MINUTES OF OLD SOMERBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY 12 OCTOBER, 2026 7pm at THE ROPSLEY VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: Vicky Lowndes (Chairman), Nigel Percy (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Vron Stephens, Cllr Peter Burrows, Parish Clerk David Holmes and LCC Councillor Charlotte Vernon. Also present 2 members of the public.

1. WELCOME by the Chairman: Cllr Lowndes welcomed those present.

PUBLIC FORUM: No Items were raised.

2. APOLOGIES: Cllr Betty North had given her apologies due to illness: Noted and accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS/APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS:
Cllr Vron Stephens declared a Pecuniary Interest in item 7 d) - **Noted.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Proposed by Cllr Vron Stephens that the Minutes of the Meeting held 10 August, 2026 be accepted as a correct record - agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman. **ACTION: The Clerk.**

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5. CLERK AND COUNCILLORS' ACTIONS AND UPDATES LATEST:
a) The Purchase of the Piece of Land in Middle Path. Enquiries had again been made by the Parish Council's Solicitor as to the excessive delay in bringing this issue to a conclusion. It now seems a resolution is close between the LCC's Solicitors and the Solicitors for the local land owner. The Clerk had today asked SKDC Cllr Trotter to make further enquiries. **ACTION: Cllr Trotter. .**
b) Community Emergency Plan: Cllr Percy gave an update. He had attended a very useful Table Talk Session on 9 September 2026. It was necessary to locate somewhere to store the equipment. Insurance cover was also necessary. **AGREED**: Cllr Percy to call a meeting of all involved to move towards completion of the C.E.P. **ACTION: Cllr Percy;**
c) Fox and Hounds: The Clerk reported that he had again been into touch with the Surveyors who confirmed there was interest in taking over the lease. It was noted that as there is no electricity available at the premises the Defibrillator battery is running low. The Clerk to request the Lease Holders that provision is made to keep the Defibrillator fully charged. It is a vital asset to the local Community. **ACTION: The Clerk;**
d) Fly Tipping in Middle Path: The Clerk reported that the fly tipping is on-going. Agreed he would ask SKDC Cllr Trotter to make necessary enquiries: **ACTION: The Clerk;**
e) 6 Bungalow Site School Lane: The Clerk had tried to obtain up to date information as to progress to conclude the outstanding issues. He had been unable to obtain a response from the Planners in spite of several attempts. **ACTION: The Clerk.**
f) Cold Harbour Traveller Site: Cllr Percy informed the Councillors of recent incidents resulting in the attendance of the Police. Those involved did not own or live on the site. The District Council are aware. The situation was noted with concern. Cllr Trotter is also aware.

6. LOCAL COUNCILLORS UPDATES: Cllr Sarah Trotter had given her apologies for this meeting and had forwarded her report which is attached to these minutes: **ACTION: The Clerk:** Cllr Charlotte Vernon was present and gave her report**. i)** the Government decisions

regarding boundary changes had been put on hold following legal action; **ii)** Funding was available for Parishes to apply for regarding their projects**; iii**) Safe boxes were available to house the necessary equipment needed for local Community Emergency Plans**; iv)** The National Baton of Hope will pass through the County in September 2027; **v)** the Drains Clearance Programme was in operation. Cllr Vernon was thanked for her report.

7. FINANCE: To Consider:
a) FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The Clerk circulated a copy of the latest Financial Statement. Cllr Burrows, the Lead Councillor Finance, the Internal Auditor and the Clerk had all signed off that report. It was accepted by the Councillors. **ACTION**: **The Clerk** - **Copy Attached:**
b) The Internal Auditor's Report: The Report from the Internal Auditor was dated 8 October, 2026 - noted by the Councillors and accepted. **ACTION: The Clerk – Copy attached.**
c) Health and Safety Audit of Parish Councils Assets latest: The Clerk reported that the Notice Board had now been repaired and restored. It was now located inside the Bus Shelter on School Lane. The issue of Asbestos was in hand and Cllr Burrows would pursue it. He would also inspect the two rain water down pipes to see if any repairs were necessary. **ACTION: Cllr Burrows**.
d) Funding application by Parish Church Warden:
The application for funding towards the upkeep of the local church yard was considered. Cllr Stephens did not take part. The application for £300 was approved. **ACTION: The Clerk.**
e) Parish Council Funds: After a discussion it proposed by Cllr Burrows, seconded by Cllr Lowndes and agreed unanimously that £10,000 should be invested in Lloyds Bank Variable Interest Bearing Account with a 32 day notice period. **ACTION: The Clerk and Councillor Signatories.**
At this point in the meeting 3 invoices were considered and the cheques signed by Councillors. **ACTION: The Clerk.**

8 PLANNING: S26/1347 – Application to erect a single storey stable building to include feed store, tack room and ancillary storage all to serve existing equestrian needs of the property at The Orchards, School Lane, Old Somerby. Local Residents had been contacted by Old Somerby Parish Council. It was understood the SKDC Planners had also contacted local residents. **AGREED:** No objections would be raised to the application. **ACTION: The Clerk.**

9. **CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING ITEMS FOR INF0RMATION ONLY: a)** LCC email regarding Grit bins was noted -no action required; **b)** LCC Schools admission changes noted; **c)** The Old Chapel – proposals to remove the hedge and erect a fence were noted and accepted; **d**) The Clerk had replied appropriately to a National Allotment Survey; **e**) Concern again was expressed concerning the over- hanging foliage from the Hedge by Ropsley Rise Woods: **ACTION:** The Clerk to contact the LCC.

10: Date/V0enue of Next Meeting: Fixed for Monday 25 January, 2027 at 7pm venue to be announced.

The Meeting Closed at 20:15.

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