
GREAT SOMERFORD (INCORPORATING STARTLEY) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting Held Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 7.30 p.m. Using Zoom Video Conferencing software

Present Cllr S Mansfield (Chair) Cllr H Cole Cllr M Hourigan
Cllr S Binstead Cllr A Gravell Cllr F Hyde
Cllr C Blount Cllr M Griffiths

In attendance T M Chapman (Clerk) 1 member of public

Public Questions

There had been a report about a navy blue Range Rover being driven in a "dangerous" manner by a young man. The Parish Council has no powers of enforcement in this regard so the only "remedy" is for anyone who observes dangerous driving to note the number plate and report it to the Police.

Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives

In the absence of Wiltshire Cllr Sturgis there was no report.

20/12/ 1. **Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest**

Apologies were taken for Cllr Butcher.

Cllr Gravell declared an interest in planning application **20/10497/TPO** and took no part in the determination.

20/12/ 2. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

- i The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 November 2020 were **approved** and **signed** by the Chair as a true record. Proposed: Cllr Hourigan; seconded Cllr Cole.

ii **Action Register of Matters Arising**

This was noted without detailed comment but brief updates were provided re:

- Community Room Shed: Messrs Roberts & Griffiths will fix this when the weather improves;
- ROSPA recommendations: these had been put on hold given the incapacity of Cllr Butcher but it was felt that safety recommendations should be carried out a.s.a.p. It was agreed to lay bark this year which Cllr Blount would procure;
Action: Cllr Blount
- Grass Matting: the Clerk offered to check with ROSPA if this surface would be acceptable in future years but this year, given the incapacity of Cllr Butcher, it was felt quicker to replace the bark;
- Metro Counts: these are being diarised in the near future.

20/12/ 3. **Covid 19 Group & Coronavirus**

It was noted that the country has just come out of a second lockdown and that Wiltshire has been placed in Tier 2 for restrictions. Details of what this means can be found on the Government's website.

20/12/ 4. **Planning Matters & Area Board**
<http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/ApplicationSearch.aspx>

i **Planning Applications for consideration**

20/09711/FUL The Manor House - Replacement garage and garden implement store. Concern was expressed that the existing access for vehicles does not work given the siting of the "new" garage. **Not Supported** as the way the garage is shown on the plans it cannot be accessed by the vehicles of the Manor House if they are using the main and only entrance to the Manor House and proposed annex.

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

19/07459/OUT Land at Dauntsey Road - Outline application for the erection of 9no. dwellings; all matters except access reserved for future consideration. **Approved with conditions.**

20/07644/FUL Land at West Street Farm - Change of Use of Land & 2 No. Agricultural Buildings for the Purposes of Self-Storage. **Refused.**

20/07694/FUL Clove House, Startley - Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and erecting a single storey rear extension to the dwelling. Proposed detached outbuilding/annexe. **Approved with conditions.**

20/08194/TCA Somerleaze House - 30% Crown Reduction to Oak (T1) and Willow (T2), Fell Birch (T3) and Dead Acer (T4). **No Objection.**

iii **Planning Applications Received since the issue of the original agenda**

20/08054/FUL The Old Stables, Startley - Rear two storey extension to private dwelling house (Amended description). **Supported.**

20/10497/TPO Quack Quacks Paddock – Fell one sycamore. **Supported.**

iv **Planning Applications Determined by Wiltshire Council since the issue of the original agenda** – None.

v **Broadfield Farm Development**

The Parish Council **noted** that Backhouse Housing (the developer) intends to fell trees subject to ash die back in the hedgerow on the boundary with the Free Gardens. The Parish Council has requested sight of the arboriculturist's report so it is better placed to deal with any questions from residents whose properties look over the Free Gardens towards the site. One resident on the Dauntsey Road has been advised to raise any concerns with Wiltshire Council.

