

# LITTLE SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Little Somerford Village Hall

### Minutes

#### Present

Cllr P Cameron (Chair)  
Cllr D Orchard

Cllr J Fairbairn  
Cllr S Orchard

#### In Attendance

R Nuttall (Clerk)

Wiltshire Cllr Threllfall

#### Public Question Time

No public questions

#### Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives

Cllr Threllfall reported that there is a back-log within Wiltshire Planning Department and applications are taking longer to process.

Cllr Threllfall will follow-up with Wiltshire Council Planning Enforcement officer on two planning issues in Little Somerford.

22/01/1

**Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Minshell, Cllr Frayling  
To note that Cllr Frayling has resigned from the Parish Council

22/01/2

**Declarations of Interest** There were no new declarations of interest.

22/01/3.1

**Minutes and Matters Arising** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.  
Proposed: Cllr D Orchard; Seconded: Cllr Fairbairn

22/01/3.2

It was agreed that all items shaded green on the Action Register were completed.

**21/03/9.2** Raised Walkway - One quote of £45k has been received  
The Parish Council will seek further quotes and request community assistance in applying for grants towards this project

22/01/4.1

**Planning Matters**  
**Planning Applications** - No new applications for consideration

22/01/4.2 The Parish Council ratified the following decisions made between meetings.  
**PL/2021/10957** Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area  
Site Address: Pound House, The Street, Little Somerford, SN15 5JW No objection

**PL/2021/10327** Erection of new private stables, hay barn and secure store,  
Site Address: Land off Clay Street Little Somerford SN15 5BP No objection

**PL/2021/11284** Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area  
Site Address: THE OLD STATION HOUSE, GREAT SOMERFORD, SN15 5JA  
No objection

22/01/4.3 No applications determined by Wiltshire Council.

22/01/5 **Finance & Audit**

22/01/5.1 **To approve Payments & Receipts**

The Finance report was received, and the Parish Council ratified and approved payments of £1930.93 and £50.00; and noted receipts of £455.14

There were two emergency payments made between meetings £456 for Playground bark, required in response to RoSPA report and £306 for defibrillator batteries which failed due to heated unit being switched off.

Proposed: Cllr D Orchard; seconded Cllr Cameron

The Councillors considered the quotes before it for replacement fences & gates and agreed to the work being completed by Willis Bros. This forms part of the works to the Community Orchard / Allotment / Cemetery area.

22/01/5.2 The Receipts and Payments to the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were noted and the bank reconciliation for October, November and December signed by the Chair.  
The current account stands at £12347 and the year-to-date surplus is £3974.

22/01/5.3 **To approve the budget for 2022/12 including Capital Project items.**

The Parish Council had before it the budget for 2022/23. The budgeted expenditure for 2022/23 is £14150 and includes normal recurrent spend plus a Capital Project to improve fences and gates.

The Parish Council **approved** the final budget and financial forecast budget for 2022/23. Approving this budget does mean that the Council is approving a budget deficit for 2022/23.

Proposed: Cllr D Orchard; seconded: Cllr Cameron

The Councillors discussed a suggestion to replace the bark at the park with rubber matting. As no definitive cost was available, and it was considered that this would be very costly (£50-80 per metre plus labour) it was decided that the bark currently laid would suffice for the time being. Rubber matting can be considered for the 2023 budget, a fully costed (including grant funding) proposal will be required.

## 22/01/5.4

A table of different Precept rates was considered based on the tax base figure of 185.75. The table showed the annual cash difference per band D household of different levels of possible Precept.

The Parish Council recognised the need to increase its Precept. It determined to set the Precept Request at £10,500 which equates to an annual rise for a band D household of £2.73

Proposed: Cllr Cameron; seconded Cllr S Orchard.

The Clerk was tasked to submit this to Wiltshire Council by 18 January.

**Action: clerk**

Setting the Precept Request at £10,500 does mean that the Council is approving a budget deficit for 2022/23, to be met from reserves

22/01/5.5

The Parish Council had before it 5 quotes for the Grass Cutting Contract which is for 2 years from April 2022. The quotes were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Parish Council decided to award the contract to Company E, which was not the cheapest quote received, but was felt to best align with the Parish Council Wildlife Friendly Village aims.

Proposed: Cllr D Orchard Seconded: Cllr Fairbairn

22/01/6

22/01/6.1

See online <https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/TownAndParish/ROI/Council/742>

22/01/6.2

**Action: Clerk**

## 22/01/7.1

The Parish Steward will be asked fill various potholes including one at Dauntsey Road railway bridge and main road in front of Old Smithy. National Speed Limit sign missing at Field View, drainage gullies at Dauntsey Road bridge to be cleared.

**Action: Clerk**

22/01/8.1

22/01/8.2

22/01/8.3

The Parish Councillors would encourage a joint Great and Little Somerford Beacon, to be held on private land between the villages.

The Councillors considered a request from Great Somerford for a donation to the Street Party to be held for both villages in GS on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.



The Councillors resolved to gauge interest (via Social Media, having already put out in Signpost) in Little Somerford for an event to be organised on Friday or Saturday to which GS residents would also be invited. If no organising offers are forth-coming, the Parish Council agreed to make a donation of £750 to Great Somerford for the Street Party.

Proposed: Cllr D Orchard; Seconded: Cllr S Orchard

- 22/01/8.4 **Christmas 2021** The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who attended the Carols on the Green, £246 was donated to the Salvation Army. Thanks also Brian Birken-Hewitt, Pam & David Matthews, Stuart Fraying, Martin Scott and Somerford Plumbing. It is unfortunate that the lights on the Christmas tree were vandalised. The Councillors agreed to a spend of up to £100 for new Christmas Lights.  
Proposed: Cllr Cameron; Seconded: Cllr D Orchard

It was agreed to purchase a rooted Christmas tree **Action: Cllrs D & S Orchard**

- 22/01/9 Clerk's Correspondence – the responses from James Gray MP and Wessex Water regarding pollution of River Avon were noted.

**Update on Standing items.**

- 22/01/10.1 **Allotment and Paddock** no update

- 22/01/10.2 **Cemetery** no update, it was requested that the Clerk sent a letter of thanks regarding the hedge cutting

- 22/01/10.3 **Emergency Plan**

- 22/01/10.4 **Website** video from defibrillator training to be put on website.

**Action: Cllr D Orchard**

- 22/01/10.5 **Footpaths & Rights of Way** no further update

- 22/01/10.6 **Defibrillator** – batteries and pads replaced, spare pads stored with defib.

- 22/01/10.7 **Play Park** – request to check when warranty expires  
Depth of bark to be checked to ensure it follows RoSPA guidance

**Action: Clerk**

**Action: Cllr Cameron**

- 22/01/10.8 **Telephone Book Exchange** – lots of old and damaged books were left here, and have been removed by Cllr S Orchard, further note in Signpost

**Action: Clerk**

- 22/01/10.9 **Wildlife Friendly Village** – Westlea to be contacted re outstanding tasks

**Action: Cllr Cameron**

- 22/01/11 **Dates for Future Meetings - 2022- 1 March, 3 May**  
It was suggested that the local Police are invited to the AGM.