

SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL:
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH JULY 2010, AT 8 CARY COURT
DRAFT FOR APPROVAL:

PRESENT: Cllrs Fraser-Hopewell (Chairman), Austin, Bennett, Broom, Chambers, Cook, Davies, Harrison, Jotcham, Langmaid, Mildon, Neale & Thomas with District Cllr Beale present.

5029 APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from County Cllr Zouche & District Cllr Canvin. Cllrs Standen & Clarke were expected to arrive late.

5030 PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT TIME

- ***Badgers Cross:*** A resident asked that STC exercise caution in dealing with the application to avoid it leading to further development of the site which she agreed needs tidying up and using.

- ***External Auditors Costs:*** A resident gave a lengthy comment regarding escalating auditors ongoing investigations costs as reported in the last STC meeting. *A full transcript of the comments is available for inspection in the Clerk's office.

The Chairman stated that as an investigation was ongoing, Cllrs should not comment until after the Audit Commission statement.

- ***Memorial playground:*** A positive meeting had been held at the play area, with a continuing query over a stop barrier. The Clerk has written to SCC investigating the provision of a rail; if this is permissible on SCC footpath.

- ***Somerton Community Association:*** The SCA Chairman provided an explanation of the workings of the SCA over the past 14 years. *A full transcript of the comments is available for inspection in the Clerk's office. The Chairman replied that The Council recognised the contribution that the SCA has made and the benefit it has brought to the residents of Somerton but felt that this is a personal matter and not related to Council business, therefore a public statement or debate regarding the matter would be inappropriate.

- ***Armed Forces Day:*** Cllr Neale wished thanks to be extended to Mr Mattingley for his arrangements for the memorial.

- ***Somerton News:*** An erratum note was requested in Viaduct regarding the information stating the Sports Club was owned by STC and run by volunteers. The Editor stated that as the information was an item submitted by the Sports Club, any correction should come from them. The Chairman stated that very shortly the Sports Club Trustees Committee would be in operation and would clarify any such points.

- ***PCSO:*** apologised for being unable to attend. Some unsavoury posters have been appearing around the town which the police suggest public remove if seen.

- ***Recreation Ground:*** Another piece of play equipment has had to be removed due to vandalism.

5031 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Cook expressed a prejudicial interest in planning applications 10/02027/FUL and 10/02397/FUL.

5032 MINUTES

Min 5015 Mrs Neal asked that it should be noted that her late husband Lesley Neal had carved the gavel presented to the STC Chairman

The Minutes of the meeting held on 08 June copies of which had been circulated to all Cllrs in advance of the meeting, were **agreed** as per the printed copy and the Chairman duly signed the Minute Book.

5033 MATTERS ARISING

Min5015: Recreation Ground – Anti-Social Behaviour. The Police have requested that public support their efforts by reporting all incidents

Min5015: Etsome Terrace Play Area: - All the issues are being addressed. The installation of a new access for disabled persons without going through the play area has been suggested. Although all equipment is safe for use, it is not suitable for toddlers. Some further equipment is desirable for 18 month to 6 year age group. The PTA was thanked for their offer to fund raise towards the cost.

A resident asked if the CCTV would be repaired in time for the installation of new equipment. Mr Edwards wished to thank STC for action regarding disabled access.

Bolts are in the process of being made for the faulty barrier.

Min 5024: The SWP Consultation document has not yet been published which will shorten the time for evaluation.

Min 5015: The previously blocked drain in Ricksey Lane is now silt free.

Speed Limits B3151 – County Cllr J Zouche not available for update

5034 FINANCE

Cllrs Jotcham and Davies had checked the invoices against payments. Schedules A, B, C & D were displayed on the notice board.

The payments for the month, the details of which had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting under schedules A and B totalling £38,939.95 be approved; All Agreed and Cllrs Harrison & Austin elected to verify and sign cheques at the end of the meeting.

5035 PLANNING

Cllr Cook left the room at this stage.

