



Somerford Parish Council
Annual Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting on 17 May 2021

Present

Councillor Geoff Bell (Chairman)

Councillor Paul Crompton (vice-Chairman)

Councillor Richard Crookes

Councillor Simon Hughes

Councillor Allan Power

Councillor Gwyneth Derbyshire

Councillor John Wray (from 2100 hrs)

Ms Julie Mason - Clerk

Mr Carlton Evans - Clerk

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Derbyshire (Loachbrook Estate discussion).

Part 1

Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

54/21 Election of New Chairman

After a vote by the Council:

Resolved: Cllr Geoff Bell was elected as Chair. Cllr Bell read out the Chair's declaration and signed the acceptance document.

Apologies

Cllr Jeanette Hardman (due to Covid self-isolation).

55/21 Minutes

Resolved: The draft minutes of the meeting on 14th April 2021 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

56/21 Election of the Vice Chairman for 2021/22

After nominations from the Councillors present:

Resolved: Cllr Paul Crompton was elected to serve as vice-Chair of the Council. Cllr Crompton read out the vice-Chair declaration and signed the acceptance document.

57/21 To agree Councillor Responsibilities for 21/22

Resolved: Councillors agreed to the revised list of responsibilities as proposed by the Clerk (annex A).

58/21 Approval of three Parish Council policies

Three policies were reviewed:

Resolved: Standing Orders - approved

Resolved: Financial Regulations - approved

Resolved: the Code of Conduct - approved.

Business Plan 2020-2025 (Councillors Responsible: Geoff Bell)

Chairman Bell undertook to review and update the Business Plan and circulate for comment at the next meeting.

59/21 Registers of Interest

Councillors updated and signed their registers of interest.

Draft Minutes

60/21 Engagement Session with CEC – Town and Parish Councils

Councillors had not attended this virtual meeting, though they recognised the importance of the Carbon Reduction Toolkit which had been scheduled for discussion. In terms of asset transfers, the Council felt there were no CE assets that Somerford wanted, though they felt a meeting with CE and agreement on the question of road verges would be useful.

61/21 Rhead's Meadows (Councillors Responsible: Geoff Bell, Richard Crookes)

The Council discussed the assessment of the state of the trees and the quote for the work to deal with them. There was a degree of uncertainty as to whether any (possibly minor) remedial work needed to be undertaken, or whether this would already be covered by the existing Public Liability Insurance. After discussion:

Resolved: Councillors Bell, Hughes, Power and Crompton to visit the site (25 May) and see whether any action needs to be taken.

Resolved: Councillors to report back to the full Council at its next meeting

Resolved: Councillors to review the state of the entrance stone on their site visit, and subject to the findings to approve expenditure of £85 for any repair to it.

Resolved: to chase Cheshire East to undertake work on a dangerous tree overhanging from the fence of a private resident. The resident has taken all necessary steps to get permission to deal with it (as it is subject to a tree preservation order), but are still waiting to hear from Cheshire East Council.

Resolved: Councillors to review the placement and fastening of dog waste signs during their site visit. Cllr Hughes to send a mock-up of the sign with revised wording to the Clerk who will then circulate to the Council for approval.

Councillors also noted that the grass needed cutting on the Rhead's Meadows site, spot weeding was needed as well as protective spirals on some trees. Chairman Geoff Bell undertook to follow this up.

Flooding – Council noted that trees were being badly affected and Chairman Bell undertook to meet with Bellway homes to follow up.

Owl Boxes

Chairman Bell undertook to discuss siting of the second box with local resident, Jean Crawford.

62/21 Black Firs Nature Reserve – Cheshire Wildlife Trust (Councillors Responsible: Paul Crompton, Richard Crookes)

Chairman Bell undertook to visit the site to see if work on the six trees in question had been completed.

Resolved: the Council approved that the Chairman could sign the lease for the transfer of assets, subject to the outcome of his site visit.

Work on the pond would need a more formal quote in order to pursue.

Councillor John Wray arrived at 2100 hrs

63/21 Community Governance Review (Councillor Responsible: Chairman G Bell)

It was unfortunate that comments from Somerford Parish Council on the officer's report to the Cheshire East Constitution Committee, which would see Somerford parish abolished and moved into neighbouring parishes, had not been taken on board. Somerford proposals had not been reflected in the report, while those from Holmes Chapel had been. The Council was not in favour of the proposed boundary changes, and the report seemed not to follow the principal Government guidance on local opinion and representations etc. Specific proposals would need a 12 week consultation and then a binding referendum of residents.

