

SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Somercotes Parish Council held at 6.30pm, on Friday, 20th September 2013 in the Village Hall, Nottingham Road, Somercotes.

Present: Cllr. P. Smith (Chairman); Cllr. B Lyttle (Vice Chairman); Cllr. J. T Marriott; Cllr. M Barron; Cllr J Parker; Cllr. P Price; Cllr C Langton; Cllr J McCabe; Cllr P Curran-Bilbie (6.50pm)

Clerk to the Council: Two Police Officers attended (left at 6.50pm); No members of the public.

61/2013: To receive apologies for absence: Cllr S Walker (holiday); Cllr P Curran-Bilbie (Business commitment - to attend later in meeting). No apologies received from Cllr. J Gardiner or Cllr A. Stringer (reported to be in ill health)

62/2013: Variation of Order of Business: Agenda Item 71/2013 (e) to Confidential

63/2013: Declaration of Members Interests:

Cllr B Lyttle: 72/2013 – All Planning Matters

64/2013: To consider any Councillors' Request for dispensation: None

65/2013: Public Speaking – (30 Minutes)

(a) No members of the public were present.

(b) **Police Liaison Officer:** PC M Gibbs & PCSO C Bannister attended

Although the trends are down for Alcohol related offences, ASB and dwellings there is an increase related to non-dwellings shops; sheds and shop lifting. Several arrests have been made so there may be a subsequent decrease in crime.

Cllr. Smith stated that there appeared to be a group going out late at night on bicycles that may be out gathering information. There has been reported air rifle activity at Pennytown Ponds. Police to look into the aforementioned matters.

(c) **County Council:** Cllr P Smith reported:-

The County Council is required to make a further £30m of cuts on top of the £127m already required in the next 5 years, so there will inevitably be big cuts in service provision. Although there needs to be protection for disadvantaged areas, such as Somercotes. There are to be 20 school breakfast clubs including a combined scheme for the Infants/Juniors in Somercotes.

Lighting Schemes: New lighting has been installed on the South Spires Estate and another phase is to follow. New lighting schemes will use LED lighting although initially more expensive is cheaper to run and maintain in the long-term.

Safe Pedestrian Refuge, Hockley Way: DCC will install and pay all cost.

Safe refuge Lower Somercotes (nr The Black Horse PH): DCC is looking at this proposal, but as this is a wide-load route it may not be possible.

School Improvements: There is currently a backlog in school improvements but the County Council is working through the system.

Green Watch Grant; £500 has been awarded to the infants school to develop a forest field near the school.

DCC Land/Buildings: The County Council is currently off-loading land and buildings surplus to requirement and monies raised will go into capital receipts.

Fire Authority: A paper has been submitted to the Fire Authority to consider fire station closures and relocation of others. The proposal is to reduce the number of stations from 31 to 15.

Bus Service: DCC & Notts CC have agreed to re-instate the Sunday evening bus service through Ironville, Riddings, Leabrooks and Somercotes to Alfreton. This will be jointly funded until July 2014 and usage assessed to see if the service is viable for continuation beyond this date.

Borough Council: Cllr. Lyttle says it is becoming frustrating that he has reported fly-tipping to the Borough Council who have failed to respond. The Parish Council has reported the same incident without response.

66/2013: The **Council RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary PC Meeting held on 19^h July 2013

67/2013: **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:** Agenda Item 71/2013 (e)

68/2013: Chairman's Announcements:

DCC will be installing and covering the cost for the safe refuge crossing on Hockley Way

69/2013 Report of the Clerk on:

(a) Market Place

(i) Former Public Toilet area Feature Area/ Transfer of land

AVBC has agreed to tidy up the area and provide a planting scheme providing the Parish Council is willing to have the land transferred over. Due to the on-going delay in tidying up the area the Parish Wardens have trimmed the bushes and strimmed the weeded area to tidy it up.

(ii) Tarmac & Relining: Market Place Car Park

This matter has been delayed due to financial constraints and the area to be resurfaced may need to be reduced and completed in phases.

The Clerk informed the Council that financial constraints may affect the works programme with other conflicting priorities.

