

Appendix to the Annual Parish Meeting May 2021

Reports presented at the meeting

Suggested use of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Funds

The Neighbourhood Plan Status Report

The Chairman of the Parish Council's Report

The Parish Clerk's Finance Report

Planning Report

School Report

Free Gardens Trustees' Report

Great Somerford Community Fund Trustees' Report

Wiltshire Councillor Sturgis's Report

Agenda item 21/05/APM/0.3

Use of CIL money

The Parish Council is expecting up to £65,000 CIL monies expected over the next two years from the developments at Broadfield Farm and Brook Farm. This money must be used "to support the development of the local area by funding (a) The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or (b) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area." [Extract from Wiltshire Council Guidance Notes].

The Parish Council has already budgeted to use up to £5,000 on Footpath Improvements.

The following suggestions were made by Parish Councillors as to the best use of these monies:

Purchase or lease a field for a recreation ground (if anybody willing to sell or lease).

Provide a **MUGA** (multi use games area) outdoors. Such facilities are based on the design of a Tennis or Basketball court. There is one at the junior school in Brinkworth and one in the recreation ground at Christian Malford.

Pedestrian footpath on **West Street** running between the bad bend opposite the Manor to the footpath on the bell mouth entrance to Manor Park.

Water pump in Free Gardens to serve the allotments

Members of the public are encouraged to debate these proposals and also to put forward other suggestions from the floor for the Parish Council to consider.

**GREAT SOMERFORD (INCORPORATING STARTLEY)
PARISH COUNCIL**

www.greatsomerfordparishcouncil.co.uk

Great Somerford Neighbourhood Plan - Status Report May 2021

The Great Somerford Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was “Made” in November 2017 and at that time was considered to be sacrosanct until 2026. As most of the Parishioners will know it is now under threat from Gleeson a land speculation company which has applied for planning permission on land adjacent to the existing development at Broadfield Farm for another 21 houses on Grade 1 Agricultural Land. This is outside the NP area and the Settlement Boundary and a Planning Application by Gleeson on this area of Grade 1 Agricultural land was refused in 2017.

What many Parishioners do not know is that the NP is also under threat from the National Government. It has decided that any NP older than two years should be reviewed if material changes have or are about to change and even if no changes have occurred or are planned, a review must take place. However, the instructions and rules required to complete the review have to date, not been determined.

The other major threat to the NP is that among many other conditions Wiltshire Council has not attained a five-year land supply as dictated by National Government and WC have used this and other reasons as an excuse to grant planning permission outside the NP areas. Strong lobbying from many towns and villages in Wiltshire (WALP) has forced WC to re-consider this policy and it is thought that our NP is now fairly safe. Time will tell.

Building Progress on the NP Sites is as detailed below:

NP1 Broadfield Farm

Houses under construction: 20 (2 Shared Ownership, 6 Rental and 12 Open Market)
Houses complete: None – Site closed at present, no sales office.
Houses Sold: 1 Five bed, Plot 20.
Houses Reserved: 3 Four Bed Plots 2,4 and 17.

NP2 Dauntsey Road

Outline Planning applied for 9 Houses. (4 Social and 5 Open Market).

NP3 Frog Lane

Houses completed and sold: 2 Open Market

NP4 Somerbrook (Including 30 houses on previous Planning Application).

Houses Under Construction: 38 (6 Shared Ownership, 4 Rental and 28 open Market)
House Completed: 11
Houses Sold: 1 shared ownership, 3 Rental, sold to Westlea Hsg. Assoc.
8 Open Market.
Houses Sold and Occupied: 3 Rental and 3 Open Market.

The developer Stonewood Ltd is on schedule to complete the site by September this year and all houses sold by the end of October this year.

