
GREAT SOMERFORD (INCORPORATING STARTLEY) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 7 February 2024 Community Room@ 7.30 pm

Present	Cllr T Barker Cllr H Evans Cllr H Gravell Cllr M Griffiths (Chair)	Cllr J Harper Cllr T Sturgis Cllr D Todd
In attend'ce	H Wallace (Clerk) Wiltshire Cllr E Threlfall	3 members of the public

PQT Public Questions

Cllr Todd formally recognised the service provided by parishioner Mr Andy Grey, who has volunteered to maintain the memorial area for the past twenty-five years. On behalf of the PC a small gift and thanks were given.

A member of the public asked for a drainage pipe under his drive by Park Lane to be included in the Parish Steward's upcoming gully clearance. Noted by Cllr Sturgis.

WCR Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives

Cllr Threlfall has met with Cllr Sturgis as well as drainage and highways engineers at Frog Lane and also discussed West Street. There are actions planned to clear drains and the Parish Steward will clear gullies.

Cllr Threlfall stated that Wiltshire Council is in a much better financial position than neighbouring counties and now are investing more into social care, with the aim of keeping residents healthy and in their own homes as long as possible, also into enforcement and road maintenance.

Apologies for Absence

Cllr T Harrison
Cllr I Vout

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Griffiths declared an interest in quotes for fencing (3. CIL projects) and Cllr Harper declared an interest in a planning application so would both abstain from those discussions.

Intro Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10 January were **approved** and **signed** by the Chair as a true record. **Proposed:** Cllr Sturgis, **Seconded:** Cllr Todd

Actions:

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



3. CIL

CIL Projects and proposals were discussed

Cllr Sturgis has continued to chase Bristol Diocese Land Agent regarding the recreation area planned in a portion of the Glebe field. He has emphasised to them that there is a time limit for use of CIL monies. Cllrs discussed that a fence which has fallen down between the footpath parallel to Dauntsey Road and the Glebe Field will be removed.
Action: Cllr Sturgis.

Four quotes for a new Safety Fence at Winkins Lane play area, were received via email by Cllrs (except Cllr Griffiths) on 6 February. Based on this information and the recommendation from Cllr Vout, Cllrs approved the lowest quoting contractor, Somerford Woodcraft to do this work. This will be around £3,000 to come out of CIL funding.
Proposed: Cllr Gravell, **Seconded:** Cllr Barker (Cllr Griffiths abstained).

Kissing gates for public footpaths GSOM25 and GSOM26 will be installed in May.

Cllr Evans confirmed that quotes are currently being sought for the SHASA noticeboard for the front of the school to publicise school and community events.

Cllr Barker reported that the replacement dog waste bin by the Glebe field would cost around £220 for IDVerde to supply and install. This was approved by Cllrs. **Action:** Cllr Barker to place the order with IDVerde.

Cllr Harper volunteered to look into new Village road signs. **Action:** Cllr Harper Parish Steward to be informed of road sign that has fallen on the corner by Frog Lane.
Action: Cllr Vout

Cllr Gravell obtained quotes for new Grit Boxes and emailed them to Cllrs on 1 February.
Action: Cllrs to approve Cllrs Gravell's recommendation via email so that the order can be placed and new grit bins installed in the summer.

Cllr Sturgis is looking at quotes for a headwall and grill for the ditch on Hollow Street near The Coppins and will put something in writing for the March PC meeting.

A couple of other CIL projects were mentioned; a pre-school garden at around £3,000, a shelter in the church yard, and funds to tackle drainage in Winkins Lane if this cannot be resolved via Highways.

4. Planning Applications received since the last meeting

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

PL/2024/00754
WEST STREET FARM, WEST STREET, GREAT SOMERFORD
Proposal: 2 x Poplar trees – 30% reduction to 8m G3 – 2 x Beech trees – reduce to 5m G4 – 4 x Beech trees – cut back overhanging branches to give a 2m vertical clearance

PL/2024/00755
LADYS WALK HOUSE, WEST STREET, GREAT SOMERFORD
Proposal: T1 - Oak tree - crown reduction to give the tree a finished height of up to 12m

PL/2024/00526
MILLS FARM, GREAT SOMERFORD. Proposal: T1 - Willow to be reduced to a structural

pollard of approximately 6 metres above ground level in height.

