



Somercotes Village Hall, Nottingham Road, Somercotes, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 4LY

Telephone Office: 01773 603810 | Parish Hall: 01773 609397 | E-Mail: info@somercotesparishcouncil.org.uk

MINUTES

DATE: 20TH SEPTEMBER 2024

The minutes have been written and produced by Matthew Evans, Locum Clerk and Proper Officer to Somercotes Parish Council.

Members Present:

- Cllr. Scott Walker [Chairman]
- Cllr. Paul Curren-Bilbie [Vice Chairman]
- Cllr. John McCabe
- Cllr. Julie Coles
- Cllr. Martin Barron
- Cllr. Colin Addison-Lees
- Cllr. Jason Parker
- Cllr. John Walker
- Cllr. Emma Watson
- Cllr. Paul Slater

Officers Present:

- Matthew Evans [Locum Clerk & Proper Officer]
- Kimberley Walker [Deputy Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer]

53/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr. Paul Wardle, Cllr. Steve Tomlinson, and Cllr. Elaine Sherman.

54/24 Social Media

The Clerk informed the meeting that he was recording the meeting for the purpose of accurate minute production.

55/24: Variation of The Order of Business

There was no variation of the order of business for the meeting.

56/24: Declaration of Members Interests:

Declarations of Members' Interests were received from the following councillors for the stated items:

- Cllr. Emma Watson [62/24(d) and 64/24]
- Cllr. Julie Coles [62/24 and 63/24]
- Cllr. Jason Parker [64/24]
- Cllr. Colin Addison-Lees [62/24]

57/24: To Consider any Councillors' Request for Dispensation

The Clerk informed the Council that two requests have been received from councillors for dispensation from Section 34 of the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr. John McCabe requested dispensation of section 34 for item 62/24(b). The Clerk recommended that the Council approve dispensation

It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Slater and seconded by Cllr. John Walker that the Council **RESOLVE** to grant dispensation to Cllr. McCabe.

Cllr. Colin Addison-Lees requested dispensation of Section 34 for item 62/24(b). The Clerk recommended that the Council not approve dispensation.

It was proposed by Cllr. John McCabe and seconded by Cllr. Paul Slater that the Council **RESOLVE** to grant dispensation to Cllr. Addison-Lees.

58/24: Public Speaking – (30 Minutes)

(a) Members of the Public:

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak or ask questions pertaining to items on the meetings agenda.

Alison McDonough from Somercotes Parent Teacher Association thanked the Council for their support in helping to fund the recent Family Fun Day held this year.

Mark Hopkinson of the Birchwood Lane Allotment Association asked the Parish Council to consider postponing its discussion of the Allotment Tenancy Agreements with the Allotment Associations in Somercotes.

(b) Reports by Police Liason Officer, County Councillor or District Councillor

Cllr. J. McCabe gave a report on his work as Cabinet Member for Communities and Street Pride on Amber Valley Borough Council. A report will be going to the next Full Council meeting of the Authority which will impact the way in which waste will be collected in the future as a result of the waste Environment Act act 2021.

59/24: To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 17th May 2024.

Cllr. J. McCabe proposed and Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie seconded that the minutes be **APPROVED**, this was agreed upon unanimously and the Chairman duly signed them into the official record.

60/24: To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 5th July 2024.

Cllr. J. Walker proposed and Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie seconded that the minutes be **APPROVED**, this was agreed upon unanimously and the Chairman duly signed them into the official record.

61/24: To determine which items if any from the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded. If the Council decides to exclude the public it will be necessary to pass a resolution.

No item was determined to be heard in exclusion.

62/24 To consider motions by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order Provision 9(b):

(a) Proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. J. Walker:

Council **RESOLVES** to instruct the officers of the Council to investigate the option of obtaining a Community Speed Gun, and present to Council a report on their findings and recommendations

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

(b) Proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. J. Walker:

Council **RESOLVES** to instruct the HR Committee to investigate the staffing allocation and deployment of the Council.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

(c) Proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. J. Walker:

Council **RESOLVES** to thank Somercotes and Somerlea Community Trust Organisation for putting on a fantastic fun day.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

(d) Proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. P. Slater:

Council **RESOLVES** to instruct the Responsible Financial Officer to include funding in the forthcoming Council budget for next years Fun day.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

(e) Proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. E. Watson:

Council **RESOLVES** to instruct the officers to investigate potential funding streams available for the provision of youth activities within the Parish, and present to Council a report on their findings and recommendations.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

63/24: To receive reports from the Clerk for discussion, adoption and resolution:

- (a) Members were presented with a Council Core Policies report from the Clerk regarding the governance policies of the Council. It

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. J. Walker that the Council **RESOLVE** to rescind all Council governance policies not contained within the 'Policy Table' to accept the updates to the following policies:

- Data Protection Policy
- Freedom of Information Policy [Publication Scheme]
- Freedom of Information Response Policy
- Social Media & Communications Policy
- Financial Regulations
- Data Retention Schedule
- Standing Orders

This was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

- (b) Members were presented with a Allotment Association Tenancies report from the Clerk regarding the historic management of the Councils' Allotment Gardens and the current legal situation.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Walker and seconded by Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie that the Council **RESOLVE** to enter into tenancy agreements with the Allotment Associations of Birchwood Lane, Bridle Lane (Leabrooks), and Sleetmore Lane. These agreements should be signed by either the trustees or agents of the existing Associations, or, if the Associations choose, by the corporate entity (e.g., charity) they may incorporate.

