

Chairman's Report May 2018 - Councillor Steve Mansfield

The Parish Council has met monthly, except August and December, during the past year. Meetings are now held on the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of the January meeting which remains as the second Wednesday. There continue to be no meetings in August and December and the start time remains as 7.30 pm unless otherwise notified. All members of the public and press are welcome. Agenda, minutes and relevant Parish notices continue to be routinely posted in the notice boards in the bus shelters in Great Somerford and Startley and on the Great Somerford website. Draft minutes are posted normally within a week of the meeting and replaced with approved minutes when they become available. Brief notes of the PC meetings are also routinely placed in Signpost.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Council members for their work during the past year. During the year three councillors have left the council, Sid Jevons, Christine Butler and Arthur Scott – Sid stepped down as Chairman after many years service, Christine moved away from the Parish and Arthur has stepped down after 35 years of loyal service (but he is, of course, still available for consultation)

I am pleased to say that we also welcomed two new members, Fuchsia Hyde and Chris Blount.

Thanks from the Parish Council are extended to all the volunteers who have given their time for activities in the Parish. Just a few of these activities are; Community Room social events such as the Rural Arts events organised by Mrs. Cole, Tai Chi classes, the War Memorial and Grave Yard maintenance, Free Gardens and allotments maintenance and improvement, display of notices in the village shop and pub, Neighbourhood Watch, contributions to Signpost and the care of our Phone Box library. Our thanks also go to Mrs. Scott for her continued care and maintenance of the Community Room. Thanks also to our community police officer for the past year's efforts.

In relation to Neighbourhood watch – some Parishioners have asked if it is still as active as it was – I can assure you that Kyle Hourigan is still on top of things. One difference is that notices are no longer put through letter-boxes; however, all events are replicated on Facebook and sent to the Watch e-mail list. The contact number is still shown in the Signpost.

Last, but not least, on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank Theresa for joining us as Parish Clerk.

My apologies and thanks to any activities/volunteers I may have missed.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

I would like briefly highlight some of the PC's activities during the past year, in no specific order

PLANNING

Cllr. Hector Cole has overseen planning applications and, as he is unable to be present this evening, he has provided a brief written overview of the past year.

Defibrillator

I am pleased to say that we are still receiving contributions towards the defibrillator through a fund started by Charlie Hoplie. The annual defibrillator awareness session was held in March 2017 and the next session is scheduled for Tuesday May 8th 2018 in the Community Room starting at 7.00pm. I would encourage all to attend.

Carols around tree

Was held again this year with and thanks go to all involved in the organisation of the event

Upkeep of the cemetery

The cemetery in Startley continues to be well maintained.

Best Kept Village Competition

We entered again last year, having won it two years previously – sadly we did not win but we are entering again this year.

Recreation area.

As you know, the PC has been considering the possibility of refurbishing or replacing the recreation area so that it may be used more effectively by all age groups. Cllr Hyde has a presentation on this subject later this evening.

The Neighbourhood Plan.

The plan was 'made' during the year and, apart from our usual planning overview, the involvement of the steering group and Parish Council is ended.

An application by Gleeson was made for the development of Broadfield Farm – some amendments were suggested by the Parish and Wiltshire Councils and we are awaiting their second submission. Target date for decision 25th May.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the past members of the steering group – Cllr Hourigan, John McGrath, Tony Gregson and Sid Jevons - for all their efforts over the years leading up to the plan being 'made'

Highways

Safety at West Street and other areas

This is an ongoing concern that we are discussing on a regular basis with the council.

The renewal of white lines is a constant request from the PC and I am pleased to be able to say that many of the white lines have now been refreshed. I am less pleased to report that none of the SLOW signs have yet been re-painted

Potholes

Another ongoing concern although I am pleased that some of these have now been addressed. The recent bad weather caused an increase in the pothole population and the Parish Stewards have concentrated on these in favour of any other work

I would strongly suggest to Parishioners that they use the Wiltshire App reporting system – it means their concern is registered immediately and you receive a reply with a reference number that you can use to check up on progress. The App is available on the web and also available for mobile phones. I use it for reporting all issues in the Parish and have found it effective.