PL/2024/00498

WILLOW COTTAGE, 27 HOLLOW STREET, GREAT SOMERFORD. Proposal: T1 Goat Willow The tree is to be pollarded down to approx. 2m above ground level.

Applications Determined since the last meeting

PL/2023/10520

THE BEECHES, GREAT SOMERFORD. Proposal: G1 - Holly, Laurel, Plum & Pear – Fell.

Decision: No Objection

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.

Decision: Approve with Conditions

b) Housing developments

Cllr Sturgis is investigating an outfall that hasn't been put in properly at Somerbrook. Cllr Todd informed that there are no issues at Broadfield Farm other than asking the developer to stop the water pump overnight, to which they have agreed.

c) Neighbourhood plan

The Neighbourhood plan consultant being used by Brinkworth Parish has been approached to help with Great Somerford's Neighbourhood Plan. The grant needed to secure the consultant must be signed by 14 Feb. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis. **Proposed:** Cllr Griffiths **Seconded:** Cllr Gravell. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis and Cllr Evans to set up working group for the Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Finance **Finance**

a) **Monthly Finance Report**

The Finance report was received. The Parish Council ratified & approved transactions processed since the last meeting (£2,272.57 payments). The Treasurer and account was reconciled to 31 January. This was confirmed and signed by Cllr Barker, a non-signatory of the bank accounts. **Proposed:** Cllr Harper, **Seconded:** Cllr Barker.

Balances stood at:

Treasurer Account: £68,602.66

Deposit Account: £30,414.68

Combined total: £99,017.34

Cllr Harper has considered the grounds and mowing contract. A comparison has been made with the quotes received last time and the quote offered by the current contractor. The PC has been happy with the service provided and confident in the value offered so it has been recommended to renew with Lee Butcher 2024-2027 at £110 per cut. **Proposed:** Cllr Griffiths, **Seconded:** Cllr Barker and approved by all.

6. Managed Facilities Winkins Lane Playground

The PC will look for updates regarding the toddler slide and swing cross beam at the next meeting as Cllr Vout had sent his apologies.

Community Room

No updates regarding the community room this time.



7.7: Environment To receive:

a) Any actions for the Parish Steward or Council
None other than those already mentioned

b) An update on Footpaths in the Parish

Footpaths will be walked soon and the gate post has been fixed leading to GSOM27 in West Street but it will be looked at to see if a self-closing mechanism can be fitted.

Action: Cllr Gravell

c) Updates regarding Speedwatch

Former Cllr A Lennox is still changing batteries in the speed signs, so this will need to be re-assigned.

8. Standing Items To discuss any updates regarding:

Cemetery, Communications, Gt Somerford and Startley Defibrillators; Book Exchange; School's Liaison; Website; Book Exchange.

Book exchange – parishioner Mrs Todd has volunteered to organise the book exchange Website – Cllrs asked Clerk to check that Logins are saved. (Clerk confirms these are on the Parish password sheet)

Defibrillators - replacement batteries and pads arriving this week. First aid course to be organised. Action: Clerk to send information regarding the last training session to Cllr Todd (completed)

School Liaison – Cllr Evans to take over this role

The Emergency Plan has been completed by Cllr Gravell and will be submitted to Wiltshire and for the website. **Action:** Cllr Griffiths.

The village phone box will be re-painted by Cllr Todd and a volunteer with just the costs of paint, paintbrushes, etc, to be reimbursed by the PC.

Memorial – Cllr Todd reported that he had met with parishioner Chris Blount regarding planters and is looking into ground level planters and possibly a stone path. **Action:** Cllr Todd to plan works and obtain quotes. Cllrs discussed the policy for removing wreaths, which will be formalised. **Action:** Chair and Clerk

Notice

Dates for Future Meetings @ 7.30 pm – 6 March 2024 in the Community Room. The Clerk informed that she would not be available for the meeting on 3 April and a Cllr will take the Minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.22 pm

Approved Mare Clr Chair

Date 6/3/2024