

Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Parish Council Meeting

held in The Community Room on the 3rd June 2026 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present; Cllrs Sturgis (Vice Chair), Todd, Phillips and Harper

Also present: Claire Mann (Locum Parish Clerk), Andrew Wood (Internal Auditor), Cllr E Threlfall (WC) and two members of the public.

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

45/26 To receive declarations of interest.

None received.

46/26 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Griffiths, Barker, Gravell, Harrison and Evans.

47/26 Public participation (limited to ten minutes)

A member of the Public asked for updates on the two planning applications that had recently been objected to, Cllr Sturgis replied that there are none available at this stage but stated that he is drafting a statement, based on the Parish Council's objection, that can be published through the PIE system.

Cllr Harper arrived

Cllr Phillips stated that since the last meeting he has set up the Parish Council facebook page and will share all PIEs through it.

48/26 To receive report from Wiltshire Councillor, Elizabeth Threlfall.

Cllr Threlfall reported that additional LHFIG funding had been sourced and so had funding for Substantive Bid applications although large towns will be the ones to benefit from this over smaller Parishes. Cllr Threlfall will circulate information about the Crisis and Resilience Fund to be published on the website.

Wiltshire Council may stop the 'Calling In' of Planning Applications by Wiltshire Councillors, Cllr Threlfall is concerned about this. It was noted that the planning application for housing development on a green field site in Lea has been refused by Wiltshire Council which is good news.

Wiltshire Council Officers are not convinced that 'No HGVs' signage is required at Winkins Lane so Cllr Threlfall requested photographic evidence from Cllrs and the public to put a case forward.

The flood under Little Somerford bridge is being attended to by Wiltshire Council with machinery. It was noted that the result is that the pipe is still blocked in the exact same place that it has been for the last five years; the site of the installation of the electric is where the problem lies.

49/26 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th May 2026.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

50/26 To consider Glebe Field Lease Proposal and determine next steps.

A meeting with Cllrs Sturgis, Phillips and Todd was proposed for the 9th June at 7pm to prepare a schedule of works to present to the Council for approval.

51/26 To appoint Parish Council representative on Goss Croft Hall Committee.

Cllr Phillips stated that he had attended the first meeting for the year of the Committee and had spoken to the new Chair concerning improvements to the Hall and marketing as a venue. Following discussion it was noted that the representative on the Committee is not required to be a Councillor and so members resolved to appoint Jo Bannister as representative. Cllr Phillips will report back to the Parish Council at a future meeting.

52/26 To consider planning applications received.

PL/2026/02956– Stable Yard at No 61, West Street, Great Somerford, SN15 5EH - Redevelopment of Existing Stable Yard to Accommodate 1No New Dwelling, including provision of new access.

Cllr Harper declared an interest in the application as a neighbour.

Resolved – Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Sturgis will circulate a recommendation for comment on the application for approval by members in the following week and will speak to neighbours to identify impact on them.

53/26 To note notification of appeal for planning application PL/2026/01620 – Land to North of West Street and determine next steps.

Cllr Sturgis stated that members of the public will be informed through the PIE system (as covered during public participation) The Planning Inspector at the Appeal will receive every comment/objection that has been made on the Wiltshire Council planning portal and urged all to comment.

54/26 To note Internal Auditor Report 2025/26

Andrew Wood introduced himself as the internal Auditor for the PC. Andrew asked for evidence of transfers for the Fixed Term account, Cllr Harper will forward. Andrew stated that 'actual' expenditure aligned with 'forecasted'. Andrew also asked about four invoices that the Clerk hadn't been able to locate paperwork for. It was agreed that these and the fixed term account documentation would be forwarded as soon as possible to enable an extraordinary meeting could be convened before the 30th June to note the Internal Auditors report.

Andrew Wood and 1 member of the public left the meeting.

55/26 To approve Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

The annual governance statement was approved and signed by the Clerk and Cllr Sturgis as Chair of the meeting.

56/26 To approve Accounting Statement 2025/26

The annual accounting statement was approved by members and signed by the Clerk.

57/26 To consider quote for accounting software package.

It was agreed that this would be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.

58/26 To consider actions for the Parish Steward.

It was noted that the cut-through to the Glebe Field was overgrown and the Parish Clerk would be requested to cut this back (Clerk to forward to Cllr Evans)

59/26

To receive an update on Winkins Lane Playground.

Cllr Phillips reported the following;

- A sign will be put up at the Table Tennis table stating that players will be required to bring their own bats as they continually go missing.
- There are some football players to be replayed on the football table.
- Cllr Phillips is meeting a contractor in the coming week to provide a quote for 'wet-pour' under the swings
- A quote for weighting picnic tables will also be requested. Cllr Sturgis will also ask Willis Brothers.

60/26

To receive an update on the Community Room.

No update available.

61/26

To receive updates on Standing Items;

- Startley Cemetery**
No update available
- Communications**
It was agreed that this will be combined with the website element at the next meeting. Cllr Phillips will update PC business on facebook also.
- Gt Somerford and Startley Defibrillators**
Nothing to update.
- Book Exchange**
Nothing to update.
- Emergency Plan**
Cllr Gravell not in attendance.
- School's Liaison**
Cllr Evans not in attendance.
- War Memorial**
Cllr Todd has sprayed the Memorial.
- Website**
Cllr Phillips will meet with Stephen Mansfield to discuss out of date information and to determine ownership of the website domain.

62/26

To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed as the 1st July with the extraordinary meeting to be convened on Cllr Griffiths' return.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm