

GREAT SOMERFORD (INCORPORATING STARTLEY) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 3 September 2025 Community Room@ 7.30 pm

Present

Cllr T Barker	Cllr T Phillips
Cllr H Evans	Cllr T Sturgis (Chair)
Cllr H Gravell	Cllr D Todd
Cllr J Harper	

In attendance Cllr E Threlfall, H Wallace (Clerk), 12 members of the public

PQT A member of the public raised the issue of the chestnut tree in Manor Park and disposing of the tree leaves and looking for any resolution to the problem. The solicitors in Bristol have previously said that it is up to the residents to demonstrate land ownership and no evidence has been brought forward to achieve this. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis will again approach the solicitors in Bristol for possible solutions and in the meantime will provide some bags for removal of leaves.

Another member of the public talked about the entrances to the village and long weeds by the signposts. The PC informed that there are mixed views in the village about cutting or leaving the growth. The hawthorn and rosehips are hanging down over the Glebe Field and the area outside Demainbray Close needs tidying. The PC explained that the principal role of the Parish Steward was to carry out tasks that can be done by himself towards maintaining highways and to improve drainage **Action:** Cllr Evans will raise with these points with the Parish Steward

A parishioner had raised that street-lights on Dauntsey Road could not all be fixed recently due to the amount of cars parked on the road. This was discussed. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis will talk with the parishioner and potentially parishioners parking in the area.

A member of the public asked about the Neighbourhood Plan and was interested in the items that had been recommended and whether they would trigger a longer session or a more informal meeting. The process was explained as something that would take a bit of time but that so far the Neighbourhood Plan had resulted in the recreation questionnaire being drawn up to capture more from parishioners about recreation. Cllr Sturgis is speaking with the agent and moving it forward and will put forward a review later. (see also NP section below)

A Cllr recalled the parishioner question about speed in the village, especially around Winkins Lane Playground. The PC is currently awaiting metro counts as a first step.

4. CIL Projects CIL projects was brought higher up the Agenda on behalf of members of the public attending to hear about these items. PQT was extended to incorporate this section.

Bus Shelter – Startley’s shelter is fully completed but the concrete slab was found to be defective as it wouldn’t take the weight and other options were being looked at. Cllrs agreed to get at least one more quote as one of the invited bidders had declined to quote. Cllrs also agreed to pay Made in Oak 50% whilst looking to move it forward. **Action:** Cllr Gravel to get quotes and inform Made in Oak to invoice the Clerk.

MG

Daffodil planting was a CIL bid which had been received. The PC welcomed the idea with a recommendation that gaps between planting are able to be mowed. As the request is small, (under £250) it was decided to use general reserves instead of CIL. It was considered a good idea to use reserves for this unbudgeted item. Petitioners were advised to invoice the Clerk. Agreed by the PC. **Proposed:** Cllr Sturgis; **Seconded:** Cllr Harper.

Bore Holes in the Free Gardens. This was discussed and agreed. The cost from CIL monies will be £7,600. **Proposed:** Cllr Evans; **Seconded** Cllr Todd and all in favour. This will be invoiced to Clerk.

WCRE

Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives

Cllr Threlfall informed the PC that a new Wiltshire Council plan is being promoted but the consultation period closes on 12th September. Links to the Plan and a questionnaire are on: Wiltshire Council invites residents to have their say on Council Plan at engagement events across the county - Wiltshire Council

Cllr Threlfall reminded the PC that the Wiltshire Connect bus is a promising new local service for parishioners, including those with mobility issues, and that she would welcome feedback on it. <https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/getting-around/bus/wiltshire-connect/> She was delighted to announce that a date has been set for drainage works on West Street during half term to minimise disruption (20th -24th October).

1. INTRO

Apologies for Absence
Cllr Griffiths, Cllr T Harrison

Declarations of Interest
None given

2. Minutes

Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 2 July were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record. One item about the vote that had taken place was changed from "against" to "abstaining" as that had been the intention of the Cllr. **Proposed:** Cllr Phillips, **Seconded:** Cllr Todd.

Actions were not gone through but the item in red (Risk Register) was discussed during the meeting, and other items were seen to be coming up through the Agenda.

3. Planning Applications received since the last meeting

PL/2025/06855

Address: Marshlands, Startley

Proposal: Two Storey Rear and Side Extension

Decision: The PC considered that this is a large extension and there a number of chalets nearby which would make this out of character by its size but with no planning reason to object.

PL/2025/06831

Address: 11 MANOR PARK, GREAT SOMERFORD

Proposal: Apple tree - overall reduction of 4m

Decision: No objection

PL/2025/06383

Address: DAUNTSEY END, DAUNTSEY ROAD, GREAT SOMERFORD

Proposal: Proposed two-bay garage with home office over

Decision: The PC considered that it ought to potentially be further back from the road behind the hedge, than currently proposed and may comment accordingly.