FINANCE

A full report of the PC finances is provided by our RFO

FREE GARDENS

The Free Gardens and allotments were once again included in the National Gardens Scheme last year and proved to be a great success. They will be included again in the future. Thanks to Cllrs. Scott, Butcher and Hourigan for overseeing the maintenance of the allotments which continue to be a credit to the village. The third bench seat in the Jubilee Gardens originally donated by Mrs Davies had sadly fallen into a state of disrepair and has been replaced.

Free Gardens Accounts.

Interest rates have dropped so low that the Free Gardens income did not even cover the cost of cutting the grass. The majority of the monies held by the Free Gardens Trust have been invested in a managed fund (The COIF Charities Investment Fund) with the intention of providing sufficient interest to cover our annual costs together with capital growth such that the real value of the principle falls no further

GREAT SOMERFORD PLANNING APPLICATIONS 2017.

There were 36 planning applications for 2017.

19 applications were for work on trees.

13 applications were for planning.

3 applications were for change of use.

1 application was for a Certificate of Lawfulness.

Three of the applications were for new dwellings as follows :-

2 houses in Frog Lane.

8 houses at Brook Farm.

20 houses at Broadfield Farm.

Broadfield Farm application is still under discussion.

All the other applications were approved.

The other major planning matter dealt with was the Neighbourhood plan for the village. This was eventually resolved, approved and accepted ensuring that any future development in the village will conform to the Neighbourhood Plan.

A big 'Thank You' to all involved in bringing the plan to fruition for the good of the village.

Cllr H Cole

Report from Wiltshire Councillor Toby Sturgis.

I regret I am unable to be here tonight due to the timing clashing with the Malmesbury Area Board.

Delivery of our services is a continuing challenge due to reduction in grant funding from the government (£26M), and increasing demand on our services.(£26M.) Our priorities remain; to protect the vulnerable – elderly, children and disabled who require our care; to boost the economy – ensuring that we have good value jobs and a skilled workforce and to support communities to be as self- reliant as possible.

We have been working very hard and closely with the government and Salisbury City Council since the incident on March 4th and this has taken a lot of resources from our council and this work will have to continue for many months before all the sites are returned to the council and the economy of Salisbury returns to normal.

The importance of working with Area Boards is well illustrated by the funding provided through the area boards to strengthen local communities across Wiltshire. £1.25Million was devolved to Area Boards last year for local projects, this funding supported 752 local community schemes and projects and this levered in £7.5 Million of investment and match funding.

Wiltshire Council deals with the third highest number of applications and with continual updating of the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance and our own local development documents I thank all our officers for maintaining our performance above the national average, while absorbing cuts to their service to fund our priorities.

Property is also within my portfolio and we continue to optimise the use of our operational buildings accommodating the needs of other public bodies, while ensuring they are fit to meet our future needs. Where appropriate we have transferred service led assets to Town and Parish Councils.

We are maintaining our higher level of investment in Wiltshire roads, spending £21M again this year on major maintenance and resurfacing 181km making a total of 761km,17% of the network since 2014.

These are some highlights from our report for Town and Parish Councils and I can arrange for the whole report (13 pages) to be emailed if you leave your email address with the Parish Council.

Great Somerford Crime Report April 2017-March 2018

<u>May</u>	Burglary x1
<u>August</u>	RTC x1
<u>September</u>	Criminal damage x1 ASB x1
<u>October</u>	Sexual offences x1
<u>November</u>	RTC x1
<u>December</u>	Theft x1
<u>February</u>	Domestic incident x1

PCSO Juliet Evans 6236
Rural Malmesbury Villages CPT
Wildlife Officer
juliet.evans@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

10 April 2018

St Peter and St Paul, Great Somerford

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2017

Church attendance

There were 52 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll as adopted at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 29th March 2017, five of whom were not resident within the parish. The average weekly attendance in church on a normal Sunday when there is a service is 20.

Review of the year.

The PCC met seven times during the year with an average level of attendance of 81%. The Standing Committee met informally as necessary between meetings and details of their deliberations were reported to the full PCC. As well as the normal administrative and financial matters which are standard agenda items, reports of the proceedings of Deanery Synod, the Woodbridge Council, and relevant matters from the reports from The Somerfords Walter Powell School were received and discussed.

