

SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL



**Minutes of the meeting of Somercotes Parish Council held at 6.30pm on Friday,
25th January 2013 in the Village Hall, Nottingham Road, Somercotes**

Persons Present: Cllr P Smith (Chairman); Cllr B Lyttle (Vice Chairman); Cllr P Curran-Bilbie; Cllr T Marriott; Cllr P Price (left at 8.30pm); Cllr C Langton; Cllr J Gardiner; Cllr J McCabe; Cllr S Walker.

G R Blackmore (Clerk to the Council), PCSO M Rogers and 1 member of the public

1/2013 Apologies: Cllr M Barron (work commitments)
Absence: Cllr A Stringer (no apologies received)

2/2013 Variation of Order of Business: None

3/2013 Declaration of Members Interests:

Cllr P Smith: DPI 14/2013

Cllr B Lyttle: All planning matters

4/2013 To consider any Councillors' Request for dispensation: Refer to 9/2013 (m) re Localism Act – Precept Dispensation

5/2013 Public Speaking – (30 Minutes)

(a) A member of the public raised the following:

Request to establish if there is a Parish Emergency Plan – SPC do not have its own PEP as DCC have Emergency Plans in place and the Parish Council will respond, as requested in an emergency planning situation. The Council outlined the emergency provisions by DCC for emergencies.

Junction slip-road onto the A38 Southbound – The acceleration lane is dangerous and a request was made to seek changes to the slip road acceleration lane. DCC to be contacted re the issue.

Pennytown Ponds: smells from the surface water – this is not a Council matter, but it will be referred to the Pennytown Ponds Committee.

(b) Police Liaison Officer: PCSO M Roger reported on the overall reduction in crime by 19.7%. Although dwelling burglaries had fallen by 60% non-domestic burglaries shops, companies had risen by 50%. Plain clothes targeted operations were carried out for 5-6 weeks in Somercotes, Riddings and Heanor (especially high crime) to apprehend the offenders.

Opportunist crime through unlocked doors was a concern. CCTV and the installing of a new police computer at Somerlea Centre were discussed.

Unauthorised vehicle parking on Bank Street will be addressed through a joint operation between the police and Civil Enforcement.

District County Council:

The area of the pedestrian crossing on the B600 (near Chapman & Chubb) has now been resurfaced.

The clearance of land between Blackstone Close & Windmill Rise has been cleared, as well as the land at the rear of Pennytown Court and Smedley Ave.

The lighting schemes for Windmill Rise and Sherwood Street have been approved, as well as additional light columns for the footpath link from Parkside through to Park Mews, Riddings.

The dropped crossing at Birchwood Way, which will assist anyone accessing the route for work or to visit Pennytown Ponds, is now completed.

DCC is waiting for the completion of works on roads, pavements and street lighting on the Welbeck Development site before it will adopt the locations roads.

Borough Council: The 'Green Garden Waste Scheme' will be introduced from April 2013 which will have a free collection for those who purchased a bin, at £20

6/2013 The Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meetings held on the 16th November 2012 Ordinary PC Meetings and the Allotments Sub-Committee Minutes 10th January 2013

7/2013 To determine which items if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded. If the Council decides to exclude the public it will be necessary to pass a resolution: No items other than those already in 'Confidential' item 14/2013

8/2013 Chairman's Announcements:

- Erewash Credit Union in Amber Valley: The Chairman informed the members of the valuable work currently being undertaken by ECU in Amber Valley, where 109 residents of Somercotes are currently benefitting. The Council **RESOLVED** to support ECU by making a grant of £250.00 for computer and associated equipment.
- Funding Applications for Community Projects: Skateboard Park & South Spires Estate
The Chairman informed the members that it was necessary to try to attract funding as the Parish Council and Borough Council do not have their own funds to support worthy community projects. The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would be permitted to work an additional 2-3 hours per week for funding work and applications.
The Clerk agreed to respond under 'Confidential' matters.