Resolved: Councillor Wray would revert to Cheshire East (Brian Reed) to try to get Somerford's views included in their report, and would update the council on progress at its next meeting (14 June).

64/21 Loachbrook 'Bovis' Estate (Councillor Responsible: Gwynedd Derbyshire)

Councillor Derbyshire reported that work on Holmes Chapel road was due to start soon. She was in touch with Cheshire East Enforcement Department about railings that were in the wrong place, hindering walkers, and would ask a Bovis surveyor to investigate this. There was debris in the brook which United Utilities should remove, and there were several roads that were unfinished.

64/21 Annual Internal Audit Report

Resolved: the audit was approved by the full Council.

65/21 The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)

Resolved: the annual governance statement (Section 1) was approved by full Council and signed.

66/21 The Annual Governance Statements (Section 2)

Resolved: the annual governance statement (Section 2) was approved by full Council and signed.

Resolved: the notice will be displayed on 11 June 2021 on Parish Council notice boards and website.

67/21 Notice of public rights

Resolved: the notice will be displayed on 11 June 2021 on Parish Council notice boards.

Resolved: the Clerk to contact Paul Griffiths about adopting three roundabouts on the CLR.

68/21 Highways (Responsible Councillor: Simon Hughes)

Resolved: The Council agreed that a speed survey should not be requested until after Covid restrictions were lifted and 'normal' traffic resumed. This would then be on a future agenda.

Resolved: that Councillor Hughes would review the SDU sign which was faulty and have it serviced if the problems persisted.

Draft Minutes

Parishioner comments on Sandy Lane were noted. Councillor G Bell will write to Paul Griffiths about the cycling lane. A dead tree had been reported and a pot hole, but this had not been fixed.

69/21 Cheshire East Report

Resolved: to accept a report from CE Ward Councillor John Wray

Resolved: to remove the matter of Environmental Weight Restrictions from the agenda as no further works will be undertaken. The Community Governance Review discussion is minuted above (**item 63.21**).

70/21 Planning Applications

Exercise classes at DWH were noted. These had been noisy during lockdown but were now being held indoors.

Planning Application: 21/2157C Holmes Chapel, Somerford, CW12 4QB – **Resolved:** No Objection

The meeting with the Chairman and Planning Director of DWH/Barrett's had taken place on 1 April and there had been follow up correspondence.

The meeting with the Planning Director of Bellway was agreed.

71/21 Accounts

To note the balance of the accounts was £25,375.31

Payments Approved

- £4,919.28 Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- £14.39 Zoom subscription (to be cancelled).
- £350.00 Mr Alan Stendeven
- £5.99 Office 365 subscription
- £213.48 CHALC Affiliation Fee
- £36.00 CPRE
- To approve SLCC membership (**resolved:** Clerk to join)
- An additional payment of £50 for internal audit fees was approved (Mr Gary Roberts)
- £25 CHALC (G Bell).
- £70.84 Julie mason's expenses (including the Chairman's allowance)
- £399.47 Zurich Insurance

Receipts

- £13,163.41 HRMC VAT

Resolved – the above payments approved and to be signed for.

72/21 Clerk's Report

Community Resilience Plan – the Council decided not to proceed with action on this.

73/21 Chairman and Members' Report

Comments on the Congleton waste site were noted.

Footpath 2 had been closed and needs repairs – a discussion on footpaths would be held at the next meeting.

Annex A

Councillor Responsibilities 21/22

Somerford Parish Council

Business Plan Delivery – Geoff Bell

Rhead's Meadow – Geoff Bell, Richard Crookes

Loachbrook/Anwyl – Gwyneth Derbyshire, Jeanette Hardman

DWH/Barrett's/Bellway – Geoff Bell, Allan Power

Personnel – Jeanette Hardman, Geoff Bell

Planning/Neighbourhood Plan – Paul Crompton, Jeanette Hardman

Highways – Simon Hughes, Geoff Bell

Communications – Simon Hughes

Black Firs Nature Reserve – Paul Crompton, Richard Crookes

Police – Gwyneth Derbyshire, Paul Crompton

CHALC - Gwyneth Derbyshire

Social Media – Jeanette Hardman, Allan Power

GDPR – Jeanette Hardman

Community Governance – Geoff Bell