As last year, much of the PCC's time has been spent on "Great Somerford 2020 Vision", Phase I being the re-roofing of the Church, and Phase II being the internal reorganisation and refurbishment. We are pleased to report that Phase I was completed in January 2017 and following the end of the maintenance period in July is now fully paid for at a cost to us of some £150,000.

The planning of Phase II continues apace. Under the Archdeacon's licence issued in June, the choir stalls were removed, as was the altar platform and carpet in the Sanctuary. This revealed a magnificent encaustic tiled floor which was a lovely surprise.

The revised draft reorganisation plans were submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee in September and they have been received positively. The various statutory bodies which need to be consulted, being the Church Buildings Council, Historic England, Wiltshire Council and the Victorian Society have recently (in December 17 and January 18) given their various opinions which are also generally supportive. These will be taken into consideration when submitting our formal faculty application which will also include a new heating system and necessary electrical work and an altered sound system.

Meanwhile Fundraising has continued throughout the year, and we go into 2018 with some £27,000 raised for Phase II.

Other important topics dealt with by the PCC during the year include the consideration and adoption of new Churchyard Rules and Regulations for the management of Churchyards. We also spent time on the adoption of a Baptisms policy in line with our fellow Woodbridge Churches. Most importantly, we continue to deal with and constantly update our Safeguarding Policies with regard to all aspects of 'church life', as well as for the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

We continue to maintain the agreed pattern of services at our church and have played our full part in promoting and taking forward initiatives in cooperation with the other parishes in the Woodbridge Group.

9 April 2018.

Health and Wellbeing report for Great Somerford Annual Parish Meeting April 2018

Firstly my apologies for not presenting this in person, I shall be at the Area Board meeting this evening.

My role has been commissioned for the forthcoming year and so I am still around to help and support the older and vulnerable people in the area. In the last 2 years I have supported over 15 people in the Parish giving information and guidance on a variety of issues including transport, finance, home safety and social activities in the area. You will appreciate that I am unable to give information on identifiable clients in the Parish and so would like to give some example case studies from around my patch. These are the ones which I feel show how my role differs from other work being done by Social Services etc.

Case study 1

This gent is in his 50's and a graduate with a background in the Civil Service and education. He was a high earner but gave up his job to care for a terminally ill family member. Following their death he has been coping on his own. His family live away and visit rarely.

He admits that he has had memory problems for "some years" which has remained undiagnosed until now. He is unable to work due to this and has used his savings to live. He is now significantly overdrawn at the bank and his only income is from a small private pension. His family are aware that he has memory problems but completely unaware of his financial situation.

When I first visited him, he had no heating and very little food. This man has never taken sick leave or claimed any benefits and is completely unaware of how the benefit system works. As well as some form of dementia, he suffers depression and anxiety. He was referred to me by the Care Co-ordinator at the surgery.

To date I have:

- Registered him for Universal Credit
- Requested a "fit note" from his GP. He will need this in order to receive UC
- Arranged his attendance at the Job Centre for interview re UC
- Applied (successfully) for a Surviving Winter grant of £300
- Delivered foodbank essential food and some vouchers for further food
- Given support by email on a weekly/fortnightly basis

His email is below, it means the world to me and makes my job so worthwhile:

"Firstly thank you for the items (foodbank supplies) you dropped into me today that was so kind of you, there are so many nice items it will change my life this week.

Kind people like you and the work you do will never be forgotten by the people you help along the way. You are truly an angel."

Case study 2

This lady has been known to me for a couple of years. She suffers PTSD and is slowly gaining confidence again. Over the last couple of years, I have seen her grow from a really isolated person who wouldn't go outdoors and kept all of her doors locked (rather scary when she locked us in!). She still has a way to go, but now goes out walking and supports an elderly neighbours. She was

hospitalised and effectively lost a large chunk of her life having no memories of that time. Sadly, no one considered her home during this time and she racked up huge debts with the utility companies. Fiercely independent, she has scrimped and saved, becoming a bit of a hunter gatherer as she walks and lives in a very cold house. She only heats her water once a week in order to shower, relying on cold water for the rest of the week. Her house is really cold! Because of this strategy, she is now mostly out of debt. The criteria for the Surviving Winter grant is that the household must be in Fuel Poverty, which she isn't as she has been paying off the debt. Thankfully, Wiltshire Community Foundation have a flexible approach and I was able to make a case for her to be accepted for the award and she was granted £300.