Melvyn Hourigan

Out-going Councillor for Great Somerford incorporating Startley Parish Council

Whistley House

Startley

Chippenham

SN15 5HE

01249 721239

melvynmjh@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman's Report May 2021

The Parish Council has met monthly, except August and December, during the past two years. Meetings continue to be held on the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of the January meeting which remains as the second Wednesday. There continue to be no meetings in August and December and the start time remains as 7.30 pm unless otherwise notified. All members of the public and press are welcome. Of course, since April last year we have not been able to meet in person but have met 'virtually' and, apart from a few initial teething problems, this has been a success

Agenda, minutes and relevant Parish notices are now posted on the Great Somerford Parish Council web-site but continue to be routinely displayed on the notice boards in the bus shelter in Great Somerford and in Startley. Draft minutes are posted normally within a week of the meeting and replaced with approved minutes when they become available. Brief notes of the PC meetings are also routinely placed in Signpost.

As this is an election year, I want to express my sincere thanks to all the Council members for their work during the past four years – particularly to those members who are standing down and I'm sure Councillors Binstead, Blount and Hyde will not mind if I make special mention of Councillors Cole and Hourigan – Mel having served since 2012 and Hector since the 1980's. As a relative newcomer to the Parish Council I was initially (and still am) in awe of their depth of knowledge and enormous experience and I am extremely grateful to them both for all the help and guidance they have given me since I joined in 2017. They will be a hard act to follow – the incoming Councillors will have a lot to learn and I hope we will still be able to call on them for informal advice.

Thanks from the Parish Council are extended to all the volunteers who have given their time for activities in the Parish including the War Memorial and Grave Yard maintenance, Free Gardens and allotments maintenance and improvement, display of notices in the village shop and pub, Neighbourhood Watch, contributions to Signpost and the care of our Phone Box library. Our thanks also go to Mrs. Butcher for her continued care and maintenance of the Community Room. Thanks also to our community police officer for the past year's efforts.

My apologies and thanks to any activities/volunteers I may have missed.

Village Amenities

We are extremely fortunate to still have a shop and a pub in the centre of the village. Since the beginning of Lockdown, Rohit and his team have been providing a much-needed central shopping resource for those unable or unwilling to venture out too far and have displayed Council notices and made leaflets available to all their customers – they also continue to collect donations for the maintenance of the Telephone Box Defibrillator; for which we are all extremely grateful

Adrian and Rhianna in the Volunteer have provided a much appreciated takeaway service and have made additional facilities available in the pub garden for their customers. I sincerely hope, as the Covid restrictions are gradually lifted, that their trade will improve greatly.

Activities and Events

I would like briefly highlight some of the PC's activities during the past two years, in no particular order

Winkins Lane Playground

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting there have been several upgrades to the Playground including a Zip-Wire, a rotating Cup and (last week) a 'Pick-up-Sticks' type climbing Frame. We have replaced the picnic benches and will shortly be installing a wooden gazebo with benches. These items are not inexpensive – the Zip-Wire, Climbing Frame, Gazebo and benches amount to nearly £27,000 and we have only been able to afford them by receipt of various grants – we are extremely grateful to The Jack Lane Trust, Malmesbury Carnival, The National Lottery, Hills and the Great Somerford Community Fund.

War Memorial

The War Memorial was professionally cleaned in 2019 with any loose or missing letters re-affixed or replaced – its present state is a credit to the village and a fitting memorial to those who gave their lives for their country. To keep it in good condition we periodically spray it with an anti-algae solution.

Defibrillator

Previously to February 2020, the Parish Council had a Defibrillator from S W Ambulances on a 3-year lease. In March 2020 we purchased our own defibrillator and case at a cost of just under £1,500, for which we received a generous grant from the Malmesbury League of Friends. The new defibrillator was wired in to the former public phone box by a local electrician, Chris Burke, free of charge.

We continue to receive public donations both directly and in the collection box in the Fourways Stores. These sums are put towards the cost of any replacement parts that may be required, and also towards the cost of an annual First Aid and Defibrillator Course for the village.

It is checked by Councillor Griffiths once a week, and a monthly report is submitted to the S W Ambulance service. As a COVID19 precaution, disposable masks and gloves are kept with the defibrillator. Fortunately, no one has yet needed to use it.

We would normally hold the annual First Aid and Defibrillator Course in May but, because of the COVID19 pandemic, we were not able to hold it during 2020, and it is not clear yet when we will be able to schedule the course during 2021. We will of course arrange a course to be held for the village in the Community Room when it becomes safe to do so.

