
GREAT SOMERFORD (INCORPORATING STARTLEY) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting - DRAFT

3 May 2023

Community Room@ 7.30 pm

(following the APCM Meeting)

Present

Cllr T Barker
Cllr M Griffiths
Cllr A Lennox
Cllr H Lennox

Cllr T Sturgis
Cllr D Todd
Cllr I Vout

**In
attendance**
PQT

Cllr E Threlfall, Wiltshire
Clerk, H Wallace

5 member of the public

Public Questions

Two of the members of public present volunteered to look into bus use. They described the Phoenix minibus service for transport to the Malmesbury surgery or hospital in Swindon if a request is put in a day ahead, but explained that there is currently a shortage of drivers. There is also a weekly "shopper's bus" on Fridays to Swindon and back during term-time only. A new commercial bus timetable came out in January which has given only a two minute gap in between connection buses, which can cause problems. The phone number for the Wiltshire Council contact will be provided to the PC, who will then check all the timetables that are available and publicise them.

Action: Cllr Griffiths

WCR

Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives

Wiltshire Cllr Threlfall provided an update as follows:

There was a recent webinar about the subsidence that has closed the road between Chippenham and Lyneham at Lyneham Banks. It will be put back eventually but it isn't a short term easy project as there is still movement beyond the landslip.

Most of the funding from Wiltshire Council goes to social care and schooling and budgets are tight. There is an obligation to get quotes for road repairs every 3 years and choose the cheapest bid unless there's a very good reason not to. It can cause delays at contract changeover times. Resurfacing of roads is happening, but people are urged to report any on MyWilts app anything that will help to make the roads safer for everyone. Malmesbury High Street is projected to be resurfaced soon. It was discussed that the Top Street gully in Gt Somerford has been blocked for two years and the consequent running water creates potholes. Great Somerford drainage issues have been reported to Wiltshire Council Highways many times. Cllr Threlfall will speak to Becky Chivers at Wiltshire Council and see if there can be some action to help prevent the potholes getting any worse. Also, Cllr Sturgis is writing to cabinet member Caroline Thomas and will copy in Cllr Threlfall.

An update on the big Maple tree on Hollow Street, which is owned neither by a private owner nor by the parish – its health and general safety will be assessed once the leaves come out in May/June.

Cllr Threlfall offered to post planning application information on Facebook with redaction of certain information such as names, where possible. It was discussed that this may be useful but that tree oriented planning applications would not be included. It will not be possible to comment on Facebook posts so that comments are directed to the Wiltshire Planning page as they should be.

1. Intro

Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest

- a) Apologies for absence: Cllr Harper
- b) Declarations of Interest: None

2. Minutes

Minutes and Matters Arising



a) The Minutes of the previous meeting held 5 April were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr Vout

Seconded: Cllr Todd

b) The new format for the Action Register was noted and with no items in red, updates would be sought during the meeting

3. CIL Projects **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Projects**

Cllr Vout reported that the new slide and steps in Winkins Lane Playground have been installed. They are waiting for the grass to take. People have commented that it looks really good.

With regards to the potential for a recreation area in part of the Glebe Field, Cllr Sturgis met with the land agent that represents the Diocese of Bristol. The agent is due to come back with a proposal, but has not responded and a chase will be made to make some progress ahead of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr A Lennox reported that Highways have agreed to the proposed sites for the new Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) at Dauntsey road and Park Lane in Gt Somerford and in Startley at the T-junction. The respective landowners will be approached for consent. We currently have two SIDs and will purchase one more.

There has been a clamp down on speed in neighbouring Little Somerford. Cllr Threlfall will ask if there has been any police presence in Great Somerford. Cllrs discussed moving the 30 mph speed sign further back from Gt Somerford bridge to curb speeding at the bridge, and it will be requested of the cabinet member. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis to add this to his letter regarding drainage issues.

a) Current Parish Planning Applications

Planning Applications Received Since Last Meeting

PL/2023/02990 - Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area, 2 Foxfield Shiptons Lane, Great Somerford, SN15 5EJ

Three Beech trees located on the property boundary are to be reduced in height by up to 7 metres and on lateral branches by up to 3 metres. The canopies are to remain an elliptical form.

08-05-2023 No Objection

PL/2023/02982 - Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area Manor Stables West Street, Great Somerford, SN15 5EH

T1- Lawsons Cyprus. Remove tree to ground level as is within 1 metre of corner of building with a basal union for co-dominant stems

08-05-2023 No Objection

Planning Applications Determined Since Last Meeting

PL/2023/01812 - Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area
THE MEAD, GREAT SOMERFORD, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 5JB

T1 - Norwegian Maple tree - 25% crown reduction. T2 & T4 - 2 x Apple trees - 25% crown reduction and thin. T3 - Conifer tree (dead) – remove 11-04-2023 No Objection

PL/2022/07293 - Full Planning Permission

Land near Hollow Street, Great Somerford, Chippenham, approx. postcode SN15 5JH

Erection of a cattle housing building 19-04-2023 Approve with Conditions

b) Housing Developments

After the last meeting Cllr Sturgis wrote to the Wiltshire Council cabinet member about the conditions for Broadfield Farm. He responded that Wiltshire Council will take into consideration the inspector's report and Great Somerford's neighbourhood plan. Cllr Sturgis plans to ask to meet him and show him the damage to the verges caused by the Phase 1 of the Broadfield Farm development and the fencing enclosing Somerbrook, which is not in the character of the village.

Residents can write to Wiltshire Council Planning and ask that constructors don't use the Phase 1 road which is quite narrow and has young children playing in the area. Cllr Sturgis to add a question in his letter to the cabinet member.



Action: Cllr Sturgis

c) Neighbourhood plan

No updates this time.

5. Finance a) the Finance Report was ratified and approved and duly signed off. The Treasurer account was reconciled and bank balances noted, and was signed post-meeting by Cllr Barker.
b) It was noted that progress regarding the savings account would be given at the next meeting as Cllr Harper was not present.
6. Managed Facilities a) Winkins Lane Playground
The padlock on the security box has been stolen and some of the ping pong balls have been mashed up. A sturdier padlock will be purchased as well as stronger balls for the table football. Proposed: Cllr Miles; Seconded: Cllr A Lennox. **Action:** Cllr Vout
Ask the school to put a note in bags asking them to take care of the facilities. **Action:** Cllr Griffiths
b) Community Room
A health and safety inspection was carried out on 3 April and there hasn't been any feedback. The caretaker completes a check-list every Wednesday. Cllrs discussed a request from hirers for installing Wi-Fi and it was decided a wi fi contract would prove too costly at the moment, given the low number of hirers.
7. Environment Parish steward – as before the priority is still pot-holes across Wiltshire, rather than specific village-related actions.
An application has gone in for the Best Kept Village competition. Cllr Miles has worked on a map and assessed that there is very little litter in the village. There will be an effort to ensure noticeboards and bus timetables are up to date.

The new noticeboard for the Startley Cemetery has been ordered.
Gt Somerford and Startley Defibrillators checked yesterday and they are fine
School's Liaison – The Headteacher and SHASA have both been invited to the Annual Parish Meeting; SHASA has confirmed that it will attend the APM. The volunteer tending around the War Memorial is doing a lovely job.
Numbers to be confirmed shortly for the purchase of the Coronation mugs with donations from the Great Somerford Community Fund and Parish Council.
There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.33pm
Dates for Future Meetings @ 7.30 pm – 17 May Annual Parish Meeting in the Community Room.



Approved **Chair**

Date7 June 2023.....