

Chairman's Report 2010

The Parish Council has met monthly, except August and December, during the past year and will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month(except August and December) beginning at 7.30pm. All members of the public are welcome.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their work during the past year and to Basil Miles for his efforts prior to his resignation towards the end of last year. At the same time I would like to introduce Councillor Paul Worthen as your most recent member of the Parish Council.

I also offer the thanks of the Parish Council 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 ,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. My apologies and thanks to any activities/volunteers I have missed.

Highlights

A path from the Old Police House to the school entrance has been constructed so that children and others do not have to walk in the road round this potentially dangerous corner. Wooden posts have been placed in the grassed area outside the school gates to prevent parking on this area

A permissive path along the river has been established and gates are being erected in certain places to aid access. Thanks to Councillor Toby Sturgis for this and the activities described in the previous paragraph.

A second notice board has been placed in the bus shelter and minutes, agendas and relevant Parish notices are routinely posted.

In the latter part of 2009 the villages of Great Somerford and Startley were asked if they would be prepared to support a loan, through the precept, to contribute to the building of the new village hall in Seagry;The Seagry,Startley and Great Somerford village Hall. The response was in favour of the financial support but the Great Somerford Parish Council requested more information on various aspects of the finances before making a decision. These details are being collected. The precept remains unchanged for 2010/2011.

A village party was held on the free Gardens last September and proved to be a great success. Another party will be held on July 18th. to coincide with National Allotment's Day. All are welcome.

The Free Gardens and allotments will be included in the Nation Gardens Scheme this year on Saturday 19th. and Sunday 20th. June

Bus service 91B was extended in September 2009 to go to the Health Centre and Cross Hayes Malmesbury for a trial period of six months. Thanks to Robin Farmer for his help in making this happen.

Tai Chi classes continue in the school hall on Wednesday evenings.

I am pleased to say that Steve Humphries is going to be our community police officer for the next two years.

Great Somerford has entered the Best Kept Village this year and a "clean up day" will take place on Saturday May 22nd.

The Community room has been painted and new curtains (thanks to Mrs. Bates) and curtain pole (thanks to Cllr. Cole) put in place. The Council thanks Iris and Arthur Scott for continuing to look after the Community Room despite their misfortunes during the past year. Arthur has made an excellent recovery following a serious car accident and we wish Iris a fast recovery following her recent hospital stay.