

DRAFT

**GREAT SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL (INCORPORATING STARTLEY)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM AT SOMERFORDS WALTER POWELL SCHOOL
ON WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 2016 THAT COMMENCED AT 7PM**

PRESENT: Cllr S Jevons – Chairman, Councillors: H Cole, D Butcher, A Scott, J Loader, A Cook, Mrs C Butler. Wiltshire Councillor T Sturgis, Mrs E Blacker, Health & Wellbeing Champion, Nina Miller – Walter Powell Pre-School, R Jefferson Somerford Walter Powell School. and Mrs. S Webb - Clerk + 6 members of the public

MINUTES

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all and thanking them for coming. He also explained that this was not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting for reporting to the community the activities of the Parish Council and local organisations.

- 01.16 **Apologies for absence** - Received from Councillors Hourigan and Hughes PCSO Durry Maule and Beat Manager, PC Porter
- 02.16 **Minutes of APM held on 8TH April 2015** - The minutes had been previously circulated. It was proposed and seconded that they are a true record and were signed by the Chairman and adopted.
- 03.16 **Matters Arising from above minutes** - There were no matters arising.
- 04.16 **Correspondence** - There was no correspondence received.
- 05.16 **Chairman's Report – Precise** The Parish Council met monthly and will continue to meet to meet monthly on the second Wednesday of the month (except August and December) commencing at 7.30pm. All members of the public and press are welcome. Agendas, minutes and relevant Parish notices continue to be routinely posted on the notice boards in Great Somerford and Startley and on the Great Somerford website. Brief notes of the PC meetings are also routinely placed in Signpost.

Thanks are relayed to Councillors for their work during the past year. I am pleased to say that there have been no changes in the PC membership during the past year.

Thanks 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, and 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. Our thanks also go to Mrs. Scott for her care and maintenance of the Community Room. Thanks also to our community Police Officer for the past year.

Last, but not least, on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank Sue for all her efforts and for keeping us on the straight and narrow over the past year. Apologies for any activities/volunteers missed.

Planning - Considered 22 applications – 10 tree surgery, 2 extensions, 1 new

builds, 9 others.

Projects - Defibrillator purchase

A defibrillator has been acquired on a four year rental basis. The cost is £450 per year and is funded via the precept and through the generous donations from parishioners; thanks to a collection initiated by Charlie Hopley. A “teach in” for use of the defib was given in October last year when over 20 people attended.

Carols around tree - This was a great success with over 60 people attending. Thanks to Loaded Gunn Ltd. for providing the Christmas Tree lights, the vicar and his wife for leading the carols and the Volunteer Inn for refreshments.

Clean for Queen - A good turnout for the clean-up ---thanks to all who took part.

Upkeep of the cemetery - The cemetery in Startley continues to be well maintained.

Best Kept Village success - Well done to all for the award of the CPRE award for best kept medium size village in Wiltshire and to John and Sandy McGrath for hosting the dignitaries at the award ceremony.

Search for a recreation area. - The PC has been considering the possibility of a new and larger recreation area that could be used by all age groups. Possible sites include The Glebe Field, The Free Gardens and the area near the football field. Anyone wishing to help should contact one of the PC group steering this project; Cllr. Butler, Butcher, Loader or Hughes.

Overseeing a Neighbourhood Plan. - This is the responsibility of the PC through a Steering Group of Cllr. Hourigan, John McGrath, Tony Gregson and Cllr Jevons. The required village consultation was held last August/September. Since then the NP document has undergone required evaluations by Wiltshire Council and it is hoped that the document will be ready for the formal six week Wiltshire Council consultation period in the next few weeks. The NP must then undergo review by an appointed inspector before coming for a parish referendum. The whole procedure is lengthy and we are just one village of many at this stage. It is likely to take up to another year before the NP can be formally adopted by Wiltshire Council. However, once submitted to Wiltshire Council it will be considered material consideration for planning purposes.

Highways - Dauntsey Road footpath

This has had its problems. Concern relating to safety of a lower than acceptable kerb height is still being pursued. There will also be a path laid from the edge of the Glebe Filed path to the school gate. It is also our intention to improve the path over the Glebe Field and for this we will need the help of willing villagers. The PC has contributed almost £8,000 in total towards the cost of the two new footpaths.

Safety at West Street and other areas - This is an ongoing concern that we are discussing on a regular basis with the council and with the police. The renewal of white lines is a constant request from the PC.

Green Lane improvements - The path has now been reinforced with hard core and I believe is much better.

Maintenance of ditches - Much work has been done in several areas including

West Street and Startley Road. Cllr. Loader has been looking after this aspect and thanks also to Cllr. Sturgis.

Grass cutting - The Parish Council continues to be responsible for arranging the mowing of certain grass verges in West Street and Manor Park as well as the path edges to the path from the Old Police House to the school.

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 this year.

There has been a massive tidy up of the allotments resulting in the filling of a very large skip. Thanks go to Cllr. Hourigan for organising the clear up and to Crapper for providing the skip and disposing of the rubbish FOC and to Cllr. Loader for arranging disposal of the many tyres uncovered. Thanks also to Cllrs. Scott, Butcher and Hourigan for overseeing the maintenance of the allotments.

Free Gardens Accounts.

Part of the monies held by the Free Gardens Trust have been invested in one year fixed term accounts and the annual interest earned used to finance the maintenance of the Free Gardens. Thanks to Cllr. Hughes for managing these accounts.

- 06.16 **Precept and Financial Account - Finance** - Grants/Donations – to- PCC £300, Signpost £100, Startley cemetery maintenance £500 - total £900

Money received other than the precept - £3,116 from S106 and used for the play area, £500 Young Farmers donation courtesy of Mrs. Dickinson. £200 BKV prize, £445 donation for defibrillator, £300 returned donation from Winter Mix, £116 grant for extra work carried out for the Transparency Code. – Total £5,735. + hire of hall payments which are significantly reduced this year, due to lack of use.

The precept was raised to £7,668 from £7,100 (approx. 8%) or by around £1.70 average per household per year. + grant of £22

Bank account balances as at 4th April 2016 – totalled £9,028.56. The precept monies for this coming financial year are yet to be received.

- 07.16 **Wiltshire Councillor Toby Sturgis** – Gave an up to date report. Mr Hopkins expressed concern relating to road works not being done in Great Somerford. Cllr Sturgis replied saying that Wiltshire Council is aware of what is needed, however more main roads are a higher priority, rural roads are not a high priority.

Thanks were passed to Cllr Sturgis.

- 08.16 **Wiltshire Police Report – Apologies were received from PCSO Maule a written report was provided as below:** In the previous 12 months to April 2016, the following incidents were reported in Great Somerford:

2 non-violent Domestic related incidents

1 Theft of a generator

4 Road Traffic Collisions, mainly minor except for broken bone injuries in a head

on in the 60mph part of West Street, where one driver veered in to the path of another

A house burglary in December which would appear to be part of a series of similar burglaries throughout the North and West of the county and on the Gloucestershire border where the offenders have specifically targeted elderly occupants, primarily in bungalows, during the afternoon-early evening, where they have not been deterred by the owners being in. Nothing was stolen on this occasion, but it is quite frightening for the occupant.

09.16 **Wiltshire Good Neighbour Scheme** - Ellen Blacker spoke on the following:

Now run through the Area Board under the title of Health & Wellbeing Champion. The new scheme is for all ages covering:

Information to assist with individuals to make decisions

Respond to calls of help

Support individuals to access provision & services

Support new activities.

A Get Together has been organised at the Activity Zone on the 6th and 7th May between 5-7pm All welcome.

Contact number is 07557 922020

Q What would be a typical problem A Lack of bus service elderly not being able to get to a shop or to keep appointments. Finance can also be a problem.

Parish magazines are a useful tool for networking. Also the Health Watch Wiltshire website.

Thanks were passed to Ellen for her presentation.

10.16 **Walter Powell CE Primary School** – The following report was circulated and spoken of by Richard Jefferson – Last OFSTED inspection was May 2012 rated Good. Objectives are: Develop Christian core values with the children in all three schools. To maximise the benefit of all three schools, retaining the identities of the individual schools. Extend the role of middle and senior leaders. To build on the relationship of all three pre-schools.

School Structure – Jill Rowe Executive Principal for Seagry and Christian Malford also, Lisa Shibley Assistant Head, there are 42 pupils. Three learning groups for Literacy, Maths and Science.

The School joined Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust in September 2015. It has a Joint Local Board combined with Seagry and Christian Malford in January 2016.

The school works with the community by being involved in many aspects of the community. The School Council recently organised a fun run for the church roof fund and raised £1,000.

A question was asked regarding any changes relating to the school becoming an academy. The pupils and parents should not experience any changes. The school still works to the national curriculum.

Thanks were passed to Mr Jefferson for presenting this report.

- 11.16 **Walter Powell Pre-School** – The following report was circulated and part presented by Nina Miller. Staff – 1 Play leader, 1 deputy and 1 volunteer Committee – group of 7 including 5 parents, 1 SWP member of staff and 1 WPPS member of staff. Delivering care to 7 children: 4 x 2-3 year olds and 3 x 3-4 year olds. Opening term time, Tues – Thurs, 9am – 3pm. Following Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, Last Ofsted inspection 2013 graded 'Good'. Bristol Standard awarded 2015. Successful fund-raising both independently and with SWP.

Curriculum: A play based curriculum, Free flow play indoors and outdoors allowing learning to happen in an environment where children are most comfortable. Further land given to pre-school to allow for 'mud-kitchen' and more outside play.

Challenges: Stability of the pre-school given low numbers of children and lack of continuity and consistency in management (committee). Recruiting staff and flexibility of current staff to work more days/hours. Need for volunteer(s) to give relief to staff and working parents required to come into pre-school on rota.

Vision: To safeguard the future of the pre-school and ensure current 'good' education continues and/or improves. To improve governance of the pre-school by giving it more stability and better quality support. To give staff more secure employment and wider career development opportunities. To increase number of children at pre-school through marketing and possible toddler group. To build on and continue to improve the relationship between the pre-school and the school, to improve transition from WPPS to SWP for children.

Volunteers are needed Tuesday – Thursday between 10.30am – 12noon.

Thanks were passed to Nina for presenting this report.

- 12.16 **St Peter & St. Paul Church** – Anna Kent prepared and part presented the following report –

A roof inspection was made in August with a local stone roofer. The state of the roof was found to be in urgent need of complete replacement. A bat survey was carried out in September and confirmed the presence of at least two types of bats, necessitating the requirement for a licence to carry out roof works and to re-house the bats during the works. The architect drew up the necessary specification, drawings and condition survey to apply for a faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), which has been approved and certified for the re-roofing under its new powers, i.e. without the need to involve the Diocesan Chancellor or other authorities.

A QS estimate/bill of quantities was obtained for these works at approx. £240,000. Consideration has been made to make savings on these costings and is on-going. An approach was made to the Parish Council for help with funding via the Public Works Loans Board and an increase in the Parish Precept to fund a gift to the Church over a period of 50 years. The Parish Clerk looked into this possibility however was told that she would need to gain a certain qualification to apply and

if applied for, that it would be very unlikely for this to be approved.

Fundraising started in earnest in late 2015. A committee was set up with Anna Kent in the Chair, and grants were applied for under the leadership of Alison Davies and Rich Jefferson. The Listed Places of Worship (LPOW) Roof Repair Grant was prepared and submitted in February 2016 in the sum of £99,800 – the maximum being £100,000. We will get a result after their board meeting on the 28 June. If favourable, three other grants (for which we have applied) may also be forthcoming. Application has also been made to the Garfield Weston Trust in the sum of £40,000, albeit this covers both the roof and the internal re-ordering works to follow. It should be noted that no other government grant schemes are available to us at this time, having applied via the LPOW scheme.

To date funds raised or pledged amount to a little over £70,000, mainly from private donors, fundraising and £18,000 from the Landfill Trust via Entrust. If the LPOW grant is forthcoming, we expect to have sufficient funds for work to start in September 2016. This is an opening fitting with the presence of bats in the roof (otherwise we must wait for April), weddings booked for 2016, and in view of the extreme urgency to complete this work before further damage occurs to the interior of the building.

Should the LPOW Grant application fail, we will have the opportunity to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other such schemes.

Invitations to tender have gone out to 8 approved contractors for return later this month. The contract will be awarded in good time. The team heading this contract are:

Architect: John Malaiperuman, Building Surveyor: John Grosscurth – i/c CDM, H & S, Contract Supervision, Contract Administrators: Alison Davies, Steve Wilkinson, Grant supervisor: Rich Jefferson

Plus members of the Fabric Committee: Anna Kent, Basil Miles, Richard Wood and Roger Lee.

Thanks were passed to Anna Kent for presenting this report.

- 13.16 **Village Activities – Cllr Hector Cole** – Local Arts are performed locally in the Community room and the School hall. Many of the performances are sold out. The money raised partly goes to local organisations like the school and pre-school and part paid back to the Arts.

Thanks were passed to Cllr Cole for this report.

- 14.16 **Any Other Business** - Public questions as follows:
Kieth Hopkins mentioned the nuisance hedges in the village. This was noted together with the areas of concern.

Sally McEwen mentioned the recent ditch which has been dug out between Quack Quacks and West Street where all the dirt has been piled on the verge making it dangerous for pedestrians/motorists alike as there is no safe area to take when necessary. Cllr Sturgis agreed to look into getting the dirt removed.

Robin Gow commended the Parish Council for initiating the Dauntsey Road footpath – however mentioned that drainage works which were to be carried out have not been done. Mr Gow was asked to email the problem either to the Clerk or Chairman.

Sally McEwen expressed that she had lived in the village for 3 to 4 years and had noted the differences the Parish Council had made. She passed her thanks to all members and Clerk for all their hard work.

Closure of meeting - The Chairman thanked all for coming and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.