



**Minutes of the meeting of the Somerton Parish Council held on
15th June 2021 in the village hall**

All Covid precautions were adhered to and the PC's policy had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Present: - Alison Smith [chair], Neil Good, John Gatley, Neil Clare

Members of the public : Cllr Mike Kerford Byrnes, Rosemary Arnold, Ruth Power, Andrew Killick (representing Ardley PC), Richard Thompson, Robert Johnson, Richard Kitson, James Foote, Rebecca Leece

In attendance: Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

06.21.01 Apologies Apologies had been received from Andy Corner

06.21.02 Declarations of Interest : There were no declarations of interest.

06.21.03 Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th May 2021 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

06.21.04 Public Participation :

06.21.05 Clerk's Report and Actions from previous meeting

No	Action	Owner	Update
03.21.06	AS will liaise with Community First, share the questionnaire and set a date for a working group	AS	On-going
03.21.12	NC to lead on flooding issues Extra large Harvest Vehicles through village Ruth Power will obtain contact details for farmers, (mob numbers and emails). Email from PC will be sent to village and WhatsApp group explaining Plan & how it will work. Farmers/contractors will be asked to give 24 hours' notice where possible to RP & Richard Thompson, who will coordinate communications via WhatsApp and when available, village email.	NC RP/RT/AS/CF	NC to liaise with Richard Kitson regarding flooding Farmers asked to give at least 24 hrs notice (where possible) of likely movement through the village. So that Residents can avoid pinch points
03.21.14	NG to make further efforts to close the Barclays account and transfer the balance to the PC's Unity account .AS to collect signatures and ID from AC and NC for	NG AS	On-going In hand

	adding them as signatories to Unity account		
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06.21.06 **SARA**

The PC was approached by a group of 16 residents in September 2019 requesting that allotments be provided for the village. (Law states PC's must provide allotments if 6 or more people request it.) At that time, no land could be identified, but in March 2021 a plot of 1.2 acres owned by Ian Corner was offered for sale as use as allotments/recreational space. The Village was originally consulted, by community WhatsApp group and Email and direct door to door flyers, a management committee formed (Somerton Allotment and Recreation Association -SARA) and an interest group of 36 residents came forward, to be directly involved with the project.

A plan of the proposal has been provided by Nicholsons, sponsored by Pollocks. A further consultation to the village explaining the PWLB and impact to precept and consequently council tax (increase of £22 per household for 10 years, *NB. this will be partly offset by the ending of the current PWLB loan in 2020.*) Approx. 80% (*recalculated since meeting*) of the village are in favour of the provision of allotments/recreational space.

The management of the project will be undertaken entirely by the SARA and the PC would not be involved other than the purchase of the land and the setting up of a long-term lease to SARA.

AS proposed that the PC applies to the PWBL for a loan of £20K to cover purchase of the land, legal fees, fencing and gates to make the site secure. All councillors present were unanimously in favour and **it was RESOLVED that AS makes the application to the PWLB as soon as possible.**

06.21.07 **Proposed Freight Terminal at Ardley**

Information had been received regarding the proposal for a rail freight terminal at Ardley and a large document had been received outlining the proposal on a site covering some 500+ acres and will include warehousing and significant alterations to roads in the surrounding area. As a major development, this will not go through the usual planning application process, but will go directly to the Planning Inspectorate. James Foote, representing Victoria Prentis MP, and Cllr Mike Kerford Byrnes had attended a briefing held by the developer. The likely timescale is that the first public consultation will be held towards the end of 2021, the 2nd statutory consultation in Spring 2022 with an application submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in Autumn 2022 with a decision expected early in 2024. The MCNP Forum are already preparing draft comments to submit and Victoria Prentis has many concerns which she will raise. **At this stage parish councils are not being consulted, and this discussion was for information only.**

06.21.08 Finance

The following monthly accounts were approved for payment:

Payee	Details	Amount	VAT	Note
Came & Co	Insurance	£755.65		
HMRC	PAYE	123.80		
OPFA	membership	£30.00		
Cathy Fleet	clk sal May	191.18		S/O
Cathy Fleet	clk sal June	191.38		S/O

Cathy Fleet

salary adjustment

74.60

The end of year accounts, as audited by Helen White had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved and signed by the chair

The Governance Statement and Accounting Statement were approved and signed by the Chair.

Dates of next meetings

27th July 2021

28th September 2021

30th November 2021

Signed Alison Smith (Chair) Date

No	Action	Owner	Update
03.21.06	AS will liaise with Community First, share the questionnaire and set a date for a working group	AS	On-going
03.21.14	NG to make further efforts to close the Barclays account and transfer the balance to the PC's Unity account AS will submit docs to unity once Signatures from AC obtained. (NG & NC collected at meeting)	NG AS	On-going In hand
06.21.06	AS will make application to the PWLB for a loan of £20K for the allotments/recreational area project.	AS	