10/02027/FUL - Refurbishment and extension to existing building with associated improvements to access and landscaping; land OS 3769 part, Badgers Cross Lane.

Deferred for 2 weeks, to the next Land & Property Committee Meeting.

10/02397/FUL - The retention of residential annexe (retrospective application);
1Badgers Cross Lane.

It was noted that the building had not been completed as per the plans in respect of rendering and painting. Concern was expressed about a precedent being set as this was a retrospective application. Building control approval will be required

A non- fragmentation clause needs to be included, which was approved by a majority vote.

10/02206/FUL: 24 Pinewood Drive Amended Plans - The amended plans are not in the spirit of the STC recommendation, being only 6 inches lower than previously. The Council agreed that the previous concerns still remain and further amendments to the roof-line are sought.

DETERMINATIONS

10/01288	Approved	10/01431	Withdrawn
10/01639	Approved	10/01172	Approved
10/01827	Awaiting full planning application		
10/02273	No approval required as agricultural usage.		

5036 CORRESPONDENCE

375 LSMI Stage Electrics: On 08 June 2010 it was agreed that STC should grant 25% of the cost of rewiring the stage area up to a maximum figure of £1,000. Somerton Dramatic Society have now written stating they wish to proceed with the lowest estimate, paying for the bulk of the expenditure themselves rather than applying to the Lottery and wishing to confirm that STC are still happy with paying 25%, which in this case would be £500 rather than the previously accounted for £1,000. **All Agreed**

374 C. Cllr Zouche had written regarding the amended highways comments on the 'Retirement Villages' planning application. This will be circulated to all Cllrs by email.

383 NALC letter to be circulated to all Cllrs by email.

338 SCC Pension Fund AGM Fri 17/09/10 Dillington House 9.30 a.m. the letter to be circulated to all Cllrs by email.

340 SCC Chairman's award for service to the community closing date for nominations 8 Sept.

Cllrs Clark & Standen arrived at this point.

363: The owner of the Old Vicarage acknowledges his ownership of the wall at rear of Paddock House and will pay for repairs necessary

5037 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility & Highways: The B3151 Acre Lane – Lodge Hill will be closed for 5 nights from the 2nd August. B3165 Sutton Road will be closed for 4 days from 9th August for resurfacing. The verges are being cared for by volunteers. Thanks to Jeff Dyer for his excellent choice of plants which are surviving well in the drought. Parking problems at Sutton Road, Great Western Lane & Polham Lane will be debated. The Wild flower and tree groups are now set up. The MTIG funding is to be discussed.

Car Park Inspector; documents setting out the details of the proposed post and advertisements were circulated to all Cllrs. On a proposal from Cllrs Broom & Langmaid, to advertise and employ an inspector as discussed **All Agreed**

Land & Property: The play area care has been consolidated with litter picking and emptying of waste bins added. The *planted areas* around town also need care; STC may inherit two areas on the Midas estate and Edgar Community Hall has previously been cared for by Ruth Woodcock to whom thanks were given, but now needs to be put on a professional footing. **ECH Working Group:** An advertisement in Viaduct for events supervisors had resulted in only one applicant. The advertisement will now be widened to the Western Gazette. In October a theatre performance by Red Line Theatre is being organised. **Cemetery:** Cllrs Broom & Jotcham are preparing the specification for the cemetery contract. Benches and Fees are also under discussion.

Allotments: The Allotment Association has now been formalised so consideration of the Ashen Cross Land can hopefully progress. **Play Equipment:** Adrian Moore SSDC will meet Cllr Neale to discuss inspection reports. STC is still awaiting a reply from the suppliers regarding the failed mobilus equipment from Gassons Lane

Communications Committee: *The Town Plan review* consultation process has now started: future meetings are planned for 19 July 6-8pm & 20 July 2-4 pm. The consultation will continue for the next six months and a questionnaire then sent to all households. **Website:** Six companies have been invited to tender by 4th August and discussion at the following STC meeting will follow.