This was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors [Excluding Cllr. J. McCabe and Cllr. C. Addison-Lees].

It was further proposed by Cllr. S. Walker and seconded by Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie that the Council **RESOLVE** to adopt the model tenancy agreement and instruct the officers of the Council to negotiate with Allotment Associations' a final agreement to be presented to Full Council.

This was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors [Excluding Cllr. J. McCabe and Cllr. C. Addison-Lees].

63/24: To receive quotation from prospective Christmas Lights contractor.

The Responsible Financial Officer presented her report on the quotation from

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. J. Walker that the Parish Council **RESOLVE** to accept the quote presented to the Council for the provision of Christmas lights, this was agreed upon unanimously.

64/24: To receive Section 137 grant report:

The Responsible Financial Officer presented her report on the requests for financial assistance from the Section 137 of the Council. The Council considered the applications as follows:

(A) Applicant: Somercotes Bowles Club

Requested Amount: £ 250.00

Cllr. J. Coles left the room for this application

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie and seconded by Cllr. C. Addison-Lees that Council **APPROVE** the grant to the Somercotes Bowles Club, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(B) Applicant: Somercotes Ladies Group

Requested Amount: £ 150.00

Cllr. E. Watson left the room for this application

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. P. Slater that Council **APPROVE** the grant to the Somercotes Ladies Group, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(C) Applicant: Somercotes Community Singers

Requested Amount: £ 250.00

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie that Council **APPROVE** the grant to the Somercotes Community Singers, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(D) Applicant: 1st Somercotes Rainbows
Requested Amount: £ 128.95

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. P. Slater that Council **APPROVE** the grant to the 1st Somercotes Rainbows, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(E) Applicant: 1st Somercotes Rangers
Requested Amount: £ 200.00

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. P. Slater that Council **APPROVE** the grant to the 1st Somercotes Rangers, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(F) Applicant: 1st Somercotes Guides
Requested Amount: £ 300.00

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. E. Watson that Council **APPROVE** the grant to the 1st Somercotes Guides, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(G) Applicant: Mid Derbyshire Badger Group
Requested Amount: £ 500.00

Cllr. J. Parker left the room for this application

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. J. Walker that Council **APPROVE** the grant to the Mid Derbyshire Badger Group, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(H) Applicant: Somercotes Local History Society
Requested Amount: £ 200.00

Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie left the room for this application

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. C. Addison-Lees that Council **APPROVE** the grant to the Somercotes Local History Society, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(I) Applicant: Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre
Requested Amount: £ 2,000.00

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie that Council **APPROVE** the grant to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre, this was agreed upon unanimously.

65/24: Finances

(a) Accounts

i.	Accounts for Payment between 1.06.24-31.07.24	£ 46,688.23
ii.	Income 1.06.24 to 31.07.24	£ 8,687.83
iii.	Bank Reconciliations June and July 2024	
iv.	Total Bank Balances & Cash in Hand at 31.05.224	£88,207.60

(b) To receive the Responsible Finance Officers Financial Forecast Report.

The Responsible Financial Officer

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie and seconded by Cllr. J. McCabe that the Council **RESOLVE** to accept the forecast report, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(c) To receive the External Audit Report observations.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Curren-Bilbie and seconded by Cllr. E. Watson that the Council **RESOLVE** to accept the External Auditors Report, and implement its recommendations in full this was agreed upon unanimously.

66/24: Planning

Members noted outcomes of planning application decided by Amber Valley Borough Council.

REF: AVA/2024/0442

Address: 29 Parkside, Somercotes, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 4LA.

Proposal: Second floor domestic extension. Single storey extension to rear of house. Porch canopy to front of house and off road parking to frontage.

Decision: **APPROVED**

Decision Issued: 31st July 2024

REF: AVA/2024/0466

Address: Poundstretcher, Nottingham Road, Somercotes, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 4JJ.

Proposal: Gym use within Class E. The gym will operate on a 24-hour basis and include the installation of a mezzanine. Please see covering letter for further details.

Decision: **APPROVED**

Decision Expected: 28th August 2024

67/24: Correspondence: DALC Circulars – Previously circulated

The Clerk informed members of correspondence received prior to the meeting:

(a) Request for Disabled Parking

The Parish Council received a request to designate bays within Mill Street Car Park as disabled for the benefit of local residents.

(b) Allotment

The Parish Council received a report from Meredith Hare regarding the Allotment Gardens

68/24: Items for consideration at next meeting:

The officers will present reports at the next meeting on the following items:

- Disabled Parking in Mill Street Car Park
- Community Speed Watch [Speed Gun]
- Youth Funding
- Funding for Somercotes Fun Day

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Friday 15th November 2024 at 6:30PM.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:54 PM