(b) Report on Village Hall

(i) Roof Repairs: Tenders: Three sealed tenders have been received – Due to the tender prices being unexpectedly high the **Council RESOLVED** that the Clerk was asked to speak with another contractor(s).

The Clerk highlighted that budget priorities would be a consideration, but the works were a priority.

(ii) Internal Decoration:

The **Council RESOLVED** that a request be made to the Community Pay Back Scheme through DCC to undertake the works

(iii) External Drain: During heavy rainfalls water is coming under the main hall fire doors & saturating the carpet. The call out fee was £180.00 to temporarily deal with the blockage. The drainage system has been incorrectly installed and the remedial work cost is quoted at £780 + Vat (£936)

The **Council RESOLVED** that the Clerk seek an additional quote(s) for the work

and that authorisation for the works to be undertaken by the Clerk through the Chairman

(c) Allotments:

- (i) Bridle Lane: Planning permission has been granted for the Compus toilet system and a Coal Board search (£69.00 plus Vat) undertaken, as required by AVBC Planning. Works to commence on 4th October 2013.
- (ii) Birchwood Lane – Complaint:: This matter is being dealt with through the Allotments Chairman, as there are issues regarding legal requirements and procedures
- (iii) Sleetmoor Lane – A meeting was held with George Brydon (DCC) at 10am, 19th Sept 2013) and present were Georgie Butt (Allotment Association); Cllr B. Lyttle and the Clerk to the Council. Cllr Lyttle reported that a plan was being devised to cordon off the wet area near the woods, 200 hawthorn bushes would be provided by DCC and project proposals were to be determined for the site.
- (iv) **Allotments Competition** – 2013: Awards Evening: Cllr Lyttle said that the Presentation Evening went very well and some excellent close marking saw 2nd to 6th place be only 1 mark apart.

(d) Parish Wardens: Accommodation – AVBC arranging for transfer of the building to Somercotes PC through St John’s Ambulance Service – waiting for valuation: The Council were concerned that this and other matters were not being resolved.

(e) **Councillor Vacancies:** One Vacancy (Information Item)

(f) **Infants & Junior Schools:** ‘I want to be .../ Aspiration Week 21 -25 October 2013: Cllr. McCabe asked that Councillors be involved and that 23rd October was the main day when outside agencies were attending. Harvest produce to be given to Pennytown Friendship Luncheon Group

(g) **Skateboard Park Improvements:** Installation & Works completed. The new equipment has been welcomed by many people and facility is be well used by young people.. Some minor damage has been caused and repaired by Park Leisure

(h) **Litter Bin provision in Somercotes:** Report sent to AVBC – there has been no response from AVBC. Cllr. Lyttle said he had a list of bins that needed to be reinstalled.

The **Council RESOLVED** that the local press be informed at the lack of response from AVBC on a number of matters.

(i) **Floral Display Contract for 2014-17:** The **Council RESOLVED** to renew the 3 year contract with Premier1 (UK) Ltd at the cost in their tender.

Winter Plants: The **Council RESOLVED** to continue with a floral display during the winter months outside the village hall and at the winding wheel. The clerk was requested to liaise with Premier 1 (UK) Ltd, as to the best plants to use. .

(j) **Somercotes Events Day – July 2014:**

Councillor McCabe proposed the holding of a summer fayre event in July 2014 to enable local groups, schools etc to raise funds. The **Council RESOLVED** that Cllr McCabe speaks with groups and seeks voluntary assistance for organising and running such an event.

(k) **Safe Refuge Crossing – Hockley Way:** The cost of the crossing is £1,722.00 and DCC will fund the cost

(l) **Proposed new Muga-area on Scott Drive:**

Plans are being considered for a new muga-area on Scott Drive, Somercotes. Cllr P Smith proposed that the Parish Council should support the project with a £5k contribution to show local involvement to assist the other funding (£45k) from DCC & AVBC.

The Clerk advised the Council that there were already approved projects on the budgets and that everything programmed could not be achieved in 2013-14, with the VH roof repairs & internal decoration; additional Christmas lighting, as well as car park improvements. A large amount of the reserves had already been spent on other community projects.

