

LITTLE SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 14th November 2023 Little Somerford Village Hall

Minutes

Present	Cllr P Cameron (Chair)	Cllr A Beer
	Cllr D Matthews	Cllr S Orchard
	Cllr R Simmons	Cllr T Oakley
	Cllr D Orchard	
In Attendance	R Nuttall (Clerk)	Wiltshire Cllr Threlfall
		2 members of public

Public Question Time

A member of the public asked what could be done regarding speeding vehicles driving over the verges on the approach into Little Somerford from Dauntsey. This was a particular problem with the maintenance vehicles when the road was closed for resurfacing. Wilts Cllr Threlfall will feed this back to Wiltshire Council Highways team.

Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives

Flooding is the major issue in the area at present. This is partly due to blocked ditches but also a Wessex Water drainage issue, the Parish Council was asked to keep pursuing a solution with Wessex Water. The clerk is currently compiling a map and photos of the recent flooding for Wiltshire Council.

Report from a Representative of Somerfords Walter Powell Primary School.

Jayne Pooley attended the meeting and gave a report on the local primary school. She highlighted a few areas including the school needing high viz tabards for the children for use when they are out and about in the village; help is needed with some maintenance at school including painting the hall and restoring the wildlife pond. There are a number of flooding issues at the school with the school having to be shut recently due to access being flooded. One area of major concern was road safety outside the school including speeding vehicles and poor parking. Cllr Threlfall advised that Wiltshire Council should be able to help with signs and this should be actioned via Great Somerford Parish Council.

23/11/1 **Apologies for Absence** all present

23/11/2 **Declarations of Interest** Cllr Beer declared an interest in planning applications PL/2023/08274 and PL/2023/07938. Cllr Simmons declared an interest in planning enforcement issue: Agricultural building at Church Farm.

- 23/11/3.1 **Minutes and Matters Arising** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5th September 2023 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Oakley; Seconded: Cllr Beer
- 23/11/3.2 It was agreed that all items shaded green on the Action Register were completed.
- 23/11/4.1 **Planning Matters**
Planning Applications
There were no planning applications to be reviewed.
- 23/11/4.2 **To ratify decisions made between meetings.**
PL/2023/08274 Dove House, Tree works – No Objection, LSPC would like to see trees replaced.
PL/2023/07938 Dove House, Extension, No Objection
PL/2023/07695 Hitherfields, Porch and Double Garage, No Objection
PL/2023/08275 Lynians, Tree Works, No Objection
PL/2023/07618 The Homestead, Erection of Agricultural Steel Barn, the Parish Council objected to the application as there was not