



**Minutes of the meeting of the Somerton Parish Council Meeting held on  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Present : Alison Smith (AS) [Chair, Neil Good (NG) , Neil Clare ( NC) Andy Corner (AC), John Gattley (JG)

**Members of the public** : Debs Critchley, Bryony Afferson, Richard Thompson, Cllr Arash Fatemian

**In attendance:** Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

**03.23.01 Apologies**

**03.23.02 Declarations of Interest** : There were no declarations of interest.

**03.23.03** The minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 were checked for content and accuracy and agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the chair.

**03.23.04 Public Participation** – members of the public were invited to participate.

**03.23.05 Clerks Report**

No	Action	Owner	Update
Sept22.01	AC to visit home owners regarding the dumping of rubbish on the footpath behind the village hall.	AC	A letter will be sent to home owners asking them to clear the rubbish. AS to obtain addresses. CF to draft letter. AC to provide quote for clearing the rubbish. AS has a list of people to write to and has drafted a letter to home owners. <b>A quote is awaited from AC.</b>
Dec22.05	Playground - AS will speak to Bryony regarding setting up a sub committee to oversee the maintenance and grant applications required for any equipment which may need replacement.	AS	Agenda Item
Jan23.01	AS to email Simon Fry at Dorchester regarding signage on Aston View	AS	Action closed
Jan23.02	<b>S106 funding</b> - AS to discuss options with Dave Catling. AS to send email and WhatsApp message to request volunteers to form a sub-committee..AS will email Soho Farmhouse with photos of recent incidents with high power vehicles speeding	AS	Agenda Item

	through the village		
Jan23.03	<b>Dog bin</b> - AC to install bin. CF to inform CDC for emptying purposes	AC CF	On-going
Jan23.04	<b>Somerton Festival</b> - AS will contact OALC asking for any promotional material.	AS	The festival was very successful. Action closed
Jan23.05	<b>SARA</b> – AS will find out cost of bio-accessability test	AS	Agenda Item
Jan23.06	AS to send out email to all villagers directing them to The Circuit for information on how to use the defibrillator CF to enroll Richard Thompson on Allotment training	AS CF	On-going
Jan23.07	Coronation to be agenda item for next meeting		Action closed

### 03.23.06 Highways

- **Aston View traffic** - NG (and AS a month later) contacted Google and AS had contacted Simon Fry (Dorchester) who has offered no help. Google continues to direct people from all directions through Aston View. AS contacted Highways who are unable to assist. There is a knock on effect with overweight lorries coming over the canal bridge which has a 7.5t weight limit. It was requested that everyone takes photos of lorries driving up Aston View in order to create a diary to report to the police. **NG to contact PCSO Louise Beaumont.** Dave Catlin suggests signage which is in the draft Traffic Measures Plan.
- **20 mph update** - the 20mph signs have been installed but because there was no consultation from OCC to the PC, the PC was unable to extend the limits out on to Heyford Road. As a result S106 funding may have to be used to upgrade the scheme which is covered in the draft Traffic Measures plan.
- **S106 funding** – AS has met with Dave Catlin who has made suggestions and is arranging for technical drawings for traffic calming measures to be provided. AS attended the meeting which had been arranged with representatives from all parishes and OCC. £15K is now available from the first Dorchester application. There will also be £75K when the next tranche is released.
- **Traffic measures** - covered above. **AS to share the draft report and map.**
- **Traffic sub-committee** - David Spencer is interested in joining the committee and John Gatley also expressed interest. A message will be sent out to the village asking for volunteers. **AS to action.**

### 03.23.07 OCC/CDC

As Cllrs Reeves and Fatemian do not often attend our meetings, it was agreed that a request should be made to them that if they are unable to attend Somerton's meetings perhaps they could provide a written report ahead of the meetings, particularly with regard to local major planning, local plan etc.

AF had provided a written report.:

Trees – OCC are planting trees to the value of £3m. Somerton has had a tree planted and AF confirmed that there is no financial liability on the PC

20mph – Somerton is one of the first villages to have 20mph rollout. S106 money could be used for enforcement measures. It was felt that the effect of the speed limit is positive.

The new Councillor Priority funding will become available in the new financial year. The form will be available to be completed online and AF indicated that he would look favourably on any application made by Somerton.

