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# GREAT SOMERFORD (INCORPORATING STARTLEY) PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Community Room@ 7.30 pm

**Present** Cllr M Griffiths (Chair) Cllr T Harrison  
Cllr H Evans Cllr T Phillips  
Cllr H Gravell Cllr T Sturgis

**In attend'ce** Clerk: H Wallace 6 members of the public  
Wiltshire Cllr E Threlfall

PQT A member of the public stressed the case for assistance in getting rid of the leaves that fall from the Horse Chestnut tree in Manor Park. The residents of Manor Park had been asked to check their deeds to check ownership since this would be helpful in securing help from Burges Salmon, the solicitors representing Crown Land, if their responsibility is established. Whilst the Manor Park road has been adopted, and Wiltshire Council is responsible for that area, it doesn't include the triangle of land with the tree on it, or the footpath behind the tree. A Wiltshire Council tree officer inspected the chestnut tree in 2023, and reported that the tree was not dangerous.

**Action:** Cllr Sturgis will provide dump sacks for the leaves and remove them as a voluntary gesture in the short term, for which residents are grateful. In the medium term, residents need to look into their Deeds prior to 1993, for evidence to send to Burges Salmon and establish responsibility. If the ownership can be established there may be a long-term solution for leaves and associated issues with the footpath.

A member of public raised that there are areas needing maintaining such as the post and mail fence near the Glebe Field, which has nails sticking out of it. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis reported that the fencing will be removed. The repairing of the latch on the metal gate into the field will be fixed soon. It is planned for mid-September.

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

The Government is changing the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). They are asking Wiltshire to provide a large volume of housing stock which will mean that the current four-year housing supply protection will be gone. Builders had eased back on building developments, and so Wiltshire has now been deemed not to have a four-year housing supply so Wiltshire is battling to maintain landscapes. There is a consultation in progress and it's hoped that objections will be effective. Renewable energy schemes also look likely to be encouraged currently.

The West Street team for drainage issues arrived to investigate and camera the drains but at the same time as Wessex Water were digging. Engineers were not on site for the expected duration and didn't provide an update to Cllr Sturgis as hoped. **Action:** Cllr Threlfall will find out a report about the drainage works to forward to the PC.

**Actions:** Cllr Threlfall will chase up about cutting back the Ash Tree on Hollow Street which is a Wiltshire Council highways issue. Cllr Threlfall has been in touch with the PCSO about recent anti-social behaviour in Great Somerford. Cllr Threlfall will ask about CCTV footage discussed to assist in reporting to the PCSO.

There is a road closure announced for the Seagry access road which may help with the flooding issues there.

1. INTRO **Apologies for Absence**  
Cllr J Harper  
Cllr T Barker

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Gravell declared an interest and will not participate in planning discussions.

2. Minutes **Minutes and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 3 July were **approved** and **signed** by the Chair as a true record. **Proposed:** Cllr Phillips, **Seconded:** Cllr Harrison.

Action Register – The Chair removed grit bins from the actions and discussed that other items were on the Agenda.

3. CIL Projects

Regarding the kick-about area, proposed for the Glebe Field, Cllr Sturgis has written to the landowner's agent again twice, but has received no reply. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis to ask the Vicar to write to them.

Cllr Harrison has been working on getting additional speed indication devices. £2,700 is proposed to be spent on one new SID and the resident's permission has been obtained to install it on their land. Cllr Harrison has met with Rebecca Chivers from Highways and she has approved the location for the new SID. We need to use an approved contractor to install the SID so will be seeking quotes. Cllr Threlfall recommended asking Little Somerford about how to complete the installation as cost-effectively as possible and also reiterated that highways issues can be addressed to the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LH Fig), who may have some funding available. **Action:** Cllr Harrison to ask the Little Somerford clerk to get an idea of cost but it was agreed that CIL funding would be used to complete the project.

Thanks were given to Cllr Phillips for organising the new toddler slide in Winkins Lane Playground and to Cllr Todd for completing the improvement works at the memorial.

4. Planning Applications received since the last meeting.

Applications determined since the last meeting

PL/2022/08276 - The Paddocks, Heath Lane, Startley, Chippenham  
Issued Decision: Approve with Conditions

New applications since the last meeting

PL/2024/06427

Site Address Land at 5, Broadfield Farm, Great Somerford. Proposal: Erection of 1 No Self Build Dwelling. A 3-4 bedroom house in a gap near Broadfield Farm. The PC doesn't

have an objection to it.

