

SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL



The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Somercotes Parish Council held at 6.30pm, on Friday, 15th March 2013 in the Parish Hall, Nottingham Road, Somercotes

Present: Cllr P Smith (Chairman); Cllr B Lyttle (Vice Chairman); Cllr P Curran-Bilbie; Cllr T Marriott; Cllr M Barron; Cllr C Langton; Cllr. J McCabe; Cllr. S Walker (6.53pm); Cllr J Parker

G Blackmore (Clerk to the Council) and three members of the public

16/2013 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr P Price (Family Commitments); Cllr. J Gardiner (none received); Cllr A Stringer (none received)

17/2013 Variation of Order of Business - None

18/2013 : Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr B Lyttle – 27/2013: All Planning Matters

Cllr P Smith & Cllr J McCabe – 29/2013 (Staff Matters – Relief Caretaker)

19/2013: To consider any Councillors' Request for dispensation: None

20/2013: Public Speaking – (30 Minutes)

(a) Public Speaking:

Mrs D Lancaster on behalf of the Girl Guides re damage to a table. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the explanation and the Council would risk assess the incident and provide a heat protection pad.

A resident from Nottingham Road raised her concerns about noise pollution and environmental concerns re chalk dust from Eurocell Plant.

The Council **RESOLVED** to write letters to be AVBC Planning re Enforcement on Eurocell site and Cc to AVBC Environmental Services.

A resident raised several issues including the A38 Slip Road serious accident after raising the matter at the last PC Meeting. DCC have arranged for A 'One + to conduct a survey of the location on their behalf.

Litter along Nottingham Road particularly in the hedge alongside B&Q and on the open land (old Aertex Site)

Old Rifle Volunteer PH Site – Litter & being used as a drug user site

Dog Fouling: To write to AVBC to ascertain the number of prosecutions in Somercotes in 2012-13 for litter and dog fouling offences.

Cllr Smith reported that other issues are currently being resolved, the gully overflow outside Motor Mania – DCC have been asked to resolve this with STW Pedestrian Refuge – Near McDonalds: Due to continual damage of the current system by lorries a new solid tarmac & Concrete refuge is being installed by DCC.

Concrete Bollards outside the Medical Centre and opposite the Village Hall have been damaged and need replacing

Police Liaison Officer: No officer present

Derbyshire County Council (Cllr P Smith):

- DCC have made a u-turn on Youth Service provision and only 2 or 3 Youth Centres will now close. Somercotes has been saved, but there needs to be greater voluntary usage of the building.
- Campaign to switch Electricity with up to £200 savings for people – information in the Derbyshire First Magazine.
- DCC after cutting £2m from the Highways budget has now put back in £1m for road repairs and improvements.
- AVBC – Local Development and Core Strategy: The land north of Birchwood Lane is now a preferred option for housing and has been removed from industrial use/employment land. There is an over supply of employment land in Amber Valley so the site is not needed for employment, and to be considered for residential purposes.

District Council (Cllrs B Lyttle & J McCabe):

The removal of services by AVBC despite a no precept rise is a concern. The precept for Somercotes was a 0% increase, but the government changed the Base Rate and Council tax benefits. AVBC was given a government grant to distribute to Town & Parish Councils when the Borough Council grant was lowered. In taking the grant Somercotes PC was then seen to raise the precept.

Appointment of Councillor by Co-Option: (S.O's Suspended):

Mr Jason Parker was co-opted onto the Parish Council and signed the declaration of acceptance that was countersigned by the Clerk. All relevant documents were given to Cllr Parker.

21/2013: The Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on: 25th January 2013 - Ordinary PC Meeting; the Christmas Lights Sub-Committee, 21st February 2013 and 22nd February 2013 - Special PC Meeting

22/2013: 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 in the following terms: None

23/2013 Chairman's Announcements: None

24/2013 Report of the Clerk on (Full report attached):

(a) Market Place Car Park

- (i) Demolition of Public Toilets – Feature Area/ Transfer of land: pending AVBC Legal Team's advice
- (ii) Parking Restrictions – Additional Parking spaces; 3 hour limit: pending until all the legal decisions are in place, as at (i)
- (iii) A personal accident has occurred on Mill Yard Car Park as the result of a person tripped in a pot hole (repaired). Mill Yard - Car Park Lighting. Our insurers have been advised there may be a claim. The Council **RESOLVED** to contact DCC re possible new street lighting under Crime Reduction and Community Safety.

(b) Report on Village Hall

- (i) Roof Repairs & Internal Decorations: The Council **RESOLVED** to apply for a PWBL
- (ii) PWBL – application to be made for £10,000.00 to complete all the works

(c) Allotments

- (i) Firearms (Vermin Control) – amendment for ratification of protocols: The Council **RESOLVED** to amend the protocols to enable shooting of wood pigeons during daylight hours.

