

SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

Councillors: Cllr P Smith (Chairman); Cllr B Lytle (Vice-Chairman); Cllr M Barron; Cllr P Curran-Bilbie); Cllr. J Gardiner; Cllr Mrs B Hannant (Resigned - July); Cllr C Langton; Cllr J McCabe; Cllr T Marriott; Cllr Mrs E Pace (Resigned); Cllr J Parker (co-opted) Cllr P Price; Cllr A Stringer; Cllr. S. Walker.

Contacting Councillors: All Councillors can be contacted through the Parish Council Office (01773) 603810, by e-mail: somercotespc@btinternet.com or by writing to the Parish Council, The Village Hall, Nottingham Road, Somercotes, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 4LY

Income / Expenditure 2012-13: Precept £137,656.00

The Chairman stated at the Annual Parish meeting that the Audit had been completed and was open for public inspection by application to the Clerk to the Council. Receipts and payments can be viewed on the Council's website. The Council set the precept at £137,656.00 (0% increase), but requested the additional government grant £28,894.00 thus showing an increase.

Parish Council Expenditure/Income: 2012-13			
Expenditure:			
Admin:	£10,628	Salaries:	£70,718
Village Hall:	£19,601	Highways:	£21,982
Lighting:	£15,498	S137:	£ 4,506
Allotments:	£ 8,634	Misc:	£15,333
Car Parks:	£ 2,068	VAT:	£13,515
Precept:	£137,656		Expenditure: £182,483
Income:			
Precept:	£137,656	VAT Reclaim:	£12,700
Village Hall:	£ 12,101	Highways/ R of W:	£ 1,537
Misc/Grants:	£ 2,721	Admin	£ 953
Allotments:	£ 1,498	Bank Int:	£ 141
		Income:	£169,307

Chairman's Report:

The Parish Council has undertaken a greater role in services including the car park transfers, footpaths, snow / ice surface treatment in winter/spring and maintenance work and to meet these needs a vehicle has been provided for the Parish Wardens. The Council set the precept at £137,656.00 a 0% increase, however, a request was made for the additional grant, as already outlined. This will allow the council to undertake more community projects and improvements in 2013-14.

Parish Council Matters:

Car Parks: Market Place & Mill Yard Car parks are now the responsibility of the Parish Council and the transfer from the Borough Council was to ensure 'Free Parking' was maintained to encourage people to shop locally. Additional car parking space will be made available now that the recycling bins have been removed.

Christmas Lighting & Floral Displays: The Parish Council is continuing with the Christmas Lighting and floral displays. The Christmas lighting scheme is being extended to Leabrooks using shops & businesses as the connection points as the old lamp posts are not suitable for lighting attachments. A further Christmas lighting display will be on the Dog & Doublet P.H. so the area is included in the scheme.

Village Hall (formerly Parish Hall): The Parish Council has spent over £10k re-furbishing and improving the village hall. This has included new fascia and guttering outside, new front doors, fire doors being refitted and fire safety improvements. In 2013-14 the Parish Council will be having the roofing lattes and felt replaced as a number of leaks have occurred.

Vehicle for Parish Wardens: The Parish Council has provided a vehicle for the Parish Wardens so that they can work more effectively and efficiently under an ever increasing workload and moving equipment around the parish.

Community Centre Support: The Parish Council has supported the development of the new multi-sports area and eco-friendly overspill car park. Somercotes now has some excellent local facilities including the Village Hall, Somerlea park Community Centre, Outdoor Gym Equipment, skateboard area (improvements are being considered) and Pennytown Ponds and the community is asked to support these.

Allotments: The Parish Council has three working allotment sites at Bridle Lane, Birchwood Lane and Sleetmoor Lane (Flash Allotments) the latter two having plots for lease. The Council has spent around £6k last year improving the allotments with water supply upgrades and reclaiming of land for use. Due to the land reclamation work on Birchwood Lane Allotments there are now plots available for lease.

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Wild Flower Meadow: The area around the Winding Wheel (B600) Nottingham Road, Somercotes, has been designated as a 'Wild Flower' Meadow. After several delays, due to adverse weather, the seeds have been planted and there will be a colourful floral display in June that will attract bees, insects, butterflies and other small creatures.

The Parish Council: The Parish Council meets bi-monthly on the third Friday of each month and the public are welcome to attend and raise any issues. The Council held two councillor vacancies during 2012-13 and there has been one co-option so leaving one vacancy currently available for any eligible member of the community to apply.