PL/2024/06558

Site Address: TANGLES, GREAT SOMERFORD. Proposal: Dead tree removal  
No objection

PL/2024/07500

Site Address: Winkins Lane. Proposal: Tree works by Wessex Water  
No objection

PL/2023/06033

Site Address: Land at West St. Proposal: Permission in principal for development of up to 2 no dwellings. Appeal raised. The PC had no additional comments.

Lime Down – Cllr Sturgis responded to the planning inspectorate environmental assessment. An update link has been received. A number of parishes have said that the cumulative run-off is detrimental to the river sources. The whole drain-off goes to Great Somerford, which already has flooding issues. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis to send copy of the PC response to the Clerk for files.

Gypsies and Travellers Site public meeting in Goss Croft hall on Tuesday. **Action:** Cllr Griffiths to obtain information that may be shared in a PIE

#### Housing Developments

Demainbray Close has won best medium-sized development in the South West and is now going into a National Competition.

The boundary posts between the Free Gardens and Broadfield Farm that had been knocked down by the Broadfield Farm contractors have been restored.

#### Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan consultant fee came in under budget, so £120 has been reimbursed to Wiltshire Council and the created plan is pending the Government proposals and then the questionnaire for parishioners will be brought to the PC for approval.

### 5. Finance

#### a) Monthly Finance Report

It was noted that a typo in the finance report had been picked up in the reconciliation process, with thanks to Cllr Barker. The report was then approved. **Proposed:** Cllr Todd, **Seconded:** Cllr Evans.

The Clerk updated that PKF Accountants would usually have completed the external audit by now, so this has been chased up and we are expecting completion by the end of September.

Free Gardens charity has requested £1000 to help with maintenance of trees and the Jubilee Gardens public areas. This was agreed. **Proposed:** Cllr Griffiths, **Seconded:** Cllr Todd.

The bank balances on 27 August were:

Treasurers Account 42,174.24, Deposit Account 10,601.46, Fixed Term Deposit Account 70,000.00. Combined total 122,775.70.

### 6. Policies

Risk Register is to be finished once the outcome is known on West Street and flooding risks can be completed.

It was noted that all Councillors present completed Acceptance of Office forms to ensure that there is a full and up-to-date set.

## 7. Managed Facilities

There has been a lot of activity at Winkins Lane playground including completing a comprehensive quarterly assessment of the aerial runway, which is supported by visual inspections weekly. An annual inspection by a professional has been booked. New bark has been laid and a toddler slide installed.

Vandalism has occurred – a gate was smashed. This was reported to the police. Whilst it was broken, paint was taken from a school shed and sprayed on the brand-new toddler slide at the playground. Police have been contacted about the incidents. There hasn't been more damage since. The annual ROSPA inspection will take place shortly.

### Community Room

The PC discussed that DBAT's plans for a new boiler didn't initially include heating to the Community Room but it has now been confirmed that heating will extend to the Community Room. It was noted that the School will be asked to communicate if there is a potential clash with a booking of the Community Room, which did occur recently.

8. Environment Cllr Barker had asked for landowner information on the footpaths. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis and Cllr Gravell to get back to Cllr Barker

No actions for the Parish Steward.

9. Standing Items To discuss any updates regarding: Startley Cemetery; Communications; Gt Somerford and Startley Defibrillators; Book Exchange; Emergency Plan; School's Liaison; War Memorial; Website.

Startley Cemetery was reported to be in good order. Access will be made to the noticeboard.

A First Aid course is being organised Monday 7 October. Please contact Cllr Todd regarding training. Up to 10 people can be accommodated.

Too many books are being put in the exchange but it's manageable at the moment.

The flooding plan and risk are closely linked and this info will be passed to Cllr Gravell to complete the Emergency Plan. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis to update

**Action:** Cllr Sturgis to assist Cllr Gravell with moving grit bins post mid-September, but in time for new grit to be delivered.

Cllr Evans reported that bollards have been purchased and that the new Trust for the school is expected to be Blue Kite Trust.

Thanks were given to parishioner Mr Blount for tending to the plants at the memorial. The last thing to achieve is to put in a path and Cllr Todd has investigated reclaimed York Stone. **Action:** Cllr Todd to request for CIL expenditure.

10. Free Gardens **Action:** Cllr Griffiths and the Clerk to check on website update items identified by Cllr Phillips.

Free Gardens are very close now to transferring charity to CIO and solicitors have drawn up documents which are almost finalised. Will be on next PC Agenda.

Notice

**Dates for Future Meetings @ 7.30 pm Wednesday 2 October Parish Council Meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm

**Approved** ..... **Chair** **Date** .....