

SOUTHERY PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st August 2016 at 7.00pm in Southery village hall**

**Present:** Cllr D Everitt, Cllr M Moore, Cllr J Hobden, Cllr R Whitehead, Cllr T Feltwell, Cllr C Copsey, Cllr M Bird, Cllr M Storey & Clerk.

**Apologies:** 0

**Members of the public:** 19

**Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July and 25th July 2016 were discussed and agreed to be a true record of proceedings.

Proposer: Cllr M Moore

2nd: Cllr T Feltwell

**Declarations of interest**

Members are invited to declare personal or prejudicial interests in items on the agenda. It is a requirement that declarations from a member include the nature of the interest and whether it is personal or prejudicial.

Cllr J Hobden made a statement relating to matters concerning the Werehen:

*While I have no personal or prejudicial interest in the Werehen or adjoining land for the avoidance of any doubt and in the light of recent allegations I would like to place on record that, in respect of land on Westgate Street, Southery, some years ago, prior to becoming a councillor I supplied plans to Mr. Roger Burton and, more recently I was instructed by a solicitor to provide plans for another party who was in dispute with Mr. Burton in respect of the same property. Councillors and members of the public should therefore consider whether any evidence I have presented in respect of the Parish Council’s efforts to recover lost parts of the Werehen might be coloured by the fact that I have acted against Mr. Burton in the matter of the Westgate Street land. In the light of allegations made I suggest that any documents produced by me in connection with the proposed recovery of lost land be examined by an independent surveyor before being attached to any deed signed in respect of such recovery*

**Chairman’s reports/updates**

 All Councilors have been issued with a copy of a draft deed prepared by Lindsay Johnson. The draft document was read out in full and explanations were given where necessary. This draft deed is an agreement between Southery Parish Council and Mr. & Mrs. Burton in relation to land at Southery (Werehen).

The draft deed and plan was agreed by all Councilors present. This draft deed will now be presented to Fraser Dawbarns solicitors for them to prepare a legal copy which the council will review again before agreeing to sign.

Proposer: Cllr M Moore

2nd: Cllr M Bird.

SWISH has donated £50.00 to the parish council from proceeds raised at the recent outdoor event.

Cllr D Everitt has written to Karl Rands (Highways) to obtain an update on the proposed 20mph weight restriction on Westgate Street during school drop off times. David Law (Norfolk Police) has also been in contact with the Clerk following a complaint from a parishioner regarding speeding in the village. Clerk will send David Law the data retrieved from the SAM2 units and he will chase up highways with regards to the traffic calming proposals discussed in 2011.

**Correspondence**

The Borough Council has been judged to have in excess of a 5 year supply of housing. This means that decisions taken with regards to housing proposals will rely on the local policies of the Development Plan, which are considered to be up to date. In other words the normal local policy situation has been confirmed and applies (this has been in place since 19 April 2016, and it was in place before August 2015).

Borough Council New Release: West Norfolk Recycling Rewards encourages residents to recycle as much as they can in order to earn Green Points for their community. There are five communities across the Borough: Kings Lynn and Surroundings, Southern and Downham Market, Northern and Hunstanton, West Norfolk Fens and West Norfolk Central.  The rubbish and recycling produced by each of the five communities is measured and when rubbish is going down and recycling going up, registered members of that community will earn Green Points for their efforts. Residents can also earn more Green Points for their community by taking part in extra activities on the Recycling Rewards website, such as by reporting which materials they recycle each week. After 6 months, the community that has earned the most Green Points overall will receive £1,500 to donate to one of the six charity projects, with the communities in second and third place receiving £750 each.  Residents can vote for which of the projects they’d like their community to support on the website at www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/recyclingrewards.

The Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk are looking to recruit some new Parish Members to the Standards Committee. Every Authority is required to adopt a Code of Conduct that sets out rules governing the behaviour of its Members. All elected, co-opted and Independent Members of local authorities, including Parish and Town Councils, Fire Authorities, Police Authorities and National Parks Authorities, are covered by the Code.

