
GREAT SOMERFORD (INCORPORATING STARTLEY) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 10 January 2024 Community Room@ 7.30 pm

Present Cllr H Gravell Cllr T Sturgis
Cllr M Griffiths (Chair) Cllr D Todd
Cllr I Vout

In attend'ce H Wallace (Clerk) 7 members of the public
Wiltshire Cllr E Threlfall

PQT **Public Questions**

Problems with drainage and flooding were raised. Cllr Sturgis read out information regarding the worst affected areas. These statements are attached to the Minutes at **Appendix 1**. The PC is preparing a flood plan, which will go alongside the Emergency Plan to be published on the website, shortly. Cllr Sturgis and Wiltshire Cllr Threlfall continue to pursue links with Wiltshire Council for solutions to local flooding. Currently priority works for Wiltshire Council are where residents' homes have been flooded. Parishioners were thanked for efforts to clear drains and help fellow parishioners during the recent flooding. **Action:** Cllr Gravell to ask those responsible for flood warning signs to nominate people to erect and return them in the event of another flood, should they be away.

WCR **Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives**

Wiltshire Cllr Threlfall reported that the county's Vactor for gully cleaning, was starting a programme of work at the south of the county, but that she would try to ensure that the next time a Vactor was in the area she would direct it to Frog Lane. A member of the public said that they would provide the exact location of gully issues at Frog Lane to the Chair, to pass on to Cllr Threlfall.

Cllr Threlfall informed that the Wiltshire Land Supply had been amended from five years to four years, which would be helpful for Neighbourhood Planning, decreasing the pressure on the parish.

Apologies for Absence

Cllr T Baker
Cllr J Harper

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Griffiths declared an interest in quotes for fencing (3. CIL projects) and would therefore not participate in the discussion specific to fencing.

Intro

Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 1 November 2023 were **approved** and **signed** by the Chair as a true record. **Proposed:** Cllr Todd, **Seconded:** Cllr Sturgis



Actions:

The action register was reviewed and there were no urgent actions.

3. CIL

CIL Projects and proposals were discussed

Cllr Sturgis hasn't heard further from the Diocese of Bristol's land agent regarding the proposed recreation area within the Glebe Field, despite chasing.

Cllrs decided in November to purchase a new Safety Fence for Winkins Lane play area, to replace rotten posts near the wedding tree in Winkins Lane and to install a new bench table under the gazebo in the play area. For all three items, it is likely to be less than £3,000 and eligible for CIL funding. Cllr Vout updated that he is still awaiting the final quote for the fence. In the meantime, Cllrs **agreed** to purchase the bench table (approximately £350) from Rutland Country Garden Furniture – **Proposed:** Cllr Vout, **Seconded:** Cllr Sturgis.

Three kissing gates for public footpaths – these have been purchased and will be installed once the weather improves.

Cllrs decided in November to approve the request by SHASA for the purchase of a noticeboard at the front of the school to publicise school and community events up to the value of £2,500 and with evidence of three quotes. It was **agreed** that the school would purchase the noticeboard and send the receipt for payment. **Proposed:** Cllr Griffiths, **Seconded:** Cllr Todd.

It was reported that the lid of the dog-waste bin by the Glebe field had fallen off. Cllrs will get a quote for a new one for IDVerde to install, and purchase under CIL – to be agreed at the February PC Meeting. It was discussed that any purchase of a dog-waste bin in Somerbrook should fall within Somerbrook developers' responsibility rather than the PC until the Somerbrook road is adopted.

IT and Admin resources, including a laptop that would be compatible with Windows 11, were discussed and **agreed** at costs in the region of £550-£600 in total. **Proposed:** Cllr Griffiths, **Seconded:** Cllr Vout.

A new co-opted Cllr would be asked to investigate new Village road signs

Cllrs discussed that the village Salt Grit Boxes could be replaced next summer at around £200 each. This will be looked into and discussed at the February Meeting. **Action:** Cllr Gravell to get quotes.

The Village Phone Box is in need of a repaint. Cllrs agreed that quotes would be sought and that it would be painted but that it would not come out of CIL funding. To approve at the February meeting. **Action:** Cllr Todd to get quotes.

4. Planning Applications received since the last meeting:

PL/2024/00170

Tangles, Great Somerford. Proposal Willow tree (dead) - fell

PL/2023/10459

1 Broadfield Farm, Great Somerford. Proposal. Proposed single storey rear extension, detached new garage, demolish existing conservatory and conversion of existing garage.