20/12/ 5. **Finance**

i **Precept Request 2021/22**

The Parish Council was informed that its Council Tax base for 2021/22 has increased slightly from 382.76 to 394.78. After consideration of the "Business As Usual" budget and taking into account the points made in the Clerk's written report it was **determined** to set the Precept for 2021/22 at a level which means no change for a band D householder, i.e. £11,350, because Councillors are mindful of the economic shocks being caused by Covid 19 to many Council Tax payers. This effective freezing of the Precept is for one year only. Proposed: Cllr Mansfield; seconded: Cllr Hourigan.

STU

The Chair and Clerk were **authorised** to sign the Precept Request which the Clerk was instructed to email to Wiltshire Council.

Action: Cllr Mansfield/Clerk

20/12/ 6 **Play Park Capital Projects**

i **Play Park Project 2 – Climbing Frame & Picnic bench**

Tenders had been received from six companies: Creative Play, Mant Leisure, Playdale, Sovereign Play, Sutcliffe SW and Wicksteed. Copies of the tenders are available on Drop Box for all Councillors and hard copies are being circulated.

STW
The Clerk had sought confirmation of the level of Public Liability, Employer Liability & Product Liability Indemnity insurance and had asked all companies to quote for installation on both bonded mulch on a type 1 stone base (as indicated in the tender document) and grass matting with an indication if either were preferable (and why). Some had stated bonded mulch was more durable and easier to maintain as grass cutting or strimming was not required but this would add to the cost.

Additionally, and for the avoidance of doubt, companies were all asked to quote for a climbing frame suitable for age 8-14 year olds as indicated in the Tender Introduction and not one for the under 8s so that the Parish Council would be able to compare like with like. It became clear in the tenderers' responses that the supply of a Pick Up Sticks Climbing Frame suitable for age 8-14 year olds would require a more robust, larger and higher piece of equipment (the heavier child) with possibly a larger footprint and that this will add to the price. i.e. that the Parish Council's original tender estimate was probably too low.

Councillors Blount, Griffiths and Mansfield have assessed the tenders for compliance to the tender specification and reported that, apart from the queries noted above, all companies were compliant.

Cllr Binstead will be advising on the financial standing of the tenderers by the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Binstead

Apart from the email requests for further information already sent by the Clerk there were no further substantive questions or issues that needed to be clarified.

All Councillors were asked to familiarise themselves with the tenders submitted and complete the score card circulated for each company before the 13 January meeting so the contract award decision can be taken at that meeting.

Action: All

Willis Bros have invoiced for the picnic benches. Messrs Roberts & Griffiths will install these and Cllr Cole will devise a secure bolt fixing.

Action: Cllr Griffiths/Cole

It was reported that three more fence posts have rotted out. Cllr Mansfield will organise replacements from Willis Bros.

Action: Cllr Mansfield

ii **Adult Outdoor Exercise Equipment**

Indicative quotes had been received from Broxap, HAGS, Sovereign and Wicksteed against the Council's suggested budget of £15,000 ex VAT. Each company proposed a different mix and number of items.

Cllr Griffiths had drawn up a sample questionnaire to gauge public interest (included in

the report) following 18 "likes" on the Facebook page of which 5 from Great Somerford. It was **agreed** to issue this early December via the PIE with paper copies being lodged in a box in the Shop. Responses must be received by 18 December.

Action: Cllr Blount/Mansfield

The Parish Council **decided** that it could only support this project / make budgetary provision subject to

a) the response to the consultation questionnaire to gauge interest within the Parish;

b) two Play Area grant funders being willing to repurpose their grants.

Proposed: Cllr Hourigan; seconded: Cllr Binstead.

20/12/ 7. **Councillors' Observations and Items for Next Agenda**

To consider potential capital spend for inclusion on the 2021/22 budget – Footpath Improvements.

To formalise the appointment of Cllr Gravell to lead on Footpath improvements, taking over from Cllr Binstead.

To respond to an anticipated request from the Free Gardens Trustees that it appoint the first trustees for the planned CIO (5 Parish Councillors).

20/12/ 8. **Dates for Future Meetings in 2021**

The next scheduled meetings of the Parish Council are 13 January, 3 February, 3 March, 7 April, 5 May (APM) and 12 May (APCM). All @ 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

Approved



Chair

Date

13/1/21