



**Minutes of the meeting of the Somerton Parish Council Meeting held on
27th March 2024**

Present : Alison Smith (AS)[chair], Neil Clare (NC), Bryony Afferson-Day(BAD), Kay Bishop (KB), Deb Critchley (DC)

In attendance: Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

Members of the public : Duncan Nott, Naomi Ekers

03.24.01 Apologies No Apologies had been received

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

03.24.03 The minutes of the PC meeting held on 31st January 2024 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the chair.

03.24.04 Public Participation
Members of the public were attending with a view to becoming cop-opted councillors.

03.24.05 Clerks Report

No	Action	Owner	Update
Sept22.01	Foot path 349/4/10 Back Lane- AC to visit homeowners regarding the dumping of rubbish on the footpath behind the village hall.	TC	Jan24 – leaving until spring and better conditions before clearing rubbish. No action and no complaints – remove from Action List
July23.03	Website - BAD/AS/CF/TC to refresh website – meeting to be arranged.	TC	.On-going – Zoom meeting to be set up by TC to discuss Assistance required. Remove from Agenda and re-visit in 6 months time
July23.04	Footpath Stile 349/3/10 Stile between Water Street/Church Street - BAD to speak to landowner and see if the stile could be changed to a kissing gate or simple gate	BAD	Nov23 update: RP provided quotes x 2 £300 inc VAT. PC Agreed in principle to purchase if the landowner will pay for installation. (OCC may pay 25% of the costs) AS to share OCC info on this AS to discuss with landowner – no urgency

July23.015	SARA –AS will share the TP1 form for approval by councillors.	AS/KB/DC	Nov23 update: Advice being sought from CFO re new access. Agenda item
Sept23.02	Drainage & flooding –AS to email Nick Watson introducing NC and in future NC to lead on this item.	AS NC	Nov23 update: OCC are re-structuring – awaiting details . NC to continue to chase for action. Jan 24: Water Lane flooding reported on FMS. Agenda item
	Bus Shelter		AC providing quote for shelter Revisit when quote received
	Google Maps		AS DC ongoing Dorchester have advised tenants of new postcode Action closed.
	Insurance renewal	DC	DC to research quotes.
	PC approved to purchase a SID. info from Dave Catling to be reviewed and SID chosen	AS DC Traffic group	On going. AS to update Awaiting update on OCC reorganisaiton. David Spencer has offered to oversee this project.
Jan24.01	SID - TC to circulate figures when available	TC	KB to speak with Tony Callow
Jan24.02	Works gang - TC to update on outcome of meeting	TC	KB to speak with Tony to find out how much he is still prepared to do
Jan24.03	OCC Tree maintenance programme - Clerk to speak with OCC re large Sycamore trees on Ardley Road	CF	Email sent – awaiting response Clerk to chase
Jan24.04	Litterpick - Clerk to ask CDC if litterpick can be done ahead of their proposed time and equipment provided	CF	B-AD to ask Flora if she will arrange the litterpick
Jan24.05	Risk Assessment - BA-D to advise on playground risk. CF to send to B-AD	CF/B-AD	
Jan24.06	Standing Orders - All to review on G-drive and make amendments Clerk to collate any comments	All	
Jan24.07	Planning – Dormer Lodge - NC to draft objection from PC	NC	Completed Action closed
Jan24.08	HPPC Application for Designated Neighbourhood Plan – DC to liaise with AS and submit PC's letter	DC/AS	Completed Action closed

03.24.06 Resignation of Councillor

Tony Callow had tendered his resignation which had been reluctantly accepted by Councillors. CDC had been informed and the statutory notice displayed. There had been no call for election so the PC is free to co-opt a replacement for Tony. The vacancy has been advertised and so far one application received.

03.24.07 County/District Councillor update

There was no district or council representation

03.24.08 Highways

- **Wilding/verge management** - KB and DC have carried out a risk assessment of areas considered to wilding and made sure that no planting would be detrimental to wild animals. It has been found that there are very few suitable places, one is near the chicane and the other is towards Aston View. A message will be sent asking people if they are happy with those areas and if they will take on responsibility for the area. Nicole Clough (an environmentalist) has agreed to attend the Annual Parish meeting on 8th May to talk on the subject of 'bringing wildlife into your garden'.
- **Culvert and localized road flooding** – DC has spoken with Nick Watson but until reorganization of OCC is finalised and staff return from Easter holidays no action can be taken. David Spencer and Neil Clare to included in all future correspondence
- **Fix my Street superuser** – KB to find out if Tony Callow is still interested in doing this

03.24.09 **Playground**

The playground has been opened but there was concern about the wood surface condition as it was very slippery. An industrial pressure washer was hired and equipment cleaned. Spraying with wood preserver is required and some wood slats require replacement. A new bench has been donated which Andy Hunter will install. Peter Seymour has taken over mowing the grass on a voluntary basis. Scott Gardner will be given a list of jobs around the playground which he could do. He will be asked to quote for jobs on an ad hoc basis which will be circulated round the PC by email for approval.

03.24.10 **Thames Valley Flood Scheme**

AS has requested a precise location from Thames Valley Water but not received an adequate answer. The PC will remain aware and vigilant.

03.24.11 **Review of Risk Assessment**

The Risk Assessment had been circulated - will be circulated by email for final sign off

03.24.12 **Review of Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders had been circulated - will be circulated by email for final sign off

Follow-up from meetings

HP Master Plan meeting – HP Master Plan meeting attended by AD AND DC Paul Silver presented to all stakeholders holders including representatives from OCC CDC AND MCNP. A Dorchester 40 year plan. Includes Solar panels, 6000 houses and passenger Railway station at Ardley

No action other than work with MCNP in a way to work together.

OCC meeting day – DD attended and made some useful contacts.

03.24.14 **Planning**

There were no new planning applications

03.24.15 **MCNP**

Somerton PC has responded to the Reg 14 consultation. KB has been added to the MCNP attendance list. DC and KB attended the meeting on 20th March.

03.24.16 SARA

An Impact Assessment had been carried out by Neil Brody with input from KB but agreement has not been confirmed. A new LDC had been submitted in order to complete the purchase, but an incorrect price was advised, so a payment of £73.25 will need to be made (approved for payment outside the meeting). Additional detailed information is required – “elevated drawings for gate posts and scaled plans”.

03.24.17 Finance

The following accounts were approved for payment :

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Note</i>
Playquest	playground equipment	6342.00	1057.00	paid 13/3/24
HMRC	PAYE	212.20		
Cathy Fleet	Clk Sal March	242.04		S/O
OALC	subscription	168.00	28.00	
Cathy Fleet	Clk sal shortfall Feb	244.76		
Community First	subscription	55.00		
OPFA	subscription	47.00		
Alison Smith	National Tool Hire	£174.85	29.14	
	Pressure wash Play Area	424.85	less £250 deposit	
Barnes Memorial Hall	grant (part payment)	£2500		

Date of next meetings

Agreed dates for 2024 – last Wednesday of alternate months

8th May APM

29th May preceded by AMPC

31st July

25th September

27th November

Signed Somerton PC Chair

Date