



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

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MINUTES

DATE: 15TH NOVEMBER 2024

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

Members Present:

- Cllr. Colin Addison-Lees
- Cllr. Elaine Sherman
- Cllr. Emma Watson
- Cllr. Jason Parker
- Cllr. John McCabe
- Cllr. John Walker
- Cllr. Julie Coles
- Cllr. Martin Barron
- Cllr. Paul Slater
- Cllr. Paul Wardle
- Cllr. Scott Walker [Chairman]
- Cllr. Steve Tomlinson

Officers Present:

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

70/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr. Paul Curran-Bilbie

71/24 Social Media

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

72/24: Declaration of Members Interests:

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

- Cllr. Scott Walker [77/24(c)]
- Cllr. Julie Coles [78/24(a) and 81/24(b)]
- Cllr. Colin Addison-Lees [77/24(e)]
- Cllr. Paul Slater [78/24(a) and 81/24(b)]
- Cllr. John McCabe [77/24(e)]
- *Cllr. Elaine Sherman [64/24]

*Cllr. Sherman raised their declaration of interest later in the meeting prior to discussion of the item.

73/24: : Variation of The Order of Business

The Chairman of the Council announced that item 75/24 would be discussed as the final item of business to be considered as part of the agenda.

The Chairman further announced that in agreement with Cllr. S. Tomlinson and the Clerk that item 80/24(b) and (c) would not be discussed tonight while the Clerk seeks legal advice.

74/24: Public Participation

(a) Members of the Public Section:

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

Laura Cross addressed the Council regarding their complaint about the running of Birchwood Lane Alltoment Garden. The Chairman directed that complaints should be made to the Clerk to be addressed.

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

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

Cllr. J. McCabe gave the Council a report on his work as Cabinet Member for Communities and Street Pride at Amber Valley Borough Council.

Cllr. E. Sherman gave the Council a report on her work as Cabinet Member for Community Safety at Amber Valley Borough Council.

Both Cllr. J. McCabe and Cllr. E. Sherman met with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire Nicolle Ndiweni-Roberts regarding crime and safety in the local area and encouraged Councillors to ensure that members of the public report crime and anti-social behaviour as and when it happens to support the police in identifying where resources need to be allocated.

75/24: To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 20th September 2024.

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

76/24: Confidential Items

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. C. Addison-Lees that the Members of the Press and Public be excluded during the discussion of confidential items due to their confidential nature, this was agreed upon unanimously.

(a) Employment Rights Bill Impact Report

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. C. Addison-Less that the Council that the Council **RESOLVE** to undertake the following:

RESOLVE: That the Clerk initiate consultation with the Caretaker [Carol Hopkinson] to merge her existing contracts.

RESOLVE: That the HR Committee undertake a consultation with affected staff members and their respective unions on possible alternative working/contract arrangements.

RESOLVE: To authorise the Clerk to attain professional employment advice as and when needed from DALC/qualified employment advisor in order to ensure the Council's compliance.

The proposal was agreed upon unanimously by all members.

(b) Staff Lone Working Security Report

It was proposed Cllr. J. Walker and seconded by Cllr. S. Tomlinson that the Council **RESOLVE:** That the Council purchases software licences for the Peoplesafe SOS App from People Safe Ltd. for all Council employees working in roles that may involve lone working or

isolated shifts. The Officers shall report back to Council in six months to report on the devices effectiveness and value for money.

This was agreed upon unanimously.

77/24 To consider motions by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order Provision 9(b):

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

Council **RESOLVES** to implement a 'Warm Space' scheme whereby the Parish Hall will be open to members of the public between the hours of 9:00AM and 12:00PM between the days of Tuesday-Friday in the months of November – March in order to support those impacted by the cost of living.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

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

Council **RESOLVES** to host an annual scarecrow competition.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

78/24: To receive reports from the Clerk for discussion, adoption and resolution:

(a) Community Speed Gun

In accordance with Council resolution 62/24(a) the Clerk presented a report to Council on the consideration of implementing a Community Speed Watch Scheme in the Parish.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Slater and seconded by Cllr. P. Wardle that the Council **RESOLVE** to appoint Cllr. J. McCabe as the Community Speed Watch Scheme co-coordinator to ascertain the minimum public interest needed to operate the scheme, prior to the Council moving forward.

The motion was carried by a majority of Councillors present on the following margin:

AYE: NINE (**PASSED**)

NO: THREE

ABSTAIN: ONE

(b) Disabled Parking – Mill Street Car Park

In accordance with Council resolution 67/24(a) the Clerk presented a report to Council on quotes and considerations for the implementation of disabled parking bays in the Mill Street Car Park site.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. J. Walker that the Council **RESOLVE** to contract Clearway (Midlands) Ltd. to install disabled parking bays in Mill Street Car Park.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

(c) Staff Policies

Cllr. S. Walker vacated the Chair in order to exclude himself from the meeting in accordance with his declaration of interest. In the absence of the Vice Chairman of the Council, the Clerk invited nominations from the floor for the election of a temporary Chairman for the agenda item in accordance with Standing Orders and to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.

Cllr. J. McCabe proposed that Cllr. E. Sherman be elected Chairman, the nomination was seconded by Cllr. J. Walker. The nomination was carried by a majority of Councillors present on the following margin:

AYE: ELEVEN (**PASSED**)

NO: ONE

The Clerk presented Council with a report detailing the need to institute updated and new policies for the management and support of staff.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. J. Walker that the Council **RESOLVE** to adopt the following policies; Annual Leave Policy, Disciplinary Policy, Emergency Leave Policy, Expenses Policy, Lone Worker Policy, Maternity Leave Policy, Paternity Leave Policy, Sexual and General Harassment Policy, Sickness Absence Policy, Staff Appraisal Policy, and the Training and Development Policy.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

(d) Youth Funding Report

*Cllr. S. Walker came back into the meeting resumed the Chair.