Upkeep of the Startley Cemetery

The cemetery in Startley continues to be well maintained. We (or should I say Mel and I) re-painted the gates in 2020 – I am pleased to say they are still looking good.

Best Kept Village Competition

We have entered the best-kept village competition again this year – Cllr Cole has prepared the entry and sent it off to the event organisers – we are awaiting their decision.

Parish Information E-Mail (PIEs)

The Parish Information E-Mail system was initiated in 2019 and it is used to convey any generally useful information to all those who have subscribed to the service. There are now 173 subscribers so there are still a great many of you that are not signed up to it - it is easy to do – just click on the “Sign up to the Parish Information E-Mail” link on the Parish Council web-site. No personal details you enter are shared with any third party or any other subscriber.

The Parish Information Email Co-ordinator (me) is responsible for what is published, subject to the agreement of the Parish Council.

Parish Council Website

This is now the primary means of communicating Parish Council related information – it is no longer necessary to post hard copies of meeting minutes or agenda on village notice boards but it is mandatory to publish them on a web-site; however, we will continue to display minutes and agenda on those notice boards.

Speed Awareness Camera

The Malmesbury Area Board decided to carry out a trial of the AutoSpeedWatch roadside camera, siting one of them in each of six villages including Startley commencing July 2020.

These cameras are linked to the AutoSpeedWatch web site and enable Community Speed Watch team members to download Photographs and speed of Vehicles travelling over the speed limit set in the camera. The web page provides the facility to enter the Registration Number which checks the DVLA web site and produces a description of the vehicle. The description is compared with the photograph and if it matches, the identification is confirmed. Non- compliance of Road Tax, MOT and SORN are also noted.

The results are then e-mailed to Malmesbury Area Board for onward transmission to the Wiltshire Police. Unfortunately, the Police refuse to accept the data mainly because they consider the amount of data too large for their staff to handle.

Luckily for Startley the Police Officer in Devizes Police HQ is, on her suggestion, accepting the AutoSpeedWatch web site's "Heat Map" which clearly shows times in the day when speeding is most prevalent. This enables her to direct her Patrol team to target the speeding traffic more efficiently. To date this police patrol has not been spotted in Startley.

Safety in West Street by the Manor House

We are grateful to Wiltshire Councillor Sturgis who has started the work to provide a safe area for pedestrians by piping and filling the ditch. He is hoping to complete the work in the near future

Signposts

Our DIY signpost in Startley is still pristine and, owing to the materials used and the workmanship involved, I'm sure it will remain so for a very long time. The finger post by the War Memorial looks to need another re-paint – another DIY job for later this year.

Post Box in Startley

The Post Box by the Tee Junction at the end of West Street went missing in August 2020 (believed stolen) Thus far, despite numerous letters from the Parish Council and two letters from our MP, Royal Mail have only said they normally hope to replace within 12-16 weeks (in our case from 26th February) but cannot not confirm a date as they do not install on wooden poles any more and therefore need a ground works survey from SSE (in case of cables etc.) over which they have no control. We will not give up and are continuing to remind them of their duty – hopefully we will exhaust their excuse generator soon.

Reporting of Concerns

Although I have mentioned this before it is worth repeating - I strongly urge Parishioners to use the Wiltshire App reporting system – it means their concern is registered immediately and you receive a reply with a reference number that you can use to check up on progress. The App is available on the web and also available for mobile phones. I use it for reporting all issues in the Parish and find it most effective.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mansfield', written over a horizontal line.