9/2013 Report of the Clerk on:

- (a) Market Place
 - (i) Demolition of Public Toilets – Feature Area/ Transfer of land
The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk continues to liaise with AVBC Legal Department on this matter and report back to Council. .
 - (ii) Parking Restrictions – Additional Parking spaces; 3 hour limit
The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk liaise with AVBC Legal Department on this matter and report back to Council. The legal requirements to be addressed and cost of works to be undertaken.
 - (iii) Water Surface Charges – Market Place: the Parish Council will have a further £1100.00 in annual water rates to pay on top of the land rates. This was never brought to the attention of the Parish Council prior to transfer, which is disappointing.

- (iv) For Sale notice, Market Place Car Park – Rental Charges to Agents
The Administrators have agreed to pay a rental charge.
- (b) Report on Village Hall
- (i) Roof Repairs & Internal Re-Decoration
The roof is in need of repairs, as rain is getting into the building the cost of which is £6 - £7k. Furthermore, the internal decoration (£4k) has been delayed for a year due to the cost of the external fascia and guttering works in 2012.
The Council **RESOLVED** to undertake the roof repairs and the redecoration work in 2013-14 and that a Public Works Board Loan, £10k, is applied for to undertake the cost of the works.
- (c) Allotments
- (i) Jim Spibey Memorial Shield: the Council **RESOLVED** to hold the allotments competition in July 2013 – The winner, runner-up and third place would be informed that they would receive one of the awards.
- (ii) Proposed Projects for 2013-14:
Only Bridle Lane attended the meeting and they are proposing to clear further land to increase the number of allotment plots available.
It is understood that Sleetmoor Lane has not progressed as fast as anticipated due to several issues, but they hope to be in better shape during 2013-14.
- (iii) Firearms (Vermin Control) – Ratification of protocols: The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the new protocols with the amendment of the revised shooting times of between 9pm – 6am.
- (iv) Allotment Rents 2013-14
The Council **RESOLVED** not to raise the annual rents for Birchwood Lane & Bridle Lane Allotments or the Drunken Close grazing land and that dispensation for no rent to Sleetmoor Lane Allotment Association would be extended for another year.
- (d) Winding Wheel, Nottingham Road
- (i) Solar Lighting – Insurance Claim: The claim was refused due to insurance policy interpretation. The policy premium has been re-negotiated and an additional £171.00 is payable to cover all theft or loss.
- (ii) Wild Flower Meadow: This has been delayed due to the adverse weather, but will be completed in the spring so the flowers will bloom in June.
- (e) Parish Wardens:
Accommodation: The old St John's Ambulance building is now empty, and negotiations with AVBC are on-going and may take some time.
Vehicle: The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk seek the relevant 3 quotes for vehicles and that the Chair & Vice-Chair will approve the purchase of the appropriate vehicle based on 'best value'.
- (f) Calendar – 2013: Sales – the sales have not been as expected this year so no additional funds will be raised for charity. The printing and cost will be reviewed and assessed for the 2014 calendar.
- (g) Recycling Bins – Market Place: AVBC are to remove all recycling bins from Market Place, Somercotes, shortly.
- (h) Grit Bin Provision by the Parish Council:
The Council discussed the paper provided by the Clerk who was concerned about the increasing cost of grit bins and supplies particularly as people use the grit for personal use and not on the roads.

The Council **RESOLVED** to provide grit bins on Bonnington Drive and Cinder Road. The Parish Wardens will be able to undertake the refills and distribute the grit, when they have a vehicle, so saving cost.