Her email quote:

"Thank Goodness for the keeping warm grant. Well needed with the snow over weekend! Thanks Ellen, would def been cold with that snowfall"

Me- It's a fab grant scheme. Donations are from those who receive the government pensioners winter grant automatically and don't need the money. About £70k in Wiltshire! They are the real heros!

"Wow that is really amazing. I have sent the organisation a card to say thank you. It is lovely. I know I would have struggled in this weather. I keep being told to keep warm by my support workers. I apparently had double pneumonia and was hospitalised before so they were a bit concerned. So it is nice that when they come the house is warmer now, so they know I am taking better care of myself.

Brilliant scheme and so appreciated."

Case study 3

This couple have had some illness over the last couple of months and now that things have settled down, realise that they could use some practical help. Mr has mobility problems and is rarely left alone. Mrs does pop out once per week for an hour to attend a local coffee morning and worries that he will be ok whilst she is out. Her main concern was that he usually tries to make himself a coffee, which he is safe to do, but is unable to carry it back to his chair to enjoy. He uses a "zimmer" but needed a method of carrying the cup. I offered a catalogue which gives examples of various walkers which have trays attached and should do the job. Whilst there, I noticed that he struggled to get out of his chair as it seemed too low for him. Also that Mrs used dining chair and she confessed that she couldn't use an armchair as it was too low. I asked if they had received an OT assessment when Mr was discharged from hospital. They explained that they had and that the chair risers were spoken of but never received (other things had been received). I contacted their surgery care coordinator to arrange for this to be sorted.

Case study 4

93 year old lady living alone and coping very well. She has noticed that she is starting to struggle to stand to prepare her vegetables etc. We discussed the matter and she felt that a "perching stool" would be the solution. I referred her to her surgery but she was told that it is a matter for Adult Social Care. I made the referral there but 3 weeks later the client had heard nothing. Chasing it up with ASC, I was told that they had tried calling her but got no response. My client eventually received a letter from ASC asking her to call them. She tried this, but gave up when her call still hadn't been taken after 40 minutes waiting. Another email from me and a simple phone conversation resulted in the perching stool being delivered 3 days later. This sort of problem is, sadly, not unique as our modern lives rely more and more on email and internet research, something which many people do not engage with.

From Maris Cole with apologies for not being able to attend the Annual Parish Assembly

Wiltshire Rural Arts Touring 2017/2018

Since the last Parish Annual Assembly two Rural Arts Touring shows have been staged in the village. In Spring 2017 live music and drama in "As the Crow Flies" told a true story about a woman befriending a crow. Imagine the six foot actor perfecting the movements of a crow - apart from actually flying!

Twelve days ago the charismatic Opera Dudes entertained a full house with songs and music from opera, shows, swing and ballads, drawing the audience in with their wit and humour. This was the seventeenth Rural Arts show that we have been lucky enough to have in our community and I have applied for another one in Spring 2019.

To present these shows I am blessed with a small team of kind helpers who work hard to make each occasion a pleasure for the performers and the audience. The Headteacher and staff at the school are very supportive too and St. Mary Lands Trust helps with the cost of hiring the premises. The Community Room facilities used in conjunction with the school hall for events such as these are exactly why the Parish Council invested financially in this school and community project in 1982.

Rural Arts Touring Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire:

- * is part of a national scheme
- * is delivered by The Pound Arts Trust Ltd. based at the Pound Arts Centre, Corsham
- * brings live, professional performances of music, theatre and dance to rural communities
- * offers a menu of performances for audiences of different ages
- * is supported by the Arts Council England, Wiltshire Council, South Gloucestershire Council
- * uses village volunteer promoters and helpers to organise the events
- * 30 villages took part this season staging 48 shows
- * 80% of the ticket sales go to Rural Arts Touring
- * 20% of the ticket sales stay in the village for a nominated purpose
- * so far the 20% village share has been given to the pre-school, school, church or The Signpost magazine

This year Wiltshire Council has imposed a 20% cut in support and anticipates a full cut to funding within four years. South Gloucestershire now gives a grant instead of regular funding. There have already been economies, price rises and efforts to raise other funds so that the scheme can continue.

Do continue to support Rural Arts events and if you have never been to one of the shows please put it on your 'To Do' list.