

**Minutes of the meeting of the Somerton Parish Council held on
Monday 27th March 2017**

Present: - Alison Smith (AS) [chair], Neil Good (NG), Neil Clare (NC), Andy Corner (AC)

Members of the public : Cllr Arash Fatemain, Cllr Mike Kerford-Byrnes, Ruth Power, Rosemary Arnold, Gill Crawford, David Reed, Tony Callow, Mary Hall-Craggs.

In attendance: Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

01.03.17 Apologies were received from John Gatley

02.03.17 Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest

03.03.17 Minutes of the last meeting held on 30th January 2017 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

04.03.17 Public Participation:
Cllr Fatemain (AF) and Cllr Kerford-Byrnes (MKB) had been asked to clarify matters relating to Boundary Changes and the proposed Unitary Council, both of which are covered later in these minutes.

05.03.17 Co-Option of Councillor
Due to illness John Gatley was unable to attend this meeting therefore the finalization of paperwork is deferred to the next meeting

06.03.17 Clerk's Report and Actions from previous meeting

NO	ACTION	Update	To be Actioned by :
01.17.05	JG to complete paperwork and return to clerk	Deferred to next meeting	JG
01.17.06	Clerk to purchase 6 x 20's Plenty signs to be delivered to AS's work address	Not required as signs provided by Peter Egwharry (OCC) To be Agenda item for May meeting	CF
	Clerk to ensure no permissions or insurance is required for cleaning street signs.	completed	CF
	Clerk to report defective street light to OCC	Completed Clerk to chase	CF
	AC to follow up on Water leak		AC
	Re-form sub committee to progress Traffic issues AS will seek volunteers, speed-watch,	AS to action	AS
	Contact Andrew Lewis re funding, part of s106 on new planning application	As to action	AS

	Pursue Change in Priority Ardley Road chicane		AS
01.17.07	AS to create flyer regarding Boundary changes NG to print flyer and insert in Valley News	completed	AS NG

07.03.17 Highways

AS will arrange a meeting of volunteers to discuss setting up a Speedwatch Group. Gill Crawford volunteered to become involved.

It was noted that some work appears to have been carried out to the water main which is no longer leaking.

CDC have marked up various potholes throughout the village which require attention.

AC will clean the chicane and cut back vegetation throughout the village.

A request for approval had been received from Minna Moller-Thompson who has purchased a Fish & Chips van and wants to trade either from her address or from outside the Village Hall on Thursday evenings.

ACTIONS :

Clerk to respond to Minna informing her that the PC has no objection, but that she must ensure she has the relevant licence from CDC

08.03.17 Grasscutting agreement

The contract has been received from OCC for the cutting of grass within the 30mph limits of the village twice a year, for which OCC will pay a grant of £..... per cut. All councillors were in agreement that the contract be signed and returned to OCC. Andy Corner will carry out the grass cutting and provide the clerk with an invoice for payment upon completion.

ACTION: Clerk to sign and return the contract to OCC.

09.03.17 One Oxfordshire

MKB explained that the proposal for a Unitary Council has been submitted to the Secretary of State by OCC for consideration with an opposing proposal being submitted by CDC, West Oxfordshire and Oxford City in the near future. A unitary council could result in each councillor looking after the needs of approx. 6000 residents. All present were encouraged to read the arguments for and against a unitary council, and to either write letters of support or participate in the online petition.

ACTION : AS will circulate links to the OCC and CDC information

10.03.17 Boundary Changes

There was considerable discussion regarding the proposed boundary change and there was expression of a fear that it may change the category of the village from Category C, or that there may be an ulterior motive to allow increased development. Cllr Kerford-Byrnes will investigate any possible detrimental effect that a boundary change could have on Somerton.

There was discussion regarding the Pill boxes and MKB will find out if they should be protected or listed.

It was stated in error on the Agenda that Sarah McCreedy will be attending this meeting. Both she and Paul Weaver are to be invited to attend the next meeting in May.

ACTION : Clerk to invite Sarah McCreedy and Paul Weaver to the May meeting.

11.03.17 MCNP

- A review of policies has been carried out
- The draft plan has been sent to a qualified inspector for a healthcheck
- The plan may not be submitted to CDC before Spring 2018

The list of Designated Green Spaces has been sent to Martin Lipson and letters will now need to be sent to the landowners,

12.03.17 Planning

17/00492/F Portway Cottage – change of use of garage to 2 bed cottage – no objections

17/00127/F Orchard End, Church Street - APPROVED

13.03.17 Finance

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	Amount
BACS	Community first	Subs	55.00
100348	MCNP	Admin fee	132.00
100349	OALC	subs	133.07
100350	John Haron	Payroll	30.50
BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI	40.00
BACS	Nicholsons	outstanding invoices	765.00
	PCC	churtyard mowing	458.00

It was agreed that AS should ask David Burton if he is willing to again carry out the internal audit of the year end accounts, which will need to be approved at the next meeting (22nd May)

Date of next meeting: 22nd May 2017

Future meeting dates: 31st July, 25th September, 27th November

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Other matters:

NG reported that the footpath behind Walnut Rise currently has a stile which makes the footpath inaccessible for pushchair users. It was suggested that either the stile be removed (there is no livestock in the vicinity) or replaced with a more suitable type of stile. NG to investigate as to who is the landowner and the likely costs involved for removal or replacement and report back to the next meeting.

Signed Mrs. A Smith (Chair) **Date.....**

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

NO	ACTION	To be Actioned by :
07.03.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS will arrange a meeting of volunteers to discuss setting up a Speedwatch Group 	AS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to respond to Minna informing her that the PC has no objection to her trading from her address or the Village Hall, , but that she must ensure she has the relevant licence from CDC • AC will clean the chicane and cut back vegetation throughout the village 	CF AC
08.03.17	Clerk to sign and return the grass cutting contract to OCC.	CF
09.03.17	AS will circulate links to the OCC and CDC information REGARDING One Oxfordshire	AS
10.03.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MKB to investigate any possible detrimental effects of a boundary change • MKB to find out if the Pill Boxes should be listed or protected • Clerk to invite Sarah McCreedy and Paul Weaver to the May meeting. 	MKB MKB CF
13.03.17	AS will ask David Burton if he is willing to audit the end of year accounts.	AS
	NG to investigate as to who is the landowner of the footpath behind Walnut Rise and the likely costs involved for removal or replacement of the stile and report back to the next meeting.	NG