- (i) Christmas Lighting: All members of the Council are invited to attend a sub-committee meeting with Lite Ltd to discuss a new 3 year contract that is due for renewal in 2013. The meeting is to be held at 4.45pm, on Thursday, 21st February 2013, at the Village Hall.
- (j) Street Lighting Repairs: DCC has decided not to repair any street lighting not owned by them. The Council is currently seeking a map plan of the lighting columns for which it has a responsibility and would then seek private contractors to undertake any repair works. The Council **RESOLVED** that it would now put the street lighting column works out to private contractors.
- (k) Councillor Vacancies: There are still 2 vacancies for parish councillors that have been advertised, but as yet no applications have been received.
- (l) Election Compact: The Council **RESOLVED** that the wording should be 'Candidate' as opposed to member
- (m) Localism Act: Declarations – Precept
The papers were distributed to members on the advice given and passed by AVBC on 23rd January 2013. The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be given delegated powers to grant dispensation to all members so that they were able to discuss the precept and then conduct their business, on this matter.
The Clerk granted dispensation to all members to discuss the precept and conduct their business in item 11/2013 (c)

10/2013 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

45/2012: Discloseable Pecuniary Interests, Dispensations & Precept Setting

46/2012: What Next for Localism; New PAYE Arrangements; Improving Local Government Transparency; Technical Reforms and Planning Appeals; Funding Opportunities.

47/2012: Council Tax Reduction Scheme – Certainty of Funding for Town & Parish Councils; DALC Website; Winter Flooding; Sport England Small Grants Programme; NEDDC Liaison Meeting; Clerk Vacancies

11/2013 Finance

- (a) The Council **RESOLVED** the Accounts for Payment Total: £37,352.54
- (b)

Income		£ 1,952.47
Interest		£ 9.12
	Total	£ 1,961.57
- (c) Precept – Consideration and to determine the 2013-14 Precept
The precept for 2013-14 was discussed by the members and **RESOLVED** that the precept should remain at £137,656.00, as this amount was required in order for the council to conduct its business in 2013-14.
The Council further **RESOLVED** that it would submit a precept for £108,762, as instructed by AVBC, and that the additional sum of £28,894 would be received for this amount. The Council was extremely concerned about the changes and impact this may have in future years and a letter was to accompany the precept form outlining those concerns.

12/2013 To consider planning applications:

- 2012/1061 Single storey rear extension at 71, Leamoor Avenue, for Mr Richard Baker.
- 2013/0005 18A Wood Street, Leabrooks, Alfreton, Derbyshire for Mrs Kell Barr
Erection of a single story rear extension with pitch roof.
- TRE/2013/0004: Crown lift 2 lime trees to 5 metres: The Limes, Main Road, Pye Bridge – Mrs Judson

Planning Matters Determined

- 2012/0918 Installation of a single wind energy turbine and associated sub-station at Somercotes Waste Transfer Green Waste Site, Cotes Park Lane.
Permitted

The Council **RESOLVED** to make no objections to any of the planning applications.

13/2013: Items for information only

- Disability Access Assist – Letter of support provided
- DUWU – Annual Report & Funding Request for 2013
- Belper Leisure Centre – Petition
- AVBC – New Floor Plans for Offices

14/2013: To following resolution was moved - “That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (in respect of the personal situation of an employee which could result in legal proceedings) it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.”

Staff Matters: Currently, the council is experiencing staff shortages due to one member being on long-term sickness after an operation and another having a recent operation and on restricted duties. The Clerk stated in relation to the latter and other council work he was working many additional hours (unpaid) to cover the work and that he had accrued considerable time owed.

New staff and additional requirements of H&S, training and appraisals would cause additional time to be worked therefore, adding additional hours for funding applications was not appropriate at this time. If the work is undertaken it should be specific to the funding bids when the work was undertaken rather than on a weekly basis.

The Council **RESOLVED** that:

The Clerk would make working adjustments for his role and the assistant clerk in 2014-15.

Work on funding projects to be undertaken when appropriate and time allowed.

The Council would seek a new Relief Caretaker, possibly on a retainer, as there were difficulties under the present arrangements now a new caretaker is in post.

The temporary Parish Warden’s hours can be extended, subject to agreement, after the 10th March 2013, until the Parish Warden was fit to return to work, or until the matter is resolved.

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm

15/2013: Date of next Ordinary PC Meeting: 6.30pm, Friday, 15th March 2013