

# **SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Somerford Park Farm @ 7.30 pm.

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**Present;** Councillor G Bell (Chairman), Councillor P Crompton, Councillor S Hughes, Councillor K Wainwright, Councillor M Harnett and the Clerk.

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## **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr K Wainwright - RSPB land and Blackfirs Lane development by DWH.

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## **Election of Chairman for the ensuing year**

**Resolved** Cllr G Bell would act as Chairman for the year 2018/19.

The Acceptance of Office was signed.

## **Public Forum**

1 member of the public.

## **52/18 Apologies**

Cllr R Crookes due to work commitments, Cllr T Swain due to work commitments and Cllr J Wray no apologies submitted.

## **53/18 Minutes**

**Resolved** the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 having been circulated be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

## **54/18 To elect the Vice Chairman for the ensuing year**

**Resolved** Cllr P Crompton would act as Vice Chairman for the year 2018/19.

The Acceptance of Office was signed.

## **55/18 To adopt the General Power of Competence**

**Resolved** to confirm that the Council continues to meet the requirements to exercise the General Power of Competence.

## **56/18 To appoint representations for the ensuing year.**

**Resolved** Councillors took the following responsibilities;

CHALC- Cllr K Wainwright

Police- Cllr M Harnett

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr P Crompton & Cllr M Harnett

Communication – Cllr S Hughes

Highways- Cllr T Swain & Cllr K Wainwright

Personnel – Cllr G Bell

Outside Bodies – Cllr G Bell & Cllr R Crookes

Finance – Cllr P Crompton

## **57/18 David Wilson Homes**

There had been a meeting with David Wilson Homes on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Cllr G Bell, Cllr S

Hughes, Cllr R Crookes and the Clerk had attended. Notes had been circulated. There had been no contact between Highways Cheshire East and DWH to complete a site visit along the lane and approve the road improvements therefore no actions had been taken on the grass verges. After pressure from the PC the highways walk had taken place the previous week and now we were awaiting the works to be completed. 'Open Reach' had attended site on 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> May and dug up the road/verge again, this had been out of DWH control. Some of the works had been unapproved and CE Highways were due to implement financial penalties.

#### **58/18 RSPB Land**

There had been several complaints that Mr B Costello had submitted a discharge of conditions on the site although this had been subsequently communicated to the PC it was not by instruction of the task group. There was a meeting scheduled on the 8<sup>th</sup> June where this would be discussed further.

#### **59/18 Audit 2017/18**

The Chairman ensured the certificate of exemption part 2 section 3 was completed and included, gross annual income in 2017/18 and gross annual expenditure in 2017/18 being less than £25,000.

**Resolved** full Council approved the certificate of income and expenditure less than £25,000

#### **60/18 The Annual Governance Statement – Section 1**

**Resolved** the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 was accepted by full Council.

#### **61/18 The Annual Governance Statement – Section 2**

**Resolved** the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 was accepted by full Council.

#### **62/18 Planning Applications**

No applications had been submitted since the last meeting.

#### **63/18 Cheshire East**

No representative was present.

The New Home Bonus Scheme from Cheshire East was discussed and the recent email correspondence from a local resident in relation to bid for a community hall in the Parish. The members discussed this and felt the obligation to manage this community asset by the Parish Council was too extensive at this time.

#### **64/18 Blackfirs Nature Park**

The members agreed it was a long time since they had visited the site and would ensure they would view before the next meeting.

It was agreed the Clerk would write to Cheshire Wildlife Trust to enquire about the maintenance and the funding of the site.

#### **65/18 Accounts**

To note the balance of accounts = £11,458.99

#### **Payments**

- Cheque number 207- £77.22 – Mrs J Mason expenses Jan to March*
- Cheque number 208 - £25.00 Mr G Roberts Internal Auditor*

- *Direct Debit- £5.99 Office 365*

### **Receipts**

- £209.58 HW and SB Parish Council (computer)
- **Resolved** the above payments be accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **Memorial for Mr James Crain**

An email had been received from a resident in Congleton to request the Parish Council contributed towards a memorial to commemorate his life.

**Resolved** the Parish Council would contribute towards the fund.

The Clerk would contact the Mr S Brough for more details.

### **58/18 Financial Regulations**

The Financial Regulations had been adapted due to the introduction of a debit card. When under discussion there was a point raised about the Parish Council embarking on online banking.

Cllr P Crompton would investigate this issue and report back at the next meeting.

The agenda point was deferred.

### **59/18 Highways**

#### **Footpath siding out along the A54**

Congleton Town Council had quoted inaccurately in relation to the siding out of the footpaths as they had not included traffic management. The estimated quote was now more than £4,000.

The Clerk was requested to query the obligation of Cheshire East as the footpaths were less than a metre wide and then see if they would compromise with the traffic management costs

#### **New SDU on A54**

The SDU needed to be in covert mode as opposed to always normal since otherwise it would lose its effectiveness. The Clerk was requested to contact TWM Traffic Systems and request to have the unit aligned with the Parish Council computer and then train the Councillors to move the unit.

#### **New 40 mph Speed limit on Holmes Chapel Road**

This had now been implemented. There were two poles installed to put up two electronic signs in June.

#### **Chelford Road surface dress.**

This had been completed on 16<sup>th</sup> May and the subsequent standards were poor. The Clerk had arranged a site visit with Mr M Heywood and Cllr K Wainwright had attended (report circulated). The gully on Radnor Bank had been cleared subsequently to the road being surface dressed. Due to the poor works the road would be revisited and addressed. Mr M Heywood had apologised.

The weight limit over the bridge was also raised over the bridge. Mr R Cooper would pass on details to the Clerk to ensure the details were logged. Cllr G Bell pointed out that three of the four weight signs were missing.

#### **Brown signs for Holiday Park.**

These were unauthorised signs and it was agreed after writing to the owners of the site asking to remove them the Parish Council would now take the signs down.

### **60/18 Website Logo**

**Resolved** to accept the logo of the horse in the title of Somerford Parish Council.

**61/18 Clerks Report**

GDPR Update

No actions had been taken to date.

**62/18 Chairman Report**

Local Plan Site Allocations

Cllr P Crompton would attend at Westfields in Sandbach on 25<sup>th</sup> May

Public Forum

The resident was dismayed with the lack of urgency the grass verges were being addressed along Blackfirs Lane. She blamed the Parish Council for not taking actions and allowing DWH and highways CE get away with not taking any accountability. If no actions were taken she would turf her own verge and send the bill to the Parish Council or DWH.

She also wished it noted that GDPR was due to be launched on 25<sup>th</sup> May and wondered what actions the Parish Council were taking

**63/18 It was noted the next meeting would be on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion in Somerford Park Farm.**

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Chairman

The meeting concluded business at 9.55 pm