Somerton News: has been delivered to all households. 3 Councillor Drop-in sessions have been held and will be reviewed. The **Notice Board** needs updating to make it more appealing and relevant to residents.

Footpaths: Currently none of Somerton footpaths are on the SSDC schedule as it appears to have dropped off the list when the organisation changed to SCC. Somerton has been caring for its own paths for some years. Thanks were given to volunteers who have been clearing and an organised lopping session is to take place.

5038 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Thanks to Cllr Langmaid & Martyn Smith for Somerton News and those involved in the Town Plan Review. The Arts Festival is in full swing and the hope is for good weather. Cllrs Clark & Fraser-Hopewell attended a NALC conference and will report to next STC meeting.

5039 AGENDA ITEMS FOR JULY 2010 MEETING

Website. MTIG proposals.	Youth Shelter	New Youth Worker Sutton Road Gateway
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5040. RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL AUDITOR –

Cllrs need to debate the STC response and due to the confidential nature of this matter, the Chairman proposed, 2nd Cllr Langmaid that the item be taken in closed session, in the absence of Press and Public. **All Agreed**
Cllrs retired to another room.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m.

DRAFT

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS JULY 2010:

FOLIO NO: CHEQUE NO: PAID TO: AMOUNT:

105 6667 POST OFFICE LTD (Vehicle Road Tax) (paid 24-Jun) 112.75

106	6668	CABLE & WIRELESS (Phone line rental – 2 months)	39.91
107	6669	NALC (Conference fees)	211.50
108	6670	SOMERTON MOWER MAN (Strimmer cord)	16.50
109	d/d	TALK TALK (Internet)	19.99
110	6671	YEOMARKS LTD (Car Park lining)	564.00
111	6672	N LANGMAID (Expenses re: Somerton News)	57.25
112	6673	SSDC (Grant funding Funday)	900.00
113	6674	CONCEPT PRODUCTS (ECH/Rec Ground Toilets)	62.61^
114	d/d	PWLB (Loan repayments)	23269.23
115	6675	SSDC (Viaduct Production)	140.53
116	6676	SOMERTON URC (Hall Hire)	12.00
117	d/d	EDF ENERGY (ECH Electricity)	164.63
118	d/d	DANWOOD (Photocopier)	57.35
119	6677	V STANNARD (6 weeks cleaning/maintenance work)	1330.00
120	6678	VIKING DIRECT (Paper/flipchart pads)	83.21
121	6679	EVERGREEN TURF (Cemetery/Rec Ground maintenance)	2627.00^
122	6680	OVERT LOCKE (Cemetery cremation plot maintenance)	44.52
123	6681	AJ BILLING (Play Areas & Rec Ground Maintenance)	761.98^
124	d/d	EDF ENERGY (Street lighting electricity)	119.62
125	d/d	EDF ENERGY (Street lighting electricity)	15.70
126	6682	STATIONERY HOUSE (Paper/office sundries)	116.12
127	6683	HOISTWAY (ECH Lift - Annual maintenance contract)	323.13
128	*	BANK CHARGES	52.56
129	6684	PETTY CASH (Stamps/Travelling/Town Plan/Fuel)	160.64
130	6685	DYNAMIC DESIGN (Web-site upgrade/maintenance)	238.00
131	6686	CREEDS (Somerton News)	2068.00
132	d/d	B GAS BUSINESS (Public Toilets electricity supply)	23.90
133	6687	WESTCOMBE WASTE LTD (Cemetery skip hire)	130.66
134-9	d/d	SSDC (Rates)	1147.00
140	6688	E NIALS (Cleaning ECH)	112.50
141	6689	L LUMBER (Cleaning ECH)	105.00
142	6690	SCC PENSIONS (Superannuation)	648.27
143	6691	INLAND REVENUE (PAYE/NI)	739.28
144	BACS	AUTOPAY (Salaries)	2134.89
145	6692	MARKET CROSS ANTIQUES (LIC Rental)	135.00

TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH: £38,939.95
(This figure includes £1,004.74^ to be refunded by the Rec Ground Trust in due course).