S. Mansfield

Clerk's Finance Report for GSPC AGM 2021

	2020/21	2021/22
	Actual	Budget
	£	£
Receipts		
Precept	11,000	11,350
Grants (Play Area)	0	7,350
Community room hire	0	0
Burials	80	0
CIL receipts *	5,279	43,175
VAT Refund	1,235	3,455
Defibrillator Donations	230	215
Area Board Grant for Footpaths	0	500
Bank Interest Received	0	12
Total receipts for year	17,824	66,057
Payments		
Wages	2,155	2,200
Clerk's Home Working Allowance	180	180
Admin, PPS, Website & Elections	92	500
Council training & subs	500	1,365
Audit	200	0
Caretaker & Community Room	618	1,235
s137 Grants/donations #	1,125	1,600
Insurance	547	600
Legal	0	1,500
Grass cutting & maintenance	1,234	1,400
Startley Cemetery	640	1,250
Play Area Maintenance	927	705
Play Area New Equip ~	965	18,232
CIL Infrastructure Spend **	0	6,250
Street Furniture - speed camera	148	53
War Memorial	17	32
Defibrillator / 1st Aid training	0	250
VAT incurred in year	309	5,120
Total pay'ts for year	9,657	42,472
Surplus/(Deficit) in year	8,167	23,585
Reserves brought forward	14,627	22,794
Reserves carried forward	22,794	46,379

* CIL Receipts

Tranche 1 from Somerbrook received in 20/21. Tranches 2 & 3 Somerbrook + tranches 1 & 2 Boradfield 21/22.

** CIL Expenditure

2021/22 = two replacement litter bins, replacement stiles, kissing gates & bridle gates for sundry footpaths.

Grants & Donations Paid Out

In 2020/21 s137 allows Councils discretionary spend of up to £8.32 per elector for the benefit of parishioners on activities not specifically authorised by other powers. £8.41 in 2021/22.

2020/21 spend = Church, Signpost & School Association. 2021/22 = Ditto + Free Gardens.

~ Play Area New Equipment

2020/21 = 3rd party contrib to Hills + picnic benches x 2. 2021/22 = climbing frame, gazebo & 2 benches.

	2020/21	2021/22
	Actual	Predicted
Current account balance	22,073	45,646
Deposit Account Balance	721	733
	22,794	46,379

GREAT SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING.

THERE HAVE BEEN 35 PLANNING APPLICATIONS OVER THIS PAST YEAR AS FOLLOWS-

14 TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA

1 TREE WITH A PRESERVATION ORDER

17 FULL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1 OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION

2 MODIFICATION OF PLANNING APPLICATION

WE ARE AWAITING THE RESULTS FROM THE COUNTY PLANNERS ON 6 APPLICATIONS.

OF ALL THE APPLICATIONS ONLY TWO WERE REFUSED BY THE COUNTY PLANNERS.

I HAVE ENJOYED BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING IN THE VILLAGE, ALONG WITH MEL HOURIGAN WHO HAS DEALT WITH STARTLEY PLANNING APPLICATIONS. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE GOING ROUND WITH THE PLANS AND MEETING PEOPLE TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON RELEVANT APPLICATION. THOUGH THIS PAST YEAR IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE DUE TO THE COVID RESTRICTIONS.

MOST OF THE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN QUITE STRAIGHT FORWARD BUT, OVER THE YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN THE ODD ONE THAT CAUSES CONCERN.

THE PRESENT APPLICATION AT BROADFIELD FARM IS PROVING TO BE CONTROVERSIAL AND I URGE EVERYONE TO SEND IN THEIR VIEWS ON THIS APPLICATION.

Hector Cole.

Parish Council Planning.

Report from the Academy Council of Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerford CE Primary Schools (March 2021)

Background

The last 12 months have been, to say the least, extraordinary times for schools across the country. Our schools in Christian Malford, Somerford and Seagry have faced enormous challenges as the COVID pandemic took hold and demanded fundamental changes in the way that the schools educated their children. Teachers, staff, parents and, most importantly, children have had to cope with a new environment with little time to plan or prepare for the many imposed changes.

Inevitably there had to be a balance between safety and the ongoing need for children to have their long term health and education met and the schools have managed this incredibly well in the circumstances. Along the way, lessons have been learned and the schools have adapted their approaches accordingly.

The remaining term of this academic year will be a time when we work to understand and assess where the children are in their learning and development so that we can respond quickly to their needs. It is wonderful to have schools full of children again and we pray that we will be able to continue now without further lockdowns and interruptions.

Governance Changes

During the year, there have been a number of changes in the governance of the schools to report. Boards of Governors have become Academy Councils. This is a name change which and we are still trying to get used to being Council Members rather than Governors.