- (d) **Winding Wheel, Nottingham Road**
Wild Flower Meadow – A site meeting was held with Jo Perkins (Groundwork) and the necessary work should be completed by the end March 2013 – subject to weather conditions.
- (e) **Parish Wardens**
 - (i) Accommodation – pending with AVBC Legal Team
 - (ii) Vehicle: A deposit was made on the vehicle of £4,000. The Council **RESOLVED** to pay off the full outstanding sum rather than engage in a Finance Agreement. The vehicle will be ready for collection on 30th March 2013
- (f) **Recycling Bins** – Market Place: It is understood the removal of the recycling bins will not take place until the end of March when the contracts expire.
- (g) **Christmas Lighting** – 3 year Contract for renewal 2013 – report from the Sub-Committee: The Council, after considering the report by the Sub-Committee and cost supplied by the Clerk the Council **RESOLVED** to renew the 3 year contract with Lite Ltd and extend the lighting scheme to Leabrooks (including lights on the trees at the Park entrance) and Pye Bridge. The lights on trees on the Market Place would need to be reduced as there are issues with cost & repairs. The Clerk is to liaise and resolve all matters with Lite Ltd. The total cost of approx. £14,000 for the upgrade in 2013-14 was **RESOLVED** subject to sufficient funding; the 3 year contract, as quoted by Lite Ltd, and a 3 year payment plan for the new lights.
- (j) **Street Lighting Repairs: Somercotes PC Lighting Columns** – The locations of all the Parish Council lights around the recreation ground has been established and the on-going repairs will need to be agreed with an external contractor. The Council **RESOLVED** to seek a contractor for maintenance and repairs.
- (k) **Councillor Vacancies:** Mr. Jason Parker was co-opted as a councillor this evening leaving one vacancy on the Parish Council.
- (l) **Relief Caretaker:** The Council **RESOLVED** to seek a new relief caretaker – to be discussed in 29/2013 (Confidential)
- (m) **A38 (southbound) Slip Road** – A One + are conducting a Safety Study
- (n) **Community Projects – Government Grant usage**
 - (i) **Skateboard Park:** The Council **RESOLVED** to attain the cost of new equipment (up to £20k) and arrange a meeting with young people who use the half pipe the equipment they prefer to use, if suitable
 - (ii) Village Hall Roof: PWBL, as at (b)

25/2013	Derbyshire Association of Local Councils
03/2013	General Circular – PAYE RTI, Neighbourhood Plan, New Fund to Revive villages, Pubs served with £15k fund
04/2013	General Circular – Training
05/2013	General Circular – Finance & Good Practice
06/2013	General Circular – Setting the Precept & Dispensations, Allotments, Quality Parish & Town Councils & Parish Meetings Review, Government lifts Red tape for Community Events.

26/2013 Finance

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| (a) | Accounts for Payment to 3.03.2013 (Attached) Total:
Ricoh UK Ltd – Unauthorised payment (reclaimed) | £21,241.50 |
| (b) | Income | £ 6,889.75 |
| | Interest | £ 13.41 |
| | Total | £ 6,903.16 |
- (c) **Precept – Rescission of Council decision. Precept & Grant**
At the Special Meeting of the Council on 22nd February 2013, the Council **RESOLVED** to make a rescission of the Council Decision of 25th January 2013 and request the full precept and the grant
AVBC have approved the payment of the precept at £137,656.00 and the additional government grant of £28, 894.00. The Borough Council has added the additional grant sum onto the precept showing a 28% increase, although the precept was not increased by the Parish Council.
- (d) Appointment of Internal Auditor; The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr. Brian Woods, as the Internal Auditor for the 2012-13 Annual Audit

27/2013 To consider planning applications:

Planning Applications

- 2013/0012 Extension to existing building at A K Bryan Mould Engineers Ltd., Unit 1 and 2, Wimsey Way, for Mr S Turner.
- 2013/0021 Time Extension application AVA/2009/0318 – Development of land for B1, B2 and B8 employment uses (resubmission) at land at Birchwood Lane, for Mr Andrew Bock, Clowes Developments (UK) Ltd., Brailsford Hall, Brailsford.
- 2013/0110 Proposal for the installation of a biomass boiler and enclosure at Storm DFX, Keys Road, for Storm DFX.
- 2013/0146 Hoarding advertising board at the David Sharp Studio, 201A Nottingham Road, for Mr David Sharp.

Planning Matters Determined

- 2012/0746 Demolition of existing former Somercotes Methodist Hall and erection of 4 no. residential dwellings, at Somercotes Hill Methodist Church, Somercotes Hill.
Permitted
- 2013/0033 Erection of steel framed extension with cladding, new access from Cotes Park Lane, for John Davidson Pipes, Cotes Park Lane.
Permitted
- TRE/2013/0004: To Crown lift two lime trees to 5 metres at The Limes, Pye Bridge.
Permitted
- 2013/0005 Erection of a single storey rear extension with pitch roof. Extension to comprise of a dining room and utility room. Gable end overlooking garden to be glass. Insert x 3 Velux windows in roof. Insert x 2 windows and 1 door on side, at 18a Wood Street, Leabrooks.
Permitted

The Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment on any of the Planning Applications

28/2013 Items for information only:

AVBC Returning Officer – Legal Election Requirements in relation to Councillors and Staff. The Council **RESOLVED** that the Monitoring Officer be requested to ensure voters know that 2 candidates can be selected on the ballot papers due to the Electoral Ward Change.

29/2013 The Council moved the following resolution - “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.”

The Parish Warden, currently off work, expects to be back at work by the end of May. A phased return to work will be undertaken.

Relief Caretaker: The Council **RESOLVED** to advertise for a new relief caretaker and include a small weekly retainer.

Clerks Hours: The Council considered the report from the Clerk and **RESOLVED** to increase his hours to 15 hours per week with immediate effect, for 6 months. The Clerk is to report back in 6 months on the workload and hours worked.

30/2013: Date of next Ordinary PC & Annual Parish Council Meeting: 6.30pm, Friday, 17th May 2013