

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT SOMERFORD
(INCORPORATING STARTLEY) PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM AT SOMERFORDS WALTER POWELL SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2017 THAT COMMENCED AT 7.30pm.**

PRESENT: Cllrs S Mansfield-Chairman, H Cole, A Scott, S Binstead, F Hyde, A Gravell, M Hourigan, C Blount, Wiltshire Cllr T Sturgis and 2 members of the public

Public Participation – Mrs Davies raised a number of issues :-

1. There has been an increase in the amount of dog excrement in West Street.

Notice to be included in Signpost reminding Parishioners that it is a criminal offence to not clean up after dogs have defecated in the street. Persistent offenders should be notified to the PC who will report to the Dog Warden at WCC

2. “SLOW” signs in West Street on corner by Manor House are practically illegible – this is a very dangerous corner

This is a WCC responsibility – they cite lack of funds. PC to complain to head of Highways citing dangerous nature of the corner

3. Street lamp by pumping station on West Street is obscured by overgrown hedge.

Cllr Gravel stated that the hedge has been cut back as much as possible at present. PC to report to WCC about position of lamp.

4. Play Area – this is covered in section 9.10.17

5. Jubilee Gardens. Grass cutting and replacement of 3rd bench. This is not a PC matter but will be dealt with in the Free Gardens meeting that follows the PC meeting.

The chairman thanked Mrs Davies for her contribution.

Non-Agenda Item - The chairman welcomed Cllr Blount to his first meeting

1.10.17	Apologies for Absence. None – All present
2.10.17	Minutes The minutes of the Great Somerford Parish Council meeting held on 13 th September 2017 were signed by the chairman and adopted as a true record.
3.10.17	Declarations of Interest Cllr Scott declared an interest in the Community Room Review of Members Register of Interests. Has been updated to include Cllr Blount and amendment for Cllr Binstead. Cllr Blount had previous to the meeting signed the declaration
4.10.17	Wiltshire Council update Cllr Sturgis announced a new policy on housing market areas and annual land availability. This is joint between Swindon and North Wilts and seeks to build the same number of houses each year until 2036 but added that our neighbourhood plan still stands. He suggested that Parish Councils should review the policy Action – Cllr Cole to initially look at the policy and advise the members on areas of interest Cllr Sturgis was asked about the effectiveness of the “Wiltshire App”; he replied that incidents raised on it are taken seriously but that often budget restraints are the reason for there being no resolution but added that the more people who complain about any particular topic, the more likely it is to be fixed

5.10.17	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p>Cllr Cole reported on the following applications :-</p> <p>17/08830/TCA 2 Paddock Close, fell 6 Leylandii Approved</p> <p>17/08446/TCA The Volunteer, fell Ash, reduce crowns to 3 others Approved</p> <p>17/08853/TCA 1 The Forge, fell conifer and Elder Awaiting Decision</p> <p>17/08936/TCA Tangles, fell dead Oak Approved</p> <p>17/09166/TCA The Close Top Street, various tree reductions Awaiting Decision</p> <p>17/08788/FUL Field End Upper Seagry, rear extension. Not our Parish; info only</p> <p>17/08892/FUL Clove House Startley, two storey and first floor extension No Objections</p> <p>17/07909/FUL The Hawthorns Startley, extension rear and side, garage, porch Concern over overlooking adjacent property, no other objections</p> <p>17/09101/FUL Heathlands Startley, extensions alterations No Objections</p> <p>17/09234/LBC Manor Farm, West Street, fenestration alterations Concern that window pane size should be same as other windows in the property</p> <p>17/02820/OUT Brook Farm, eight houses Approved</p> <p>Trees in Manor Park Has been raised but amendment required “To Raise the Canopy”, not the Crown</p> <p>The difficulty of reviewing complex documents on-line was raised. Cllr Hourigan offered to print these at cost. Also suggested that a PC Projector could be used at PC meetings. No decision reached</p>
6.10.17	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>a) White Lining / Potholes – Of the 23 incidents raised on the Wiltshire App 11 have been executed, 2 rejected and the remainder yet to be appraised. Repairs have been undertaken in Winkins Lane – it was felt by the members that the quality of the repairs was woefully inadequate; some are already breaking up. Cllr Sturgis said that these repairs are of necessity temporary until there are enough to warrant permanent repair (e.g. a whole day’s work) It is necessary to keep on reporting these incidents if the repair is inadequate</p> <p>Cllr Mansfield to write to WCC about this</p> <p>WCC have stated that all white lines, stop signs etc. will be re-painted when funds allow</p> <p>b) Parish Steward/Priority Log – Cllr Mansfield is meeting with Matt Perrot in Great Somerford on 31st October. Topics will include white lining and West Street Lamp</p> <p>c) Temporary closure C66 Great Somerford Road (Part), Seagry. Cllr Hyde will relay this information on Facebook</p>
7.10.17	<p>‘Abandoned’ Vehicles</p> <p>Cllr Blount is in contact with Little Somerford PC to share intelligence. There is, however, little that can be done about vehicles that are just parked unless they are illegally parked (e.g. no tax – in which case the Police can tow them away and have them crushed) or an obstruction (again, a matter for the Police)</p>

8.10.17	<p>Community Room</p> <p>Cllr Hyde reported that she had been in contact with the school administrator to find out who has keys – it is apparently not known. It was suggested that a combination lock be fitted – this would have no effect as the school would still need the combination and the spread of information would make it less secure not more.</p> <p>Cllr Scott reminded all that we must not ‘isolate’ the school as they do use the room frequently. He also stated that there have been no more incidents of the room being left unlocked.</p> <p>Issue Closed</p>
9.10.17	<p>Play Area</p> <p>Cllr Cole reported that all bolts bar one on the see-saw had been replaced. Needs cleaning and a coat of paint. He further commented that no-one in the village had come forward to offer their services in this respect..</p> <p>Suggestions have been made by Parishioners that the play-area should be made more appealing to children (e.g. like that in Sutton Benger). It was pointed out that the play-area was originally funded by villagers, not the PC although the PC does own it and is responsible for maintenance. It was suggested that an association be formed of interested villagers together with the PC to run and improve the area. Cllr Sturgis said that Lea have a management committee for theirs, why not talk to them.</p> <p>Action – Cllr Hyde to initially contact villagers via Facebook to determine interest</p>
10.10.17	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>No further action is required from the PC. The Decision Statement produced by WCC shows that ALL of Mr Slater's recommendation has been acted upon. There is a replacement Appendix for the NP on the WCC web-site showing what changes have been made. Next step is for the Electoral Services to announce the date for the referendum – this is expected in the near future. Once we know this the PC will make a last mail-shot to strongly suggest that all eligible parishioners should vote and to explain what the changes actually are.</p>
11.10.17	<p>Cemetery Matters – Nothing to report</p>
12.10.17	<p>Walking the Parish Footpaths</p> <p>Report received from Cllrs Binstead and Hourigan. Majority of footpaths are OK, some have broken/unstable stiles</p> <p>The PC must approach landowners to remind them of their duties. There is difficulty in knowing who owns the land on which the footpaths run – Cllr Sturgis offered to help identify the owners</p> <p>Action – Cllr Binstead to indicate to Cllr Sturgis which paths need work done</p>
13.10.17	<p>Employment of new Parish Clerk</p> <p>Sub-Committee of Cllrs Mansfield, Cole, Binstead and Blount to identify pay scales, hours of working and contractual issues. Cllr Blount specifically to look into provision of IT equipment</p> <p>Note – It was agreed that the Clerk also be responsible for the Agenda/Minutes of the Free Gardens</p>

14.10.17	<p>Finance</p> <p>Receipts since 13th September 2017 - £96.50</p> <p>Payments since 13th September - £242.42</p> <p>Bank Account balances as at 25th September 2017 (last statement) – Current account - £19,011.16, Deposit account - £3,716.52 total £22,727.68</p> <p>Agreed to accept Finance Report with no changes</p> <p>A half-year review of the annual budget indicates that we will be underspent this FY by approx £10,000 – of that, about £4,000 is due to having no clerk at present and a £3,000 grant for the play area as yet unspent. This leaves about £3,000 unspent. It was suggested and agreed that the PC should assist the Free Gardens with their grass cutting costs.</p> <p>Cllr Binstead to raise cheque for £300.00 for the Great Somerford PCC. The chairman suggested that, as this annual amount has not changed for many years, consideration should be given to raising it during the next budget round</p>
15.10.17	<p>Correspondence as received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) e-mail from Mrs Davies – Free Gardens and Play Area, dog excrement in West Street, Street lighting and white lines/signs b) e-mail from Mrs Jevons – dog excrement c) Guide Troop asking that chairman visit to explain the duties of a councillor. Chairman will invite guides to a Parish Meeting and is willing to give them a talk about our duties d) Briefing Note on Community Assets. Cllr Blount asked to investigate what needs to be done when an ‘asset’ is in danger and also what constitutes an ‘asset’ e) Data Protection Registration has been renewed
16.10.17	<p>Councillors Reports and items for the next agenda.</p> <p>Next meeting is 8th November 2017 commencing at 7.30pm</p>

MEETING CLOSED AT 21.00 Hrs.