At the end of 2020 we said goodbye to two senior people in the schools. Our headteacher Andrea moved on to pastures new and our long serving Chair of Governors, Claire stepped down after giving a considerable amount of her time and energy to the three schools. We are grateful to both of them for what they gave us. I was delighted to be asked to join the Council as Chair. I have spent more than 30 years as a Governor of Primary and Secondary Schools, most recently as Chair at Lydiard Millicent and Ridgeway Farm Schools in NW Swindon. I am also a Licensed Lay Minister in Swindon. There have been a few other changes in Council Members. Our Council now consists of:

David Cain (Chair); Kathryn Nicholas (Vice Chair); Jane Thomas (Acting Head); Julia Harle; Anne Owens; Benn Griffin; Emma Turtle; Christina Brugger; Andrew Barry; and Lisa Shibley.

We have some vacancies, including one for a Foundation Member, should anyone be interested.

Our focus continues to be the three core strategic functions of the Academy Council for Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerfords' Walter Powell Primary Schools:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction
- holding the Senior Leadership Team to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

We will continue to ensure that, as a Church School, our Christian Distinctiveness is reflected in every aspect of our work and values. I am looking forward to the return of school assemblies that are face to face, and to leading a few of them myself.

The Vision Statement

We are currently in the process of developing our new vision for the three schools which we are determined to see grow and improve in the coming years. This coincides with three new recruitments which are currently under way. We wish to employ a new Head of Schools and two Assistant Heads of Schools. We want to ensure that there is a strong leadership team as we develop and grow, which is able to bring the best performance from the schools and, critically, help us ensure that every single child

achieves their full potential. One of the Assistant Heads of Schools will have a particular role in Curriculum management and development, while the other will have responsibility for the development and maintenance of our Christian Distinctiveness.

Each school has, and will retain, its unique identity and atmosphere but we will strive to ensure that the quality and standards of education and school life are equally good at all the schools. We have the enormous benefit of being able to learn from each other and to take what is best and share it across the schools.

Christmas and Easter

Our schools were able to participate fully in the celebration of Christmas and produced some truly wonderful Nativity presentations and performances. This was a time of double joy because of this. The children were also able to hear the good news of Easter in school. Thank you to all those in the schools and in local churches for their part in this achievement.

Values

At each School, we believe it is important to promote core Christian values by which to live with others and which help to develop a moral and spiritual awareness. There are many Christian values, but the ones we have specifically chosen for our school are:

Kindness

Diligence

Tolerance

Honesty

Respect

Contact

If you would like to contact us you can do so by e mail (admin addresses are on the school web sites) or you can contact me by e mail on davidcain.cmalford@dbat.org.uk

Agenda item 21/05/APM/7.2

The Free Gardens Trustees' Report to the 2021 APM



The Free Gardens allotments are believed to be the oldest in England and have a historic as well as a practical significance for Gt Somerford. The Free Gardens charity is registered with the Charities Commission as an unincorporated charity, with the individual Parish Councillors named as Trustees. The 1806 Constitution provided free allotments for poor non property owning cottagers in the parish. Today the allotments are let, free of charge, to people living in the village and elsewhere. 25% of the Free Gardens' 6 acres is occupied by the Jubilee Gardens, established with trees and benches as a public park for the villagers in 2002.

As a result of a recent review of the Constitution, the Trustees became aware that, over the years, the charity had moved away from some of its original stated objects and conditions so this needed to be updated to reflect the reality. Charities Commission has advised that the work Parish Councillors do for the Parish Council and for the Free Gardens should be kept strictly separate. A Working Group set up in 2020 recommended that the Trustees of the Free Gardens charity should set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), the structure preferred by the Charity Commission. This enables the Trustees to draft charitable Objects suitable for the 21st Century which reflect the actual usage of the land. The primary function will remain the provision of allotments.



The Working Group also recommended that, instead of the nine Parish Councillors being automatically Trustees of the charity, the Trustee base should be broadened to have a majority of Parish Councillors plus representatives of the Allotments Group (resident in the parish) and residents of Great Somerford.

The CIO application form has been completed.