In accordance with Council resolution 62/24(e) the Clerk presented a report to Council with details of available youth funding.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. P. Slater to note the report.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

(e) Allotment Association Tenancy Agreements

*Cllr. J. McCabe and Cllr. C. Addison-Lees left the meeting in accordance with their declaration of interests.

In accordance with Council resolution 62/24(b) the Clerk presented a report to Councillors on the progress made in relation to the Allotment Gardens owned by the Council. The Clerk further presented and recommended the signing of the agreed Allotment Management Agreement for the Birchwood Lane Allotment Garden.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Walker and seconded by Cllr. J. Coles that the Council **RESOLVE** that the Council agree to the final agreement reached with the Birchwood Lane Allotment Association for a period of five years, and instruct the Proper Officer of the Council to sign the agreement under the Common Seal of the Council.

The motion was carried by a majority of Councillors present on the following margin:

AYE: EIGHT (**PASSED**)

NO: ONE

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Walker and seconded by Cllr. J. Coles that the Council **RESOLVE** that the Council institute immediate direct management of the Sleetmoor Lane and Bridle Lane Allotment Garden sites until the agreement on the management of the sites by third party is agreed upon.

The motion was carried by a majority of Councillors present on the following margin:

AYE: EIGHT (**PASSED**)

ABSTAIN: ONE

(f) Scribe Accounting and Booking System

*Cllr. J. McCabe and Cllr. C. Addison-Lees came back into the meeting.

The Clerk and RFO presented a report to Council recommending the adoption of the Scribe online accounting and bookings package in order to aid the Council's administration.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. E. Watson that the Council **RESOLVE** to purchase an annual subscription form Scribe for the implementation of digital accounting and booking management.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

79/24: To receive reports from the Responsible Financial Officer for discussion, adoption and resolution:

(a) PTA Funding

*Cllr. J. Coles and Cllr. P. Slater left the meeting in accordance with their declaration of interests.

In accordance with Council resolution 62/24(d) the RFO presented a report on the powers available to the Parish Council to help fund future Family Fun Days.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. E. Sherman that the Council **RESOLVE** to create an events budget for the next financial year.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

(b) Additional Funding

*Cllr. J. Coles and Cllr. P. Slater came back into the meeting.

The Clerk and RFO presented a joint report to Council on possible alternative funding sources which could aid the Council in supplementing its income.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Tomlinson and seconded by Cllr. E. Watson that the Council **RESOLVE** to close the Barclay's Business Account, and consolidate all Council day-to-day spending through the Lloyds Business Account, and keep all reserves in the CCLA Government Deposit Scheme.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. E. Sherman that the Council **RESOLVE** not to install a clothing bank on Market Street Car Park.

The motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors.

The Chairman thanked the officers for taking the time to actively seek out new funding opportunities for the benefit of the Council and the Parish.

80/24: Finances

(a) Accounts between 24/08/2024 and 24/09/2024

The RFO presented the monthly accounts to the Council for consideration.

Payments: £33,610.06

Income: £113,333.51

Total Bank Balances & Cash in Hand:

Barclays General AC: £136,858.23

Lloyds General AC: £21,797.67

Lloyds Bar AC: £8,213.50

Bar Cash in Hand: £788.15

The accounts were proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. S. Tomlinson and agreed upon unanimously.

(b) Income

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

(c) Pre-Budget Discussion

The RFO presented the draft budget for discussion and consideration, and asked Councillors for input on potential new spending or savings.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. P. Wardle that the draft budget be noted and accepted, this was agreed upon unanimously.

81/24: Planning

(a) Pre-Budget Discussion

*Cllr. E. Sherman declared an interest for the item, left the meeting in accordance with their obligations under the Localism Act 2011.

Members considered new planning applications to be decided by Amber Valley Borough Council.

REF: AVA/2024/0670

Address: Land Off Stanley Street Stanley Street Somercotes Alfreton Derbyshire

Proposal: Proposed 3 no. flags and sales hoarding.

Due Date: 19th November 2024

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Tomlinson and seconded by Cllr. J Walker that the Council **RESOLVE** to **OBJECT** to the application.

The motion was carried by a majority of Councillors present on the following margin:

AYE: NINE (**PASSED**)

ABSTAIN: ONE

(b) Stanley Street Update

*Item was not discussed

(c) Highway Situation – Birchwood Lane and Nether Farm

*Item was not discussed

82/24: Correspondence: – Previously circulated

*Cllr. E. Sherman came back into the meeting.

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

(a) Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government Consultation on "Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings"

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Walker and seconded by Cllr. J. McCabe that the Council RESOLVE to take part in the consultation, and this was agreed unanimously by all Councillors.

(b) Christmas Light Switch on Request from Somercotes & Somerlea Community Parents Trust Association

*Cllr. J. Coles and Cllr. P. Slater left the meeting in accordance with their declaration of interests.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McCabe and seconded by Cllr. E. Watson that the Clerk be authorised to make appropriate arrangements for a light switch on to take place at the Parish Hall. This was agreed upon unanimously.

83/24: Date and Time of Next Meeting:

*Cllr. J. Coles and Cllr. P. Slater came back into the meeting.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Friday 17th January 2024 at 6:30PM.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:40 PM