
GREAT SOMERFORD (INCORPORATING STARTLEY) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 1 Feb 2023 Community Room@ 7.30 pm

Present Cllr T Barker Cllr A Lennox Cllr T Sturgis
Cllr M Griffiths (Chair) Cllr H Lennox (Vice Chair)
Cllr J Harper Cllr F Miles

In attendance Cllr E Threlfall, Wiltshire
Mr D Todd, prospective parish
councillor

PQT **Public Questions**
None

WCR **Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives**
Wiltshire Cllr Threlfall provided an update as follows:

Potholes - Grade one pot-holes have been completed in the parish. The public are requested to report any outstanding potholes, or gullies that require cleaning to enable surface water to be drained, by using the MyWilts app (<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>) and online reporting.

Blue badge parking is now chargeable but the Local Authority is offering an extra hour for Blue Badge holders at no additional cost.

Wiltshire Council is facing increased pressures on the budget and a rise in Council Tax is expected.

It was asked if Wiltshire Council has published the five-year land supply. Wiltshire currently stands at 4.72 years of housing supply and nothing has been published since then. Cllr Threlfall will update the parish council when more information becomes available.

1. Intro

Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest

a) Apologies for absence: Cllr Vout

b) Declarations of Interest: None

c) Dave Todd has expressed interest in becoming a parish councillor and it was discussed that all had received his information and since there had been no request for an election in the required time-period, he was welcomed to the council.

Proposed: Cllr Griffith
Seconded: Cllr A Lennox
Action: Clerk

Induction to commence

d) It was noted that all councillors are on the parish electoral roll, as required

2. Minutes

Minutes and Matters Arising

a) The Minutes of the previous meeting held 11 January were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed.

Proposed: Councillor A. Lennox
Seconded: Councillor H. Lennox

b) Action items to be discussed in the meeting

3. CIL Projects

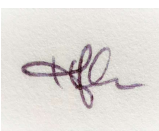
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Projects

Three dog waste bins have been installed at the Showground and bottom of Hollow St in Gt Somerford and by the bus shelter in Startley.

Councillor A. Lennox plans to ask the school if the children would like to create posters highlighting the need for dog owners to collect waste from their dogs. An example campaign has been received from a school in Cricklade.

Action: Councillor A. Lennox
Action: Cllr Miles

A small article will be put in The Signpost



A larger article about disposal of dog waste and general tidiness in the countryside is being put together for the April edition of The Signpost.

Action: Cllr Sturgis

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). There is a meeting on Thursday 2 Feb to decide where to put SID posts and Highways will check none are on their land and then it can go ahead. Two posts will be purchased that can be moved around to four or five different locations. Cllr Threlfall mentioned that Highways may want to recommend someone who can install, to check for drainage etc.

Action: Councillor A. Lennox

The Recreation Area Working Group has met to discuss how to proceed. Since just over half an acre would be needed for a patch to kick a ball around, the option of renting a small parcel of land in the middle section of the Glebe Field (rather than the whole Glebe Field), will be discussed with the Diocese of Bristol, which owns the land. It's estimated that there are up to eighty children locally who could make use of a recreation area. Cllr Sturgis suggested that the recent quote for maintenance of the whole Glebe Field and its ditches was excessive. An action was taken to draw up a specification of works for local contractors to quote against. Cllr Sturgis offered to join the Working Group.

Action: Cllr Vout, Cllr A Lennox and Cllr Sturgis

4. Planning

a) Current Parish Planning Applications

PL/2023/00246 The Close Top Street, 1. Silver fir. To fell it 03/02/2023

PL/2023/00453 The Old Maltings, Park Lane, T1 Remove Swamp Cypress T2 Remove Swamp Cypress

These two are still being assessed.

Action: Cllr H Lennox

PL/2023/00451 CARLYON, FROG LANE, T1 Silver Birch is to be reduced in height by 6 metres and laterals pruned by up to 1.8 metres to create a balanced canopy. T2 Cherry is to be reduced in height by 6 metres and laterals pruned by up to 1.8 metres to create a balanced canopy. T3 Silver Birch is to be reduced in height by 6 metres and laterals pruned by up to 1.8 metres to create a balanced canopy. T4 Field Maple is to be reduced in height by 3 metres and laterals pruned by up to 1.8 metres to create a balanced canopy.

No Objection

PL/2023/00486 The Old Rectory, The Street, G1 - 4 Ash trees. Signs of Ash dieback. Dead branches have damaged barn roof and the trees are becoming unsafe. Fell.

No Objection

Planning Applications Determined Since Last Meeting

None

Planning Applications Received Since Last Meeting

None

b) Housing Developments

Dauntsey Road development nearing completion and some solar panels have been installed

c) Neighbourhood plan

No updates

5. Finance

a) the Finance Report was ratified and approved and duly signed off. The Treasurer account was reconciled and bank balances noted, and duly signed off.

b) Updates to the Financial Regulations document have been made to more accurately reflect current practice and acknowledging the need to raise the level of allowed unbudgeted expenditure from £100 to £250.

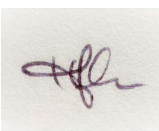
Proposed: Cllr Harper

Seconded: Cllr H Lennox

c) The budget has been circulated to all councillors and approved with no further suggested amendments. It was noted that there is a small margin to cover items not yet finalised.

Proposed: Cllr Griffiths

Seconded: Cllr H Lennox



d) The precept was agreed by councillors via email prior to submission to Wiltshire and was formally approved.

Proposed: Cllr A Lennox
Seconded: Cllr Miles

It was discussed that it would be sensible to move some funds into savings for higher interest rates. This will be on the March Agenda

Clarification to be sought on whether investment interest earned on CIL money faces the same restrictions on use as the original CIL capital.

Action: Clerk

6. Managed Facilities

a) Winkins Lane playground. Play bark has been purchased and the replacement slide will be installed once the weather and ground conditions are more suitable.

b) Community room. The Parish Council has decided not to take up the Diocese Board Academy Trust (DBAT) offer of a managed services agreement on grounds of cost. Instead, a caretaker is being hired to take-on maintenance and Health & Safety check-list items, alongside regular cleaning. Clarification is being sought regarding statutory health and safety for the facility.

Action: Councillor Griffiths

7. Environment

There were no items raised for the parish steward.

8. Standing Items

a) Cemetery. Councillor H Lennox advised that the notice board inside the cemetery has reached the end of its life and had found three potential replacements. The council preferred the description of the powder-coated aluminium sign and asked for further information and pictures to be provided, in order to approve a purchase at the next meeting.

Action Councillor H Lennox

b) Communications. The local directory in "The Signpost" has not updated the contact details for the Free Gardens allotments to Tracy Barker. This will be followed up.

Action: Cllr Miles

c) School Liaison. It was discussed that it might be an idea to invite the Head of the School to a parish council meeting

Action: Cllr Griffiths

No updates for Great Somerford and Startley Defibrillators, Book Exchange, Emergency Plan, War Memorial, Website.

Notice

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.24pm

Dates for Future Meetings @ 7.30 pm – 1 March in the Community Room.

ApprovedSigned and initialled by Helen Lennox, Vice Chair

Date1 Mar 23.....