PL/2025/06937

Address: WILLOW HOUSE, GREAT SOMERFORD

Proposal: Replacement of existing garage, porch extension & ancillary alterations

Decision: No objection

Applications determined since the last meeting

Ref: PL/2025/05283 - Householder Application

Address: 35 Somerbrook, Great Somerford

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and loft conversion

Decision: Approve with Conditions

PL/2025/06094

Address: FOURWAY HOUSE, GREAT SOMERFORD

Proposal: T1 - Laburnum - fell

Decision: No Objection

Housing Developments

The piece of land which had developers' items stored on it will be landscaped (isn't able to be considered for recreation).

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Sturgis will ask Master Land and Planning to quote for work to complete the review set out in phases. Many parishioners have asked about a village hall. This may come up later on through the process. **Action:** Cllr Sturgis to put a timetable for review at October PC Meeting.

5. Finance

a) Monthly Finance Report

The finance report was agreed and signed **Proposed:** Cllr Barker, **Seconded:** Cllr Phillips. The reconciliation papers were handed in completed by Cllr Barker. Cllr Barker noted that one entry had been left on the payments list from last month. The savings account transfers were noted in the reconciliation but not in the transactions list. The report was signed on that basis. **Action:** Clerk to email round amended report

b) The Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer reported that there had been no questions from PKF external auditors and just one typo which was corrected. The final papers will now be sent to the website.

The bank balances on 31 August were:

Current Account	36,421.10
Deposit Account	10,699.56
Fixed Term Savings	76,088.26
Combined total	123,208.92

6. Policies The Risk Register has been updated on flooding and will be circulated and there is a little more to add. This will be brought to October meeting for signing.
The Emergency Plan and Financial Regulations will also be planned for October
The Reserves Policy had been reviewed by Cllr Harper and the Clerk and was approved and signed. **Proposed:** Cllr Harper; **Seconded:** Cllr Gravell

MS

7. Managed Facilities Winkins Lane Playground

October 6th is the planned date for putting in the play equipment to replace the Moonscape Climber and at the same time Fawns will be putting in wet-pour around the roundabout. The ROSPA inspection may happen beforehand and so advise on actions that are already planned to be completed. Cllr Sturgis had provided details of an off-site contribution designated to Winkins Lane Playground from the Broadfield Farm development which could be used for the Moonscape replacement project. The Clerk and Cllr Phillips have applied for this funding and the Clerk has followed up for an update.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan questionnaire resulted in a number of parishioners asking about recreation. As a result, Cllr Todd and Cllr Phillips circulated a specific recreation questionnaire and shared a presentation resulting from the feedback received. 112 responses came back and they have been assessed. There is support for a MUGA and also for adult gym equipment. It was proposed that a consultant looked at a feasibility study for potential areas for increased recreation. It was noted that without a long license on the Glebe Field, (currently being renewed for 1 year at a time), it would be unlikely to be a suitable area for a fixed recreation area. However, a feasibility study would help understand the best physical space and lend weight to making progress. The feedback received also indicated that a village hall would be appreciated by parishioners. Cllr Evans has looked at extending the community room and that does not look like it has good potential. Cllrs agreed that three quotes would be sought for a feasibility study with all in favour apart from one Cllr not wishing for the Free Gardens to be considered for any areas of recreation. **Proposed:** Cllr Sturgis, **Seconded:** Cllr Harper. **Action:** Cllr Phillips will seek quotes for feasibility of different areas in the parish, initially focusing on the Glebe Field and the Free Gardens.

Community Room

No update this time.

8. Environment Items for the Parish Steward were discussed earlier in the meeting.

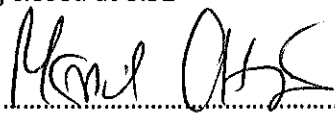
9. Standing Items To discuss any updates regarding:
Startley Cemetery, Communications, Gt Somerford and Startley Defibrillators, Book Exchange, Emergency Plan, School's Liaison, War Memorial, Website.

Startley Cemetery is looking good, with thanks to Cllr Harrison for his work on that. Communication Streams will be discussed again in October. The Clerk apologised about not advertising the meeting on Facebook. School's Liaison – again it was discussed about the community hall extension and about the bollards. Cllr Evans has asked where the bollards are but is waiting for further feedback since the school holidays.

There were no further comments on the standing items.

10. Notice Future dates
1 October, 5 November, 7 January, 4 February, 4 March, 1 April, 20 May APM and APCM (tbc), 3 June, 1 July

The meeting closed at 8.52

Approved  Chair

Date 1/10/2025