- 03.23.08 MCNP - As MCNP Review - Environment Task Team - considered recently was to identify possible new or upgraded footpaths and other rights of way across and between our parishes. These could form the basis of new NP policies which would enhance opportunities for walking and riding. Somerton needs to review rights of way and views/vistas. **Bryony offered to collate photos which had been shared on WhatsApp and request contributions****
- 03.23.09 Coronation** - There is a grant for £300 which was available from CDC details of which were passed to the Social Club who are not interested in organizing anything. It was agreed that NC will send out a WhatsApp message indicating that the PC will provide funding up to £200 to assist with any event that people might want to organise.
- 03.23.10 Election**  
All were encouraged to complete the nomination forms and submit to CDC before the deadline of 4<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm.
- 03.23.11 SARA**  
The bioaccessability results have been received indicating that the arsenic levels are negligible. Neil Whitton is the Environmental Health Officer at CDC has indicated that there is no problem with the results and the project can progress. The solicitor has been instructed, but has said that the searches carried out will need to be re-done at a cost of £162. It was agreed that no further searches are required as the loan is already in place.
- 03.23.12 Somerton Treasure**  
The Curator of the Oxford Museum had written to the PC informing a find of treasure dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This was found on land in Somerton and it is proposed that this item (a silver locket with engraved initials) should be held in the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock. They have asked for a donation to fund this and it was agreed that a donation of £100 would be made. Information to be shared on website and WhatsApp. **CF to respond to Oxfordshire Museum**
- 03.23.13 Playground**  
There is now a sub committee formed consisting of Bryony leading a group of 3 others. It is not possible to get repairs done by the original supplier as he has retired. Other suppliers will not carry out repairs. The equipment in the playground is wooden and some pieces of equipment are showing signs of severe rot. A quote has been received to remove and replace a new basket swing £4377.05. There will also need to be a top up of bark chippings in the area. Fundraising events are taking place and grants will be applied for. It was agreed that funding of £500 put aside in the precept for the Jubilee celebrations but was not used could be used for the playground. There is also £500 which was over budgeted for the Church which can be used for the playground. Proposed AS seconded NC.  
Bryony is planning a gig in the VH and requires a PA system. AS proposed and NG seconded that the PC donates £100 towards this should the loan of equipment not be possible.
- 03.23.14 Planning** – the following planning documents had been circulated and discussed:

**Applications**

**23/00433/LB** 1 Church Street Insertion of single stud wall in one of the ground floor rooms and swap entranceways by opening one of the doors on the front elevation and closing the current main entrance doorway – NO OBJECTION  
 21/04289/OUT Heyford Park Outline application for up to 230 dwellings - **REFUSED**  
 23/00429/DICS Heyford Park Discharge of Condition 7 of 18/00825/HYBRID – **NO OBJECTION**

**Decisions**

23/00321/TCA The Dell, Water Street Treework **REFUSED**

**03.23.15 Finance – The following accounts were approved for payment:**

Payee	Details	Amount	VAT	Note
CDC	Playground rent	30.00		
OPFA	Subs	45.00		
OALC	Subs	156.00	26.00	
Community First	Subs	55.00		
Cathy Fleet	Clk Sal Feb	206.95		S/O
Cathy Fleet	Clk Sal March	206.95		S/O
HMRC	PAYE	135.60		
OALC	training	36.00	6.00	
Oxford Museum	'Treasure'	100.00		

**03.23.16 Annual Parish meeting**

Due to time constraints this was not discussed and will be discussed by email.

Meeting dates for 2023  
 30<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 28<sup>th</sup> November

Annual Parish meeting and Annual meeting of the Parish Council tbc

**ACTION LIST SUMMARY**

No	Action	Owner	Update
Sept22.01	AC to visit home owners regarding the dumping of rubbish on the footpath behind the village hall.	AC	A letter will be sent to home owners asking them to clear the rubbish. AS to obtain addresses. CF to draft letter. AC to provide quote for clearing the rubbish. AS has a list of people to write to and has drafted a letter to home owners. <b>A quote is awaited from AC.</b>
Jan23.03	<b>Dog bin</b> - AC to install bin. CF to inform CDC for emptying purposes	AC CF	On-going
Mar23.01	<b>Aston View traffic</b> – NG to contacts PCSO Louise Beaumont for advice	NG	
Mar23.02	<b>Traffic measures</b> - AS to share draft Traffic Measures plan	AS	
Mar23.03	<b>Traffic sub committee</b> - AS to send WhatsApp message asking for volunteers	AS	
Mar23.04	<b>MCNP Review</b> - Bryony offered to collate photos which had been shared on WhatsApp and request contributions	Bryony	
Mar23.05	<b>Somerton Treasure</b> – CF to respond to Oxfordshire Museum	CF	

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