

Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Parish Council

Meeting held in The Community Room on the 8th April 2026 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present; Cllrs Sturgis (Vice Chair), Todd, Gravell, Phillips, Harrison, Barker & Harper

Also present: Claire Mann (Locum Parish Clerk), Cllr E Threlfall (WC) and seven members of the public.

In the absence of Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Sturgis chaired the meeting

PQT Public Question Time (limited to 10 minutes)

It was raised by a member of the Public that the Self-Build application contains many errors and inaccuracies. Cllr Sturgis stated that an extension to comment has been requested and assured the meeting that this will be granted as the Planning Officer is still waiting for the Ecology Statement. Cllr Threlfall also pointed out that she has 'called in' the application which will naturally protract the process for a decision.

WCR Reports from Wiltshire Councillor and any items for consideration from Local Groups.

Cllr Threlfall explained how disappointed she had been at receiving the schedule of road works for the coming year which showed just two sections of road in her division down for 'carriageway repairs' - although one of the was Hollow Street - although West St is also due to have bobcat patching. She has been asked to put forward a piece of road for works - the message read: We are particularly focusing on the C-class and Unclassified road network, where deterioration is having a noticeable impact on the communities that rely on these routes. While we will not be resurfacing entire areas, our aim is to make targeted improvements that will deliver meaningful benefits to residents and road users.

She asked for suggestions before the 30th April and Dauntsey Road was immediately suggested, although the PC will consider this further.

On the same topic, Cllr Threlfall asked if the Parish Steward could be asked to do some more repair work on Heath Lane, which is showing bad deterioration.

She confirmed that she had called in 2026/01169 to committee for decision if the officer was inclined to approve it, but had been unable to do this on 2026/01620 because of the timings and the agent's refusal to allow extra time for consideration.

Following previous discussion on arrangements to empty the dog bins, she was pleased to hear that WC had agreed to take on these on its contract with Idverde.

She mentioned that a resident had asked about planning for solar panels within the conservation area and Cllr Barker said she had been obliged to apply for permission.

Cllr Harrison asked if there had been any progress on the HGV signs for Winkins Lane and she will said this was still on the list for LHFIG.

a) Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Griffiths and Evans.

b) Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Gravell, Sturgis, Harper & Harrison declared that they know the applicant of application number PL/2026/01169 – North of Seagry Road.

11/26

Minutes

a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4th March 2026

Cllr Sturgis proposed the approval of the Minutes, this was seconded by Cllr Harrison and all agreed. Cllr Sturgis signed the minutes.

b) To note the status of actions detailed on the Action Register

The Action Register was noted, Cllr Sturgis retained for referral.

12/26

CIL Projects

a) To discuss CIL projects and any updates

There were no additional updates.

b) To consider next steps for MUGA and to consider response to letter from a member of the Public.

It was noted that a response is awaited from the Bristol Diocese and is anticipated at the end of April, no action will be taken until this is received.

Cllr Sturgis will respond to the letter from the member of the Public as approved by the Parish Council.

Comments from members on the correspondence from the Free gardens Trustees will be sent to Cllr Phillips to draft a response for approval.

13/26

Planning

a) To discuss planning applications received since last meeting

PL/2026/01169 – North of Seagry Road - Outline Planning for the Erection of 8 self-build dwellings, associated works and landscaping - some matters reserved except for access.

Resolved – To object

PL/2026/01366 – Mills Farm, Gt Somerford -

Resolved – No objection

PL/2026/01376 – Coppins, Gt Somerford -

Resolved – No objection

PL/2026/01583 – The Old Church School, Hollow St

Resolved – No objection

PL/2026/01512– Orchard House, Frog Lane

Resolved – No objection

PL/2026/01620– Land North of West Street, Gt Somerford - Permission in Principle for the erection of up to 2 no. dwellings'

Reasons for the resolution include the following:

- Conflict with the strategic aims of the development plan;
- Development in conflict with the aims of designation of the land as Local Green Space;
- Harm to heritage assets, in particular the Great Somerford Conservation Area;
- Inability to provide safe access and egress onto the highway; and
- Harm to the character and appearance of the area.

Resolved – To object.

PL/2026/02059– 6 Paddock Close, Gt Somerford

Resolved – No objection

b) To discuss Housing Developments in the parish

No updates

c) To consider IGP's response to Parish Council's objections to the Lime Down Solar Park

Cllr Phillips will forward the relevant section to members to view.

d) To discuss Neighbourhood Plan

Following discussions with Master Planning before Easter Cllr Sturgis recommended the Parish Council instruct them to proceed with the next stages in preparation of the GSNP and not wait for Wiltshire Councils decision on the review of their Local Plan nor the governments review of the Framework. Wiltshire Council has now stated they only have a 2.4-year supply against the new housing requirements set by the government. This is the figure used by decision makers at the Local Planning Authority and the Planning Inspectorate dealing with appeals, when para11(d) of the existing National Planning Policy Framework is applicable.

14/26

Finance

a) To ratify and approve the Finance Report detailing transactions since the last meeting

Cllr Harrison proposed that the transactions be ratified. This was seconded by Cllr Harper, all agreed.

b) To note most recent Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was unavailable. It was agreed that Cllr Phillips will send the Clerk the bank statements as soon as possible after the end of the month, they will then be forwarded to Cllr Barker to prepare the reconciliation statement.

15/26

Managed Facilities

a) Winkins Lane Playground

Nothing new to report.

b) Community Room

Nothing new to report.

16/26

Environment

a) Any actions for the Parish Steward or Council

The pot holes at Heath Lane require attention as soon as possible.

b) To consider joining the WALC Climate Network and appoint member if agreed.

It was agreed that all correspondence should be forwarded to Cllr Barker in future.

c) To receive an update on Frog Lane flooding and determine next steps

It was noted that various works in the area are likely to have helped reduce flooding. A pump and pipe is available for use if needs be.

d) To receive an update on Manor Park Trees.

Cllr Sturgis had covered this during the Action Register Update.

17/26

Standing Items; To discuss updates regarding

i. Startley Cemetery

It was noted that the watering of the new trees has been organised.

ii. Communications

Following discussion it was agreed this requires improvement, Cllr Phillips will action. A Parish Council Facebook page will be set up in the first instance.

iii. Gt Somerford and Startley Defibrillators

It was noted that the battery and pads had been replaced for the Startley defibrillator.

iv. Book Exchange

Cllr Todd will undertake the organising of the book exchange.

v. Emergency Plan

Cllr Sturgis will check the current file and Cllr Gravell is in contact with the Flood Group.

vi. School's Liaison

Cllr Evans had forwarded apologies and was not in attendance, a brief update was passed to the Chair.

vii. War Memorial

Cllr Todd will clean with algae treatment.

viii. Website

Cllr Phillips will update relevant information.

18/26

Notice

To confirm date of next Parish Council meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be the Annual Parish Meeting on the 6th May at 7.30pm and then Annual Parish Council meeting will take place on the 20th May at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.50pm