
LITTLE SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 7 May 2019 at 7.15 p.m. In the Village Hall

Present Cllr Sharp (Chair) T M Chapman (Clerk)
Cllr Cameron
Cllr Carruthers Wiltshire Cllr Sturgis
Cllr Frayling
Cllr D Orchard Richard Griffin (Parent Governor at the School)
Cllr S Orchard
Cllr Webb 18 members of the public

*# Copies of written reports presented at the meeting can be seen on the village website
<http://www.littlesomerfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/>*

19APM.1. **Apologies for Absence**
There were none.

19APM.2. **Declaration(s) of Interest**
There were no new declarations. The members' register of interests is up to date.

19APM.3. **Minutes and Matters Arising**
The Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish meeting were **approved** and **signed** by the Chair. Proposed: Cllr Frayling; seconded Cllr Cameron. Attendees were updated on the two matters arising –purchase of a fully automatic Physio Control Defibrillator and the approach to Network Rail concerning damage to verges.

19APM.4. **The Chairman's report**
Cllr Sharp welcomed all attendees and outlined key achievements of the Council over the past 12 months culminating in the repainting of the cemetery gate and railings by a group of volunteers from Nationwide. She drew attention to attendance by Councillors at Core Competency Roles & Responsibilities training provided by Community First and the forthcoming Planning Training session.

There was a complaint about the random dumping of quantities of books in the Telephone Kiosk Book Exchange. Cllr Sharp will tidy up and there will be a further reminder in the Signpost magazine on the subject of "Bring One Take One".

19APM.5. **# Financial report for the year to 31 March 2019 and the 2019/20 budget**
The 2018/19 figures have been signed off by internal audit and come to Parish Council for formal approval next month. The Council made an in year surplus of £1,144 and ended with £11,772 in the bank, the equivalent of just over 12 months' typical spend. The main source of recurrent income is the Precept (Council Tax) though the year benefitted from a grant from the Malmesbury League of Friends towards the purchase of a defibrillator. Other than the defibrillator the main expenditure is on salary for the Clerk (15 hours per month) and grass cutting.

The Council has set a £230 deficit budget for 2019/20 to allow it to invest in non-recurrent maintenance works to the cemetery (gravel path and repaint of the railings). The Precept has increased by £500 to £9,000 which equates to £1.75 p.a. extra per band D household.

19APM.6. **Parish Council Briefings**

i **Community Emergency Plan** – Cllr D Orchard

Cllr Orchard outlined key points in the plan, a copy of which can be found in the pub, the Church and the Village Hall as well as on the website. He stressed that it does not replace emergency services but does provide useful contacts/guidance in the case of local issues.

ii **# Millennium Green Trust** – Cllr D Sharp

The Trust is a registered charity and owns and manages the Village Green. Its sole trustee is the Parish Council and its only remaining funds (£698.25) are being transferred to the Parish Council to cover the costs of grass cutting.

Attendees were canvassed for their reaction to the suggestion from one resident that a village BBQ or street party be held on the Green this year. There was some support for the concept plus recommendations that (i) some children's activities be included to encourage young families to attend; (ii) music or Morris dancing be considered; (iii) due care and attention be given to road safety.

The Parish Council Trustee will consider this further but will need several volunteers to come forward if such an event is to take place.

Action MGT Meeting June

19APM.7. **Village Matters**

i **Speed Watch Group** - Mrs S Free

Mrs Free reported that the Speed Watch Group can only be active every 2 months as it shares a speed gun with Dauntsey. It is effective when out as cars slow down. Speeding drivers receive warning letters from the Police. She asked Wiltshire Cllr Sturgis if he could accelerate the village's request to Wiltshire Council for Speed Watch signs which was submitted over a year ago; the signs have not been forthcoming despite multiple chasing phone calls, emails etc.

Action Wilts Cllr Sturgis

She led a discussion on the possibility of a procuring a Speed Awareness Digital Sign which will (i) be expensive (ii) require trained volunteers to reposition it every couple of weeks and recharge batteries etc. Two residents indicated willingness to be trained. The Parish Council re-iterated that it would consider the matter in November.

Agenda November

ii **# School Report** - Mr Griffin

Parent Governor Mr Griffin reported that the School has a rating of "Good" in both its OFSTED and SIAMS inspections. The School is an Academy, part of the Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust, and the Board of Governors covers the three schools in the Somerfords, Seagry and Christian Malford. The new Head teacher is Andrea Kaye.

There are 47 children on roll but the pre-school numbers look low. Funding is tight but the School still manages to provide a broad curriculum to pupils. Three classes are run in the morning covering Maths, Literacy and Science. The afternoon classes are mixed ages and feature outdoor activity and crafts amongst other subjects.

iii **Village Hall**

This is run by a committee of volunteers which is seeking new members. It has 6 meetings

a year plus an annual maintenance day (8 June). Income is tight and drawn from lettings plus a 200 Club. There are concerns about possible constraints on parking. It was noted that the Parish Council had written to support their concerns. Wiltshire Cllr Sturgis will raise the issue in his forthcoming meeting with Network Rail.

Action Wilts Cllr Sturgis

19APM.8. Public Bodies

- i **# Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Champion report** – Mrs E Blacker
Mrs Blacker was unable to attend the meeting so Cllr Sharp summarised the key themes of her report as being transport (Link Schemes), work helping with finance, dementia and loneliness. A website is being developed to provide one stop information hub about Clubs and other activities that may otherwise be "hidden" courtesy of the invisible parish boundaries created by the different village magazines.
- ii **# Wiltshire Council report** - Wiltshire Cllr Toby Sturgis
Wiltshire Cllr Sturgis reported on the priorities of Wiltshire Council as being to protect the vulnerable, boost the economy and support local communities. The library service, for example, which offers digital access opportunity, has been maintained. 180 council houses were built in 2018/19 with 49 started this year. 4 contracts for broadband are rolling out fibre optic connectivity across the county.

The Wiltshire Council budget is now substantially funded by domestic council tax and business rates with little reliance of government grants. The increase of digital gives 24/7 access to Council services and is cost-effective.

He spoke of the ongoing investment in roads, the problems of litter, 16% waste to landfill and other issues, all of which are covered in the comprehensive "Annual Town & Parish Council Report 2018/19" which will be accessible from a link in the Reports Appendix of these minutes.

iii **# Wiltshire Police**

There had been eleven incidents involving the police in the Little Somerford area during the period April 2018 and January 2019. The statistics were taken from
<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/848/Crime-Map-for-Wiltshire-North>.

19APM.9. Public Question Time

There being no further questions or matters arising the meeting closed at **8.30** p.m.

Approved



Chair

Date

