

LITTLE SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 1st November 2022 Little Somerford Village Hall

Minutes

Present

Cllr P Cameron (Chair)
Cllr D Matthews

Cllr J Fairbairn
Cllr S Orchard
Cllr C Minshell (part)

In Attendance

R Nuttall (Clerk)

Wiltshire Cllr Threlfall

Public Question Time

No public questions.

Cllr Minshell stated that she was considering her position on the Parish Council following the public being requested to litter pick in a 50mph zone at the recent event. She had previously expressed concerns on this. She felt that the public should not be expected to do this and that the Parish Council would be liable should there be an accident.

The Parish Councillors stated they had a full risk assessment for the event. (The risk assessment included all those involved having a full understanding of the tasks involved and that they did so at their own risk; 'slow' warning signs were used to alert motorists). However it was agreed that future litter picks would not include the B4042.

Cllr Minshell agreed to consider her position over the next few weeks. Cllr Minshell left the meeting.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone for their participation on the day and anytime to keep our village tidy.

Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives

Wiltshire Council are compiling a document of useful links for winter support, and a map of warm spaces. Cllr Threlfall will send to the clerk. Advice is also available from the library.

Two properties are still being monitored by the Planning Enforcement officer.

22/11/1 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr D Orchard

22/11/2 **Declarations of Interest** There were no new declarations of interest.

22/11/3.1 **Minutes and Matters Arising** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6th September 2022 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Cameron; Seconded: Cllr Fairbairn

22/11/3.2 It was agreed that all items shaded green on the Action Register were completed.

22/11/4.1 **Planning Matters**

Planning Applications

PL/2022/07763– Ashleigh, The Hill, Little Somerford – Erection of detached garage
The Parish Council were concerned with the scale of this – height and footprint, and the proximity to the road, when all other buildings on The Hill are set back from the road. The Parish Councillors would be disappointed to subsequently receive an application for change of use to residential

PL/2022/07388 – Yew Tree Farm – New Porch, internal alterations plus outbuildings.
The Parish Councillors were concerned about the size of the proposed outbuildings in relation to the existing buildings. They would be disappointed to receive a subsequent application for the outbuildings for change of use to residential or holiday let. Otherwise No Objection.

PL/2022/08242 Pound House – Tree Works. The Parish Council has No Objection to this application.

22/11/4.2 **To ratify decisions made between meetings**

PL/2022/07388 Dove House – tree works – No Objection

PL/2022/07387 Manor Farm – tree works – No Objection

22/11/4.3 **Applications Determined by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting.**

PL/2022/01429 Somerford Arms – retention of marquee for a period of 3 months.
Approved with conditions.

22/11/5 **Finance**

22/11/5.1 **To approve Payments & Receipts**

The Finance report was received, and the Parish Council ratified and approved payments of £3985.16 and £308.38; and noted receipts of £6560.72.
Proposed: Cllr S Orchard; seconded Cllr Fairbairn

22/11/5.2 The Receipts and Payments to the 18th October were noted and the bank reconciliation for September signed by the Chair.
The current account stands at £14834 and the year-to-date surplus is £5032

22/11/5.3 **Draft Budget Considerations 2023/24**

It was noted that the Precept request had not yet been received from Wiltshire Council, the purpose of considering the draft budget was for the Councillors to be aware of standing costs whilst also considering projects for 2023/24

The Parish Council had before it a budget showing no precept or capital project costs to indicate all standing costs. Councillors were asked to obtain costs for suggested projects including a Speed Indicator Device and the Walkway to Great Somerford; also any other projects which may be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

Action: Cllrs

The final budget and financial forecasts will be signed off in January.

iv The Fixed Asset Register was reviewed and agreed as correct.

v The Parish Council had before it three tenders for tree works at the Paddock. They decided to award the work to Acer Tree Surgeons, based on costs. **Action: Clerk**

22/11/6 Governance

22/11/6.1 Playpark

The RoSPA report was received, and actions noted. The Councillors agreed to purchase 4 x bags of play bark. The goal posts will be repaired.

22/11/7.1 Highways Matters

The Parish Steward has been asked to clear the footpath and drain along The Street, clear the gullies under Dauntsey Road bridge, fill in potholes at the post box and cut the grass along the raised walkway.

22/11/7.2 **Bollards in Mill Lane** The clerk was asked to write to the property owner in response to a complaint regarding the small bollards at the end of Mill Lane. **Action: Clerk**

22/11/8.1 **Carols on the Green** will be on 16th December on Millennium Green, accompanied by Salvation Army band. Village Hall booked in case of bad weather Christmas Tree to be organised. **Action: Cllr Cameron & Cllr Matthews**

22/11/8.2 Defibrillator

Following the recent battery issues, the Parish Councillors considered whether there should be a spare battery to allow for continuity of cover in the future. It was decided that it was not economical, and the question arose of storage and availability should the battery required. It was agreed not to purchase a back-up/spare battery as one could be purchased and delivered within 48 hours. It was agreed to hold a Defibrillator training session in March

Action: Cllrs Cameron & Fairbairn

22/11/8.3 Footpaths & Rights of Way – Self-Closing Gates

Malmesbury LFHIG have agreed a grant towards 10 self-closing gates on ROW 7,9, and 10. Parish Council will need to contribute approximately £600. On-going actions around securing licence (Stephen Leonard) and installation. Wiltshire Cllr Threllfall will assist. **Action: Cllr Minshell**

22/11/8.4 Positive Conduct Charter

The Parish Councillors considered the Positive Conduct Charter and agreed for the Chair to sign the Charter on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was noted that there are now 3 new email addresses for Councillors to use.

chair@littlesomerfordparishcouncil.gov.uk,

vicechair@littlesomerfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

councillor@littlesomerfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

22/11/9 Clerk's Correspondence – none

Update on Standing items.

22/11/10.1 **Allotment and Paddock** new fences and gates have been fitted; a grant has been received from the Landfill Tax Fund towards this. All rents for the next 12 months have been paid.

22/11/10.2 **Cemetery** edging around memorial garden is rotten and needs replacing. Wildflower seeds have been sown. Acer Tree Surgeons to be asked to advise on any tree works required. **Action: Clerk**

22/11/10.3 **Emergency Plan** to be printed out and copies located in Village Hall, Church, phone box and Somerford Arms. **Action: Cllr Fairbairn**

22/11/10.4 **Website** no updates

22/11/10.5 **Telephone Book Exchange** – to be tidied up

22/11/10.6 **Wildlife Friendly Village** – Wildflowers have been cut down and seeds sown, there are 4 bird boxes to be put up. Thank you to everyone who helped with the grass and seed planting.

22/11/10.7 **Raised Walkway** – A grant application has been made to Malmesbury LFHIG; Wiltshire Council are arranging a site visit to progress. **Action: Cllr Cameron**

22/11/11 **Dates for Future Meetings**
2023 – 10th January, 7th March, 9th May (APCM), 6th June, 4th July, 5th September, 7th November.