

Great Somerford (incorporating Startley)

Parish Council Meeting

held in The Community Room on the 7th October 2026 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present; Cllrs Griffiths (Chair) Sturgis (Vice Chair), Gravel, Harrison, Harper & Barker

Also present: Claire Mann (Parish Clerk), Cllr E Threlfall (Wiltshire Council) and 5 members of the public.

106/26 Public Participation (limited to 10 minutes)

Matheu Parr asked that the Parish Council considers grant funding for an inclusive garden for the School in the region of £12k, this would be of great benefit to the School curriculum and the whole community. The School would manage the upkeep of the garden and the purchase of a shed and greenhouse is included. The Garden could be used daily as opposed to the infrequent visits by a limited number of children that currently takes place at the Free Gardens. Cllr Threlfall stated that there are several other grants available for this type of initiative and will forward details. Cllr Griffiths asked that an additional quote is requested and is brought to a future meeting.

A member of the public asked when the resurfacing of West Street will be taking place, this also raised the issue of the remaining part of Hollow Street. It was noted that this has been ongoing for approximately five years. Cllr Threlfall stated that it has been ascertained with the drainage team that the gulleys and piping to the West of The Manor have been cleared and repaired. Cllr Threlfall has asked that repairs to the road surface should be prioritised.

A member of the public asked about the reference in the September minutes to the approval of 8 self-build houses and its inaccuracy. Cllr Griffiths stated that this would be covered during item 5 on the agenda.

A member of the public raised the issue of horse chestnut tree at Manor Park and the land ownership. The leaves and conkers cause problems at this time of year. Cllr Griffiths replied that this had been raised previously and that the Parish Council will not take on the land ownership for the benefit of only a few members of the Parish. The Parish Steward will be asked to clear the gullies and the road where leaves and conkers collect.

A member of the public asked about the pavement on Top Street as it is dangerous for pedestrians and that there were also pot holes in Manor Park that had not been repaired. Cllr Threlfall said that she would pursue both issues as a priority.

107/26 To receive report from Wiltshire Councillor Elizabeth Threlfall

Cllr Threlfall reported that there is a webinar coming up on Tuesday 3rd November from 6pm to 7pm which explains some of the changes which have been made to the SEND provision under the national reforms. Parents or carers should register and can send questions in advance. Link as follows [SEND reform webinar](#)

Wiltshire Council recently withdrew its draft Local Plan and has started preparing a new one. After a 'call for sites', a number of pieces of land have been offered to the Council for development of different things such as housing, industrial uses or solar farms. These can be seen (without any indication of what use is proposed) on a map through the link on [Call for sites as part of the preparation of the Wiltshire Local Plan - Wiltshire Council](#) and also on the GSPC website. If the planning department thinks they have potential there will be opportunities to comment during future consultation phases.

The government has been encouraging people to be prepared for possible prolonged power cuts this winter by having essential supplies to hand. In addition, Cllr Threlfall discussed with the Chairman whether the GS Covid Street Champions could coordinate support for more vulnerable residents - if a power cut should happen. It was thought that Great Somerford had an excellent network already in place which could be put into action at need.

The request for 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signage at Winkins Lane has been on hold until photographic evidence is provided that HGVs are using it but Cllr Threlfall will ask about this again at the Local Highways meeting next week.

108/26 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr Gravell declared an interest in planning application number PL/2026/06050 and the Call for Sites. Cllr Harper declared an interest in planning application number PL/2026/05478. Cllr. Sturgis declared he had submitted a site to Wiltshire Council under their call for sites. The site was behind the Police House Dauntsey Road. This was as considered in Neighbourhood Plan, to also include area for village hall and MUGA. This would be reported under Agenda item 9.

109/26 To receive apologies.

Apologies received from Cllrs Phillips, Todd & Evans

3 members of the public left the meeting

110/26 To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on the 2nd September.

It was noted that the Parish Clerk had misunderstood the discussion at minute reference 94/26. The planning application for eight houses had not been approved. This was amended to read "Cllr Sturgis stated that he was appalled at Highways comments based on speed check when road obstructed." Subject to this amendment, the minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

111/26 To receive finance report and bank reconciliations to date.

The finance reports were noted. It was agreed that Cllrs Harper and Griffiths will meet with the Parish Clerk to go through the new accounting system and organise nominal codes as required.

The Fixed Term investment had also matured and future investment will be discussed at the next meeting, noting that the Public Sector Deposit Fund with the CCLA is an option.

112/26 To consider grant funding towards Great Somerford Church.

Following discussion and recording that Cllrs Harrison & Gravell will abstain from voting, it was agreed to grant £1k to the Church.

113/26 To note CIL report and discuss projects for consideration.

The CIL report was noted. The Parish Clerk had sent an invoice to the Community Fund for payment of the goal posts as it was previously agreed that this should not be paid from the CIL fund.