ML

Applications determined since the last meeting:

PL/2023/09695

North of Brook Farm, Great Somerford

Works to 1no. Ash tree to facilitate the instalment of security measures on a pipe bridge located across the River Avon. The works will require the removal of 2no. limbs, just below pipework gantry where they fork from the main tree trunk.

Decision: No Objection

PL/2023/08613 – Orchard House, Frog Lane

Proposal: T1 Large Ash tree is to be reduced to a structural pollard of approximately 6 metres in height.

Decision: No Objection

PL/2023/09237 11 Winkins Lane, Great Somerford. Proposal: New dwelling

Decision: Refuse/Withdrawn by Applicant

PL/2023/09007 – Somerleaze House, Great Somerford. Proposal: Salix contorta at the front of the property which has been damaged badly from a trailer reversing into it

Decision: No Objection

PL/2023/10520

The Beeches, Great Somerford. Proposal: G1 - Section fell row of trees and shrubs adjacent to driveway to as close to ground level as possible. Species include, but are not limited to, Holly, Laurel, Plum and Pear.

Decision: No Objection

PL/2023/05847 Land near Hollow Street, Great Somerford. Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and condition 5 on PL/2022/07293

Decision: Approve with Conditions

b) Housing developments

No updates

c) Neighbourhood plan

Cllr Sturgis has spoken with a neighbourhood plan Consultant who is working with Brinkworth parish council. His fee will be covered by grants and he is at present doing about six neighbourhood plans. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis to put together a working group of ideally 3 parishioners and 3 Cllrs.

5. Finance **Finance**

a) **Monthly Finance Report**

The Finance report was received. The Parish Council ratified & approved transactions processed since the last meeting (£3,949.94 payments). The Treasurer and account was reconciled to 31 December. This was confirmed and signed by Cllr Barker, a non-signatory of the bank accounts. **Proposed:** Cllr Todd, **Seconded:** Cllr Gravell.

In November Cllr Harper presented the draft budget which broadly assumed 6% inflation and some specific changes to expenditures; this had been further amended and was approved by Cllrs with the caveat that the precept would be reduced by 2.5% per household. **Proposed:** Cllr Sturgis, **Seconded:** Cllr Todd.

Balances were as follows:

Current Account 67,607.59

Deposit Account 30,383.30

Fixed Term Deposit Account – balance transferred to Current Account
Combined total 97,990.89

6. Policies Emergency Plan
Cllr Gravell adapted an emergency plan that had been in existence and this is close to completion. **Action:** Cllrs to make final comments before it is published.

7. Managed Facilities Winkins Lane Playground
Cllr Vout reported that the swing manufacturer is assessing the swing for a replacement cross beam. Quotes for a like-for-like replacement of the toddler slide are coming in at around £7,000. This will be brought to Cllrs for CIL consideration.

8. Environment Community Room
No updates this time

a) Any actions for the Parish Steward or Council
None arose

To receive:

b) An update on Footpaths in the Parish
No updates other than that mentioned (CIL)

9. Standing Items To discuss any updates regarding:
Cemetery, Communications, School's Liaison, Website - no updates

Gt Somerford and Startley Defibrillators – pads and batteries will need replacing in a few months. Cllr Todd aware.

War memorial wreaths policy will be discussed at the February meeting. **Action:** Cllr Todd to investigate some stone planters at the nearby garden centre for the memorial.

Cllrs Barker and Gravell have discussed walking the Footpaths when weather is nicer, in order to make recommendations for improvement.

A new volunteer is needed for the book exchange. **Action:** Cllr Todd to look into finding a volunteer.

10. Closed Session for Co-option of a new Cllr
Cllrs discussed the candidates who had expressed an interest in being co-opted on to the Parish Council and **decided** by majority vote to co-opt Heywel Evans and Trevor Harrison. **Proposed:** Cllr Griffiths, **Seconded:** Cllr Vout / Cllr Sturgis respectively.

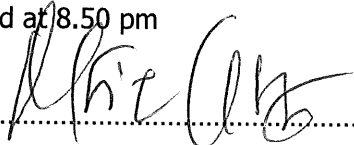
All parishioners are warmly encouraged to consider joining the Parish Council as and when vacancies arise.

Action: Chair / Clerk to contact candidates and to commence induction.

Notice **Dates for Future Meetings @ 7.30 pm – 7 February 2024** in the Community Room.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Approved



Chair

Date

7/2/24