

Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Parish Council

Annual Parish Council Meeting

held in The Community Room on the 20th May 2026 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present; Cllrs Sturgis (Vice Chair), Evans, Gravell, Harrison and Barker

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

24/26 To elect Chair for the coming year

Cllr Sturgis proposed Cllr Griffiths as Chair for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr Gravell. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Griffiths be Chair for the coming year.

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

25/26 To elect Vice Chair for the coming year.

Cllr Gravell proposed Cllr Sturgis as Vice Chair for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr Evans. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Sturgis be Vice Chair for the coming year.

26/26 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Griffiths, Phillips, Harper and Todd.

27/26 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllrs Gravell and Sturgis declared an interest in item 11 (updates on PL/2026/01169 – 8 self-build dwellings, North of Seagry Road and PL/2026/01620, Permission in Principle for erection of up to 2 dwellings at Land North of West Street.)

28/26 Public participation (limited to 10 minutes)

A member of the public asked how access would be gained to the pump and pipe in Frog Lane in the event of a flood. Cllr Sturgis responded that contacting him in the first instance is advised but that he would likely to be already aware and have acted accordingly.

A member of the public asked when a response to their email would be forthcoming. Cllr Sturgis responded that he would action this.

29/26 To receive report from Cllr Threlfall, Wiltshire Councillor.

Cllr Threlfall reported that the Full Council of Wiltshire Council had met the day previously. It was noted that Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group funding will not be cut. There has been no progress on the HGV signage at Winkins Lane. The Wiltshire Local Plan has been withdrawn, a new plan will be prepared, starting in November 2026 with a deadline of thirty months to completion. Cllr Threlfall will chase the CCTV in West Street.

30/26 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th April 2026.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.



31/26 To appoint members to external organisations.

It was agreed that current representation on external organisations will remain the same for the coming year and that a representative for the Goss Croft Hall Committee will be appointed at the next meeting.

32/26 To consider Glebe Field Lease Proposal and determine next steps.

Cllrs Sturgis will arrange to meet with Cllrs Phillips and Todd to put together a schedule of works to progress.

33/26 To consider planning applications received.

PL/2026/0221 – 10 Wallflower Lane, Great Somerford, Chippenham, SN15 5FF - Erection of single storey rear extension with pitched roof and rooflights.

Resolved – Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.

34/26 To receive updates on PL/2026/01169 – 8 self-build dwellings, North of Seagry Road and PL/2026/01620, Permission in Principle for erection of up to 2 dwellings at Land North of West Street.

PL/2026/01169 Cllr Sturgis stated that a third design and access statement has been submitted. It was noted that the proposed development would ruin the historical Enclosure Boundaries and that Great Crested Newts are also present. The decision date is the 1st July.

PL/2026/01620 It was noted that the application has been refused, noting also that the applicants have six months in which to appeal.

35/26 To approve Finance Report (including Bank Reconciliation)

The finance report was approved and signed as a correct record of financial activity.

36/26 To consider quote for accounting software package.

It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

37/26 To consider actions for the Parish Steward.

There was nothing to report.

38/26 To consider response to email received 11th March.

Cllr Sturgis will follow this up as raised during public participation.

39/26 To receive an update on Neighbourhood Plan.

It was noted that Master Planning is proceeding as instructed.

40/26 To receive an update on Winkins Lane Playground.

No update available.

41/26 To receive an update on the Community Room.

No update available.

42/26 To receive footpaths report (Cllr Barker)

Cllr Barker had circulated a report on the footpaths ahead of the meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that the report would be forwarded to Steve Leonard at Wiltshire Council to note the issues. Cllr Barker will also make a report on the MyWilts app.

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43/26

To receive updates on Standing Items;

- i. **Startley Cemetery**
Cllr Harrison reported that there is no update of note.
- ii. **Communications**
Nothing to update.
- iii. **Gt Somerford and Startley Defibrillators**
Nothing to update.
- iv. **Book Exchange**
Nothing to update.
- v. **Emergency Plan**
Nothing to update
- vi. **School's Liaison**
It was agreed to purchase grit bin.
- vii. **War Memorial**
Nothing to update.
- viii. **Website**
Nothing to update.

44/26

To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed as the 3rd June.

Meeting closed at 8.34pm

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