114/26 To receive planning updates and consider planning applications received;

Cllr. Sturgis reported he had attended the public meeting on the Scoping Consultation at Royal Wootton Bassett and listened to the Webinar before submitting comments on behalf of the Parish Council to Wiltshire Council's Scoping Consultation. He also circulated the plan showing sites submitted to Wiltshire Council under their 'call for sites' as part of their preparations of the new Local plan.

WC Ref. [PL/2026/05788](#)

Address Jubilee Woods Great Somerford Allotments Dauntsey Road Great Somerford SN15 5HR

Comment by 8th October

Proposal Conifer & Prunus Avium – Fell

Resolution It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objection to this application.

WC Ref. [PL/2026/04977](#)

Address Fairlawne, Startley, Chippenham, SN15 5HE

Comment by Extension requested

Proposal Two storey rear extension to domestic dwelling and conversion of garage to annex

Resolution It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objection to this application.

WC Ref. [PL/2026/05539](#)

Address 6 MANOR PARK, GREAT SOMERFORD, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 5EQ

Comment by Extension granted.

Proposal T1 Horse Chestnut - Reduce all over by up to 3.5 metres, Canopy thin by up to 10%, Crown raise to approximately 3.5 metres above ground level and pruned back from street furniture by up to 1.5m

Resolution It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objection to this application.

WC Ref. [PL/2026/05478](#)

Address Ladys Walk House, West Street, Great Somerford, Chippenham, SN15 5EH

Comment by 15th October

Proposal Installation of small ground mounted domestic solar array to serve Ladys Walk House

Resolution It was resolved that the Parish Council supports this application.

WC Ref. [PL/2026/05728](#)

Address 23 Hollow Street, Great Somerford, Chippenham, SN15 5JD

Comment by 20th October

Proposal Replace existing single, flat roofed garage with a larger, slightly relocated garage, attached to the host dwelling and with a pitched roof.

Resolution It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objection to this application.

WC Ref. [PL/2026/05773](#)

Address 13 Manor Park, Great Somerford, Chippenham, SN15 5EQ

Comment by 21st October

Proposal Proposed side extension

Resolution It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objection to this application.

WC Ref. [PL/2026/06050](#)

Address Land off West Street to the rear of the existing barn, Great Somerford, Chippenham, SN15 5EH

Comment by 15th October

Proposal Permission in Principle for Proposed erection of one dwelling

Resolution It was resolved that the Parish Council objects to this application as it would be harmful to the setting of the Conservation Area. This is consistent to previous objections in West Street.

WC Ref. [PL/2026/05916](#)

Address The Old Builders Yard, Startley, SN15 5HG

Comment by 28th October

Proposal Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 2No detached dwellings with associated garages, access and landscaping.

Resolution It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objection to this application.

115/26 To consider actions for the Parish Steward.

The Parish Clerk will report the clearance of leaves and conkers in the road and gullies around the Horse Chestnut tree at Manor Park.

116/26 To receive an update on Winkins Lane Playground and other recreation – to consider quotes received.

Cllr Phillips had circulated quotes for wet pour and works under the swings ahead of the meeting. Following discussion it was agreed that unless that particular surface is a legal requirement, the work will be put on hold for the meantime.

The RoSPA report had just been received and Cllr Griffiths asked for it be circulated to all.

The annual inspection for the aerial runway is due and will be actioned shortly.

Cllr Sturgis reported that the Diocese has terminated its contract with the land agent at the Glebe Field, it was noted that the management of the area has been negligent and the Parish Council intends to pursue this.

117/26 To receive an update on the Community Room.

There were no issues raised about the Community Room.

118/26 To receive updates on Standing Items;

i. Footpaths

Cllr Sturgis will contact a local resident about the footpath in the Glebe Field next to the School Boundary.

ii. Free Gardens

It was noted that the hedge needs trimming at the top. Cllr Sturgis will hand trim and requested that the Free Gardens remove and dispose of the clippings.

iii. Goss Croft Hall

Nothing to update.

iv. Startley Cemetery

Nothing to update.

v. Communications & Website

Cllr Phillips had circulated a report ahead of the meeting, noting the following;

- The new website arrangements began with a meeting between Aubergine, Cllr Phillips and Stephen Mansfield on the 3rd September.
- The colour palette was chosen and sitemap agreed. It will be a flatter structure than currently exists.
- The new domain has been secured and registered as "www.greatsomerford-pc.gov.uk". This means that all Councillor email

addresses will become: first name.last name@greatsomerford-pc.gov.uk.

- Stephen Mansfield is still in the process of gathering required documents for initial population of new website by Aubergine.
- Website introduction training has been scheduled for Cllr Phillips and Stephen Mansfield on the 2nd November.
- An IT Policy template has been considered by Cllrs Phillips and Todd and a draft is being put together.
- Parish Council data storage, back-ups and general security of the laptop requires attention.

vi. Gt Somerford and Startley Defibrillators

Nothing to update.

vii. Book Exchange

Nothing to update.

viii. Emergency Plan

Nothing to update although Cllr Threlfall had made comment during her report.

ix. School's Liaison

This had been covered during Public Participation.

x. War Memorial

Nothing to update.

119/26 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed as the 4th November

Meeting closed at 8.50pm