for Approval:** The **Council RESOLVED** to approve the accounts payments

b) **Parish Council Precept for 2012-13 – submitted to AVBC**

c) **Financial Report 2011-12:** The **Council RESOLVED** to accept the Financial Report

40/2012: Derbyshire Association of Local Council – Circulars

04/2012 – 12/2012: These are available to the Councillors in the PC Office

04/2012 Prayers at Council Meetings (now changed by High Court Ruling)

05/2012 No DALC sub rises; The new Public Health system– Heating or Eating; DALC – Senior Officers post

06/2012 DCC Items

07/2012 Draft Community Right to Challenge Statutory Instruments & Guidance

08/2012 Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields Challenge; Community Commissioning & privet e-mails

09/2012 Neighbourhood Planning Road Show; Planning Champion for Derbyshire

10/2012 Summary of various Council Meetings

11/2012 Prayers at Council Meetings – Repeal of Local Government (Discretionary Payments Regs) 1996

12/2012 Audit 2011-12; Clerk's Day; Government fast-track prayers before meetings

41/2012: Items for information

- AVBC: Recycling Consultation
- Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan Consultation
- Derbyshire Constabulary – Changes to Police Enquiry Offices
- Annual Licensing Report
- Village games – Derbyshire Sport
- AVSSP – Information
- Ripley Town Council – Mayors Civic Service

42/2012: Urgent Matters raised by Councillors: None

43/2012: Staff Vacancy: The Relief Caretaker has indicated that she will be resigning the post due to other work commitments. The **Council RESOLVED** that the vacancy will be advertised when a formal resignation letter is received.

Drunken Close: The **Council RESOLVED** to write to Ms T Smith on concerns relating to use of the land and ascertain if she is retaining the lease. The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with Ms Smith.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm