
GREAT SOMERFORD (INCORPORATING STARTLEY) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 5 February 2020 at 7.30 p.m. The Community Room, Walter Powell School, Great Somerford

Present	Cllr S Mansfield (Chair) Cllr S Binstead Cllr C Blount	Cllr D Butcher Cllr H Cole Cllr A Gravell	Cllr M Griffiths Cllr M Hourigan Cllr F Hyde
In attendance	T M Chapman (Clerk)	Wilts Cllr Sturgis	3 members of public

Public Question Time

There was a question concerning the criterion used by the Parish Council when determining the site of its Speed Indicator Device (SID) – in Startley as opposed to in Great Somerford. There had been several recent accidents/near misses in Great Somerford and the road outside the School was felt to be of particular concern.

Cllr Hourigan responded that Startley had been chosen because, unlike Great Somerford, it had had a Community Speed Watch Group and because the metro count on that road had evidenced 80% cars going at 38 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. area. The SID could be relocated to different places in Great Somerford subject to a metro count providing objective evidence of speeding. The Parish Council was asked, and **agreed**, to write to the Chippenham Community Area Transport Group (CATG) and to try to arrange for metro counts at key points in Great Somerford.

Action: Cllr Hourigan

Reports from Unitary Cllr and Council Representatives - Wilts Cllr Sturgis

- i. A **water pipe** has been installed under the Startley Road. Adjacent landowners need to ensure their ditches have sufficient capacity to take the water.
- ii. Wiltshire Council is trying to rebuild its knowledge of **land drainage** systems and all Parishes are asked to draw up a local map and to check it for accuracy each year. Great Somerford's map is believed to be up to date and can be checked alongside the annual review of its Community Emergency plan.
- iii. Appeal re **18/03524/FUL** Land at Heath Lane Startley. Wiltshire Council will challenge some of the information put forward by the appellant which it believes to be inaccurate. The date of the Inspector's Report is not known.
- iv. **Permissive path across the Showground**: This has suffered from large deposits of dog faeces, mostly off the path. Permit holders will be contacted and reminded to "pick up" after their dogs or access rights will be withdrawn.

Action: Cllr Blount

Stu

20/02/1 **Apologies for Absence** – None.

20/02/2 **Declaration(s) of Interest** – None.

20/02/3 **Minutes and Matters Arising**

- i The Minutes of the Parish Council held on 8 January 2020 were **approved** and **signed** by the Chair as a true record. Proposed Cllr Butcher; seconded Cllr Hourigan.

ii **Action Register of Matters Arising**

This report had not been included in the meeting pack so the Chair took Councillors through the minutes. Cllr Butcher reported

- i. Minute 20/01/6.1 **Zipwire** – see minute 20/02/6.1.
- ii. Minute 20/01/6.2 Wicksteed have stated that the existing **slide** cannot be repaired. A replacement would cost £6,137 + VAT.
- iii. Minute 20/01/6.3. **Rubber matting** can be obtained from B&Q at £20 per square metre. This would be useful around the roundabout but bark was felt to be preferable under the swings.
- iv. Minute 20/02/9.2 **PAT Testing** in the Community Room will be done in conjunction with the School. The Service Engineer will also check the fan.

20/02/4

Planning Matters

<http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/ApplicationSearch.aspx>.

- i **Ratification of Planning Matters by Parish Council between meetings** – None.
- ii **Planning Applications for consideration**

19/11860/FUL The Old Builders Yard, Heath Lane, Startley - Proposed redevelopment of site from mixed B1, B2 & B8 uses, demolition of existing workshops and ancillary storage outbuildings. Proposed erection of 2 dwellings.
Supported.

20/00582/TCA The Beeches – Fell one beech tree (T1). **Supported.**

iii **Applications Determined by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting**

19/10753/LBC Independent access for the L Shaped Barn Winkins Lane using the existing road entry provided by the adjacent property (The Black Barn).
Approved.

19/11240/TCA The Tangles – Fell one hawthorn (T1). **No Objection.**

19/11714/TCA Sayers - Fell 1 Goat Willow and 1 Conifer, and 1 Metre Crown Reduction and Balance to 1 Hornbeam. **No Objection.**

20/00166/DDD The Manor House – cut down 23 horse chestnuts. 5 day notice as trees in poor state. **Approved** conditional on replacement with native species (red oaks).

- iv **Received for consideration since the issue of the agenda** – None.
- v **Determinations by Wiltshire Council since the issue of the agenda** – None.

20/02/5

Finance

i **Finance Report**

The Finance report was **received** and the Parish Council **ratified** and **approved** payments of £2,125, of which £1,782 for the Defibrillator, and **noted** receipts of £1,505 of which £1,430 grant from Malmesbury League of Friends with the balance being primarily lettings and defibrillator donations via Fourways Stores.
Proposed: Cllr Binstead; seconded Cllr Griffiths.

The combined bank balances at the end of January total £5,626.

Since this report was drawn up £9,900 has been received from the National Lottery Awards for All. See minute 20/02/6.2.

ii **Receipts & Payments to 31 January 2020 & Bank Reconciliation**

The Parish Council finances for the year are running at a deficit (excess of expenditure over income) of £5,073 but the forecast outturn on the paper of nearly £8k deficit will be erased if the Parish Council keeps the National Lottery Award and incurs no associated spend before the financial year end (31 March). The explanations for budget variances year to date were noted and agreed.

The bank reconciliation appended to the report was, again, pre-checked by Cllr Blount (a non-cheque signatory). No issues were reported. It was signed by the Chair at the meeting. Cllr Gravell **agreed** to do this for February.

Action: Cllr Gravell

iii **On-line banking**

The paperwork has been sent in to Lloyds Bank to give the Clerk Full User Access which will allow them to set-up electronic payments for on-line approval by two cheque signatories. When and if the Parish Council decides to move to internet banking the systems will be in place to allow it to do so.

iv **Capital projects for inclusion in the 2020/21 budget**

This item was taken after the discussions on 20/02/6.2. Play Area Project 2 was re-instated as the only capital project for 2020/21.

20/02/6 **Councillor Reports on ongoing or proposed projects**

i **Play Park Development – the Zipwire project**

There have been two engineering inspection visits and, despite the Parish Council believing the cable needs re-tensioning to prevent the ride stopping mid-point, Playdale has insisted that the Zipwire is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specification. One engineer suggested that the start point be dug out and heightened.

The Parish Council is keeping the Zipwire closed until it is satisfied it is evidentially functioning correctly and safely and has a letter from Playdale to this effect.

It was **agreed** to make a formal complaint to Playdale as the Zipwire is believed to be not currently fit for purpose. Cllr Butcher will provide the technical input for the letter which will come from the Chair and the Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer.

Action: DB/SM/Clerk

ii **Play Park Development – Project 2: Climbing Frame & Trampoline**

Following the decision taken in January to mothball project 2 because of the apparent lack of public support/willingness to contribute and publication thereof via the PIE and the Signpost magazine Cllr Blount reported that he had received pledges of private donations amounting to £1,400.

He had, therefore, made no contact with the Jack Lane Trust, Crappers or Hills Waste to turn down or redirect grants offered. He further reported awards coming in from Area Board (£2,500) and the National Lottery (£9,900).

In light of the public contributions being offered via the Great Somerford Community Fund he felt it was reasonable to ask the Parish Council to reconsider the decision it took in January because this new information had come to light. Proposed: Cllr Blount; seconded: Cllr Hourigan. This was **agreed**.

He further proposed that the Parish Council should proceed with project 2. Proposed: Cllr Blount; seconded: Cllr Hourigan. This was **agreed**.

Cllr Hyde will supply some sample images of the type of equipment it is planned to purchase for dissemination via the PIE (Parish Information email) and website.

Action: Cllr Hyde

There is now an urgent need to draw up the specification on which to go to tender. Cllr Griffiths will lead on this with input from Mr Henderson and will circulate the proposal to all Councillors for input and comment before bringing it to the March meeting.

Action: Cllr Griffiths

iii **Adult Exercise Equipment**

A couple of residents have put forward the suggestion (via Facebook posts) that the Parish Council should invest in outdoor Adult Exercise equipment similar to that installed at the recreation ground in Dauntsey. Cllr Griffiths had emailed and messaged the individuals in question but had received no response. It was therefore felt inappropriate to take any further action. Proposed: Cllr Butcher; seconded: Cllr Mansfield. This was **agreed**.

iv **Play Park Maintenance** – see minute 20/02/3.2.

20/02/7 **Highway Matters incl Speed Indicator Device**

i **Emerging issues**

The **Parish Steward** has been redirected by Wiltshire Council to work on potholes across the County so has not been available to the village.

Ref the complaint about **dog faeces** the Chippenham Dog Warden has agreed to carry out a patrol of public areas. The date(s) are not known.

Trial of an **Auto Speed Indicator Device** - See minute 20/02/9.6.

ii **Hedges & Trees Guidance Notes**

The Parish Council considered the draft notes prepared by Cllrs Blount and Butcher and thanked them for their work. One interested resident had come to the meeting and would like to be involved. He had several suggestions which will be considered for inclusion into an updated document for approval in March.

Action: Cllrs Blount/Butcher

A copy has been sent to Wiltshire Council Planning (Tree Officer) for comment.

Still

20/02/8 **Governance**

i **Annual report on the War Memorial**

This is now looking good and the £159 in Reserves should cover the cost of algae spraying and ongoing maintenance.

ii **Freedom of Information policy**

This was reviewed and felt to be satisfactory. The Chair was **authorised** to sign a copy. Proposed: Cllr Butcher; seconded: Cllr Cole.

iii **Equal Opportunities policy**

This was reviewed and felt to be satisfactory. The amendments incorporated by Cllr Binstead were accepted. The Chair was **authorised** to sign a copy. Proposed: Cllr Cole; seconded: Cllr Hourigan.

iv **Best Kept Village Competition**

It was agreed to enter again. Cllr Cole will submit the entry and be the point of contact.

20/02/9 **Updates (if any) on Standing items**

i **Cemetery** – Nothing to report.

ii **Community Room** – See minute 20/02/3.2.

iii **Defibrillator**

This has now been purchased and Cllr Griffiths refunded. The grant from Malmesbury League of Friends has been received with much gratitude. There will be an opportunity to publicise their generosity once the new machine has been installed this coming week-end. Monies in the "pot" from public donations via Fourways Stores will be used to fund CPR and Defibrillator training which Cllr Griffiths will organise.

Action: Cllr Griffiths

iv **Community Emergency Plan** – Nothing to report.

v **Footpaths & Rights of Way**

The sign at Shiptons Lane/Hollow Street has been repaired.

vi **Malmesbury Area Board**

The January meeting report was circulated between meetings and the Parish Council **approved** the submission drawn up by Cllr Hourigan to trial an Auto Speed Indicator Device. This formalises an earlier email by the Clerk expressing interest in such a trial.

vii **Parish Information Newsletter** – Nothing to report.

viii **Telephone Book Exchange** – Nothing to report.

ix **War Memorial** – See minute 20/02/8.1. Remove from agenda as standing item.

x **Website** – Post meeting note: ref minute 20/01/8.2 the Chair and Clerk have organised a training session next week.

20/02/10 **Correspondence between meetings** - See minute 20/02/6.3.

20/02/11 **Councillors' Observations and Items for Next Agenda**

Section 7 – Potholes on the Dauntsey Road; Slow signs in West Street.

20/02/12 **Dates for Future Meetings**

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 4 Mar, 1 Apr, 6 May Annual Parish Meeting and 13 May Annual Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Approved

S. Mansfield

Chair

Date

4/3/20