



SOMERFORD
PARISH COUNCIL



Somerford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting on 19 July 2021

Present

Councillor Geoff Bell (Chairman)

Councillor Paul Crompton (vice-Chairman)

Councillor Gwyneth Derbyshire

Mr Carlton Evans – Clerk

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gwyneth Derbyshire (Loachbrook Estate discussion).

Part 1

Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

Apologies

Simon Hughes (unexpected work commitments)

Richard Crookes (travel)

John Wray (illness)

Jeanette Hardman (shielding)

88/21 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the draft minutes of the Council meeting on 14 June be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

89/21 Accounts

The following Payments were approved:

- £25.00 - Clerk's training (CE Code of Conduct)
- £40.00 - Data protection fee renewal
- £763.20 – Crewe Colour Printers (Newsletter)

The following Receipts were noted:

- £1,000.00 - J&A Nuttall (Rhead's Meadows seat)
- £793.13 – Astbury PC (Clerk's Salary)

90/21 Planning Applications

21/3453C - The demolition of existing farmhouse buildings and the erection of 5 no. dwellings (Use Class C3) with landscaping and other associated works, Farm House Turnstone Grange, Land North of Back Lane, Somerford.

Bordering the Parish, the Council **resolved** they had no objection to this application.

91/21 Rhead's Meadows and Black Firs Nature Reserve

The Council **resolved** that the Clerk should contact the solicitors (Bowcock and Pursaill) to discuss next steps in signing the lease for the Nature Reserve.

On the Black Firs ponds, the Council **resolved** to proceed with the revised proposal from Equator to clear the ponds and plant etc. Having received several estimates, the Clerk to contact Equator for a formal quotation, and discuss with Cheshire East the use of S106 money to pay for the works. The Council noted that S106 monies would not cover any hard landscaping needed.

On Rhead's Meadows, the Council noted that there was a lot of ragwort, dock and thistles. The Council **resolved** that the Clerk should obtain several quotes to deal with this as a maintenance contract to keep this in check. The Clerk will also chase Bellway Homes again about dealing with ragwort etc. on their site.

The Chairman Geoff Bell informed the Council that Jean Crawford, who owns the land between Rhead's Lane and the entrance to the Back Lane Village Green Playing Fields along which the footpath runs, has agreed to the removal of the existing barbed wire fencing and its replacement with a post and rail fence and the slight widening and hard surfacing of the path but requires the work be carried out by her nominated contractor. The Council **resolved** to earmark £2,500 for materials etc. to improve both the path and fencing.

92/21 Footpaths (closure of Footpath 2)

The Clerk confirmed that Cheshire East had been in touch to say they are: 'currently sourcing a price to clear and make a safe route through and to be done before the end of summer'. The Council **resolved** that the Clerk should follow up CE and see if a more precise timescale could be fixed.

93/21 Business Plan Refresh

Chairman Geoff Bell informed the Council that this was still under review.

94/21 Flooding

The Clerk will continue to press Bellway Homes for a response to concerns raised.

95/21 Sandy Lane Cycle Path

The Clerk reported on recent contacts with Cheshire East about improved signage. Councillor Paul Crompton offered to follow up.

96/21 Report from Cheshire East

No report as Councillor John Wray was absent.

97/21 Chairman and Members' Report

Loachbrook Estate. Councillor Gwyneth Derbyshire reported a catalogue of problems that still had not been resolved, such as railings that had been badly installed and were now failing, a raised kerb for a bus stop that had been installed instead of tackling the ironwork, the presence of weeds and failed tree planting, and a ditch that had been only partially filled. United Utilities had still not addressed the drainage problems on the estate. She noted that Councillor Jeanette Hardman would write to Fiona Bruce MP for support.

There seemed to be some miscommunication between Bovis and contractors resulting in work not starting or not being finished satisfactorily. Improvements to the footpath adjacent to the Anwyl estate had not been progressed. Councillors Jeanette Hardman, Gwyneth Derbyshire and Julie Mason will meet Bovis representatives to discuss possible solutions.

98/21 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he would present Council policies for review as part of a rolling annual exercise but that he would track changes first to aid discussion. Two policies would be presented in August. There is a meeting scheduled with several Parishes and PCSOs for 26 July, part of a twice-yearly schedule. Councillor Gwyneth Derbyshire will aim to attend and raise among other things the problem of drivers flouting the speed limits on the Congleton Link Road.

The Council **resolved** that the Clerk should purchase two Rag Forks for use at Rhead's Meadows.

It was noted the next meeting would be on the 16th of August 2021.

The meeting ended at 2130 hrs

X
Chairman