It appears that Great Somerford Parish Council holds legal title to the Free Gardens Land and the Free Gardens Trust hold beneficial title.

The Free Gardens Trustees have deferred any decision on the establishment of the CIO until later in May 2021, when the new Parish Council is in post as five of the nine incumbent Free Gardens Trustees are standing down on Parish Council election day. The newly appointed Parish Councillors will take up the role of Free Gardens Trustees, until a decision has been taken on whether or not to progress the CIO application or to seek to amend the constitution of the existing registered charity

The Parish Council has provided space on its web-site so that the Minutes of the Free Gardens meetings and CIO discussions are publicly available. Should anyone have any questions, please contact the Chair of the Free Gardens Trustees, Steve Mansfield.

Great Somerford Community Fund Report to the APM 2021

Why do we have a Community Fund?

In 2019 the Parish Council applied for grants towards proposed new equipment for the Children's Play Area in Winkins Lane, and one of the Funders' requirements is evidence of support from the community.

Several potential donors who were willing to make a significant contribution said they would only do so if it could be Gift Aided. The fund was therefore established (in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines) in November 2019 primarily as a tax efficient vehicle for donations.

The objects of the Fund

The principle object is to promote for the benefit of residents of the Parish the provision of facilities for recreation, and to raise funds in order to help finance such facilities. It is registered with HMRC and the Trustees are

Christopher Blount
Meriel Griffiths
Jonathan Henderson
Deborah Loader

Activity to date

The sum of £1,350 was raised specifically to contribute to an exciting new climbing frame, which has just been installed.

On her own initiative, Deborah Loader recently raised £390 for the Fund through the Community Shelf at Fourway Stores and continues to raise money for other causes in the village.

The Future

The trustees have put on hold being proactive with further activity until life returns to a degree of normality following the Covid 19 pandemic. However, with some 70 new houses currently under construction (or with planning consent) they would like to see what leisure requirements might be needed in the village over the next few years.

Any ideas?

If any resident has an idea that would benefit the local community please get in touch with one of the Trustees.

30/04/21

Agenda item 21/05/APM/8.1

Final Report from Wiltshire Councillor Toby Sturgis.

As I have been regularly attending and updating virtual parish council meetings during the Covid 19 pandemic, which has dominated my last year as your councillor, I thought a summary of the changes during my 25 years might be of interest.

Having been on Great Somerford Parish Council for many years, I was elected to North Wilts District Council in 1995 and then Wiltshire County Council in 1997. My memories of these early days when both councils were run by the Liberal Democrats, supported by Labour members, were the postman delivering reams of paper for agendas and long evening meetings at the District Council often not finishing until 11pm.

Then came better IT systems and improved financial reporting, which revealed the District Council was being fined by the Government over £300,000 for late payments of benefits, and a report on poor financial management at the District Council by the Audit Commission. Once the Conservatives had a majority of councillors at the District Council, a new budget was approved and an action plan implemented with monthly budget monitoring. This mirrored similar actions taken, when the Conservatives took over running Wiltshire County Council four years earlier.

In 2009 when the Conservatives controlled Wiltshire County Council and the four District Councils, Wiltshire Council was formed as a unitary council by merging all the councils into one. This enabled huge savings to be made, with one team of corporate directors and the closing of over 50 office buildings.

To overcome concerns that the council would be remote from the local people, Area Boards were set up and Wiltshire Council encouraged Neighbourhood Plans. The success of these initiatives has been recognised by many other councils across the country, who have visited Wiltshire Council for advice before creating their own unitary councils.

Now with modern IT, Wiltshire Council no longer has any paper agendas and I no longer get post from the Council.

This last year has been dominated by Zoom and Teams meetings, while everyone has been working from home. Wiltshire Council was well prepared for this having introduced new ways of working including hot desking and working from home when moving to the unitary council.

It has been a privilege to have been elected for 25 years to serve the parishes in the Brinkworth Division. Attending all Parish Council meetings has been an important part of my role to update Parish Councils and answer their questions. I am most grateful there is now an early slot early on their agendas, which has allowed me to attend more than one meeting on some evenings when their dates clash.

May 2021.