The **Council RESOLVED** that £5k be allocated to the project as it would not be likely the 'Muga' area would be completed until next spring. One Councillor voted against the proposal.

The **Council RESOLVED** to reconsider expenditure after the next precept is paid at the end of September.

(m) **Somercotes Heritage Day – Saturday, 9th November 2013**

This is the 2nd Annual Heritage Day and will be held in the Village Hall from 10am – 4pm. Entry is 'free' to encourage people to attend and bring along documents, photos, memorabilia etc. The event is being organised by Somercotes Local History Society.

(n) **Calendar:** The **Council RESOLVED** that a 2014 Calendar be produced, limited to 300 copies and sold at £3.00 each. There should be no 'free' give away or reduced offers to ensure a full recovery of cost.

70/2013 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils; 13/2013 – 17/2013

71/2013 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment bet 19.07.2013 to 31.08.2013	£22,292.80
(b) Income	£ 530.50
Interest	£ 22.15
Total	£ 552.65

(c) Budget Report: The **Council RESOLVED** to accept the budget report

(d) **Audit Return** – The **Council RESOLVED** to accept & approve the Audit Return

(e) **Salaries (move to 74/2013)**

(f) **Banking arrangements:** The Clerk outlined the rationale for moving away from cheques and to use a Credit Card & online payments. Safeguards would be in place and Council approval given. Enquiries are on-going with the bank.

72/2013 To consider planning applications:

Planning Matters

2013/0646 The retention of an existing office building on existing foundations built under temporary permission AVA/2007/1223. This is an application for a temporary permission whilst a permanent scheme is designed, at Helifix Limited, Venture Crescent, Nixs Hill Industrial Estate, Alfreton, for Mr J Mitchell.

2013/0738 Certificate of Lawful Use – Land used as garden in excess of ten years with associated outbuildings, at 29 Norman Road, for Mr M Martin.

- 2013/0778 Proposed substitution of 19 no. houses on plots 23 to 41 (in lieu of 25 no. houses on plots 23 to 41 (previously approved under consent AVA/2004/1104) and minor revision to road 2, at Plots 23 to 41, Greenhill Lane, Leabrooks, for Langridge Homes Ltd.
- 2013/0664 Proposed dwelling (outline) at 33 Leabrooks Road, for Mr N Fletcher.

The **Council RESOLVED** to make no comments on any planning applications

Planning Matters Determined

- 2013/0225 Outline application for 5 three storey dwellings at 579 Lower Somercotes.
Permitted
- 2013/0495 Two detached dwellings on private garden to the N.E. of existing dwelling, at 208 Birchwood Lane. This is a DEPARTURE from the Development Plan.
Refused
- 2013/0572 Installation of a 'Compus' toilet facility on allotment land owned by the parish council which includes ramp facility to comply with DDA
Leabrooks Allotment Gardens, Bridle Lane, Leabrooks.
Permitted
- 2013/0597 Alteration to relocate existing entrance, with additional internal alterations, at Equip Outdoor Technologies Ltd., Wimsey Way.
Permitted
- 2013/0612 Reserved matters application for Erection of 5 no. townhouses and two pairs of semi-detached dwellings with associated parking provision, at Springfield House, Ralph Drive.
Permitted
- 2013/0502 Outline planning permission for residential development of land with primary access off Cinder Road to include the demolition of the Black Horse Public House (Resubmission of AVA/2012/0778. This is a departure from the Development Plan, at the Black Horse Inn, 358 Lower Somercotes.
REFUSED

73/201: Items for information only:

- o **Have Your Say** – Somerlea Park Centre 16th October 2013
- o **Funding for Shop Conversion to residential**

74/2013: The 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.”

- (i) **Staff Matters:** Staff pay rise agreed 1% and to be backdated to 1st April 2013
- (ii) **CCTV:** AVBC will not be making any decision until the full consultation / survey of all CCTV is completed in November 2013.

75/2013: Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting: 6.30pm, Friday, 15th November 2013

The meeting closed at 8.03pm