From 8th July 2016 people across Norfolk and Suffolk are being asked for their views on a proposed devolution deal and associated governance arrangements for the two counties.

Devolution would see the transfer of certain decision-making powers and funding down from Central Government to a local area. It would result in decisions taken close to where they have an effect.
The majority of councils across Norfolk and Suffolk, along with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, supported the deal and agreed to ask the public for their views.

Consultation will run for seven weeks, until 23 August 2016.

As part of the consultation, people are being asked for their views on more decisions being taken locally, rather than at central government. They will be asked if they support the creation of a combined authority chaired by a mayor for the two counties, how decisions should be taken and how a combined authority and mayor should be held to account for the decisions they take.

People can have their say by visiting www.eastangliadevo.co.uk and completing the online survey.

An email was received from Mr Burton requesting copies of various documents which were presented at the public meeting.

The current drainage works which are being carried out on Westgate Street and Upgate Street are expected to continue until 26th August 2016.

**Planning applications**

16/01132/F: Single storey extension at Southery Primary school 7 Westgate Street.

Council raised no objections to this application at the meeting held 25.07.16**.**

**Payments for approval**

Clerk £ 422.25

Expenses £55.30

C Wills £136.80

HMRC £49.20

NORSE £899.65

Anglian water playing field £9.99

Anglian water cemetery £6.11

E.on £174.00

All payments were approved for payment.

Proposer: Cllr C Copsey

2nd: Cllr M Bird

**Matters requiring attention**

There will be a seat positioned on the Werehen in memory of a resident who recently died.

The Parish Partnership scheme is available again for 2017/18. The Parish Council will investigate the costs for a 20mph zone outside the school.

**Matters bought to the attention of the Council:**

Issues raised by the Council which are not on the agenda will be put forward to the next meeting of the Council; no decision will be taken at this meeting.

The Laurels at the cemetery need pruning.

Some villages have 30mph signs on the wheelie bins, this is an option for Southery.

The bridle way at the bottom of Campsey Road has now been cut.

Cllr M Storey acknowledged that the Parish Council were working hard to resolve issues regarding the Werehen.

**Members of the public comments / questions**

Member of the public asked the Council why they held a closed meeting. The Council held a closed meeting on the 25th July 2016 to discuss a freedom of information request.

Members of the public expressed their concerns with how the Council were dealing with the matters concerning the Werehen and were concerned that the Council were not acting on the requests made at the public meeting. They were concerned that land will be given away and that attempts are not being made to retrieve land already taken. Public members requested another public meeting before documents were signed.

Cllr M Moore explained to the public once again that NO parish land will be given away, the Council are acting to register and maintain the Werehen as it is seen today as was instructed by the public at the meeting held on 18th July 2016.

The Council will then seek to register further land which they believe belongs to the Parish.

Member of the public reported that many private gardens are becoming overgrown.

Member of the public stated that more affordable house are need in the village for families, the school has reduced a class due to numbers declining.

A request was made for a plan of the village to show all parish land (registered land), Cllr J Hobden will produce this.

A request was made for the agenda to be displayed in full on the notice board and also the statistics from the Speeding signs to be displayed on website or available for public to see.

Potholes on Lynn Road were reported and with the Road closed at Ferry Bank the shops income has reduced. Cllr M Storey will discuss with Highways to see if there is any support available for the shop.

Cllr D Everitt thanked Cllr J Hobden and the Council for their hard work with the Werehen issues and stated that inaccurate accusations have been in relation to the conduct of Councilors and that he himself has not ever held private meetings with the Burtons to discuss Werehen issues and has only acted on behalf of and with the full backing of the Parish Council.

Cllr D Everitt tended his resignation as Chairman and a member of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed 8.35pm

The Next Parish Council meeting will be meeting will be held on 5th September 2016 at 7.00pm.