

# LITTLE SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Little Somerford Village Hall

### Minutes

**Present** Cllr P Cameron (Chair) Cllr J Fairbairn  
Cllr D Orchard Cllr S Orchard

**In Attendance** R Nuttall (Clerk) Wiltshire Cllr Threllfall (part)

**Public Question Time**  
No public questions.

#### Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives

Wiltshire Council are prioritising pothole repair. Members of the public are encouraged to report any potholes and blocked gullies and flooding using the MyWilts app.

Bus Fares are currently capped at £2 per single journey until the end of March; this utilises a Government subsidy to encourage people to use public transport.

The raised walkway has been visited and it was reported that the structure is essentially sound but that there are safety issues concerning the height and lack of fencing. Wiltshire Council is not able to offer a grant for this.

Wiltshire Council recommends that Parish Council organised litter picks should only be in areas of a 30mph or lower speed limit.

The Clerk was tasked with contacting the current insurance company, NALC and Keep Britain Tidy for further advice on Litter Picking on 30+ mph roads.

23/01/1 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr D Matthews.  
Prior to the meeting Cllr Cameron had received a resignation notice from Cllr Minshell. Wiltshire Council to be informed. Thanks were expressed to Caroline Minshell for all her hard work on the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

23/01/2 **Declarations of Interest** There were no new declarations of interest.

23/01/3.1 **Minutes and Matters Arising** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.  
Proposed: Cllr Fairbairn; Seconded: Cllr Cameron

23/01/3.2 It was agreed that all items shaded green on the Action Register were completed.



**21/03/9.2 Raised Walkway**, the Parish Council have been unable to obtain any grants or funding for this renovation project, despite positive local support, therefore they have decided to cease the project.

**23/01/4.1 Planning Matters**

There were no planning applications to be considered.

**23/01/4.2 To ratify decisions made between meetings**

**PL/2022/08414** Ropers Field, East End Lane, demolition and construction of implement and feed store – No Objection

**23/01/4.3** No applications determined by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting.

**23/01/5 Finance**

**23/01/5.1 To approve Payments & Receipts**

The Finance report was received, and the Parish Council ratified and approved payments of £1644.64 and £51.20; and noted receipts of £800.82.

Proposed: Cllr D Orchard; seconded Cllr Fairbairn

**23/01/5.2** The Receipts and Payments to the 31<sup>st</sup> December were noted and the bank reconciliation for October, November and December signed by the Chair.  
The current account stands at £13985 and the year-to-date surplus is £3121.

**23/01/5.3 Draft Budget Considerations 2023/24**

The Parish Council had before it a budget showing no precept or capital project costs to indicate all standing costs.

The Councillors agreed to a Capital Project of a Speed Indicator Device, and set a budget of £2500 for this. Proposed: Cllr Fairbairn, Seconded: Cllr D Orchard.  
Cllr Fairbairn to obtain quote and advice regarding planning and location.

**Action : Cllr Fairbairn**

The draft budget was reviewed, and the final budget will be signed off at the March meeting.

**23/01/5.4 Precept Request for 2023/24**

A table of different Precept rates was considered based on the tax base figure of 185.38. 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 £11000 which equates to an annual rise for a band D household of £2.70

Proposed: Cllr Cameron; seconded Cllr Fairbairn

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

**Action: Clerk**

Setting the Precept Request at £11000 does mean that the Council will be approving a budget deficit for 2023/24, to be met from reserves



- 23/01/6 **Governance**
- 23/01/6.1 All Councillors were reminded to review their own **Register of Interests** on the Wiltshire Council Website  
See online <https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/TownAndParish/ROI/Council/742>
- 23/01/6.2 **The Risk Register** was reviewed and agreed that no amendments were necessary, apart from removing Cllr Minshell. **Action: Clerk**  
Proposed: Cllr Cameron; Seconded: Cllr D Orchard
- 23/01/7.1 **Highways Matters**  
The Parish Steward will be asked to clear the footpaths and drains along The Street, clear the gullies under Dauntsey Road bridge, fill in potholes at the post box and on Clay Street and fix displaced drain covers on Clay Street. **Action : Clerk**
- 23/01/8.1 **Rights of Way and Self Closing Gates.**  
No update at present time
- 23/01/8.2 **Raised Walkway**  
As the Parish Council have been unable to obtain any grants or funding for this renovation project, despite positive local support, they have decided to cease the project.
- 23/01/8.3 **Defibrillator Training**  
To be held in late April **Action: Cllrs Fairbairn & Cameron**
- 23/01/9 Clerk's Correspondence – none
- 23/01/10.1 **Update on Standing items.**  
**Allotment and Paddock** Water leak on allotment tap following cold weather. Water to be turned off in November each year to prevent this. **Action: Cllr Cameron**
- 23/01/10.2 **Cemetery** edging around memorial garden is rotten and needs replacing. **Action : Cllr Cameron**
- 23/01/10.3 **Emergency Plan** no update
- 23/01/10.4 **Website** no updates
- 23/01/10.5 **Telephone Book Exchange** – no update
- 23/01/10.6 **Wildlife Friendly Village** – Birdboxes to be placed in Cemetery and Millennium Green. **Action : Cllr Fairbairn**  
Survey to be circulated to all residents in March 2023 **Action: Cllr D Orchard**
- 23/01/10.7 **Playpark** – all barked areas dug over and refreshed, with focus on area around slide. RoSPA report actioned.
- 23/01/11 **Dates for Future Meetings**  
**2023 – 7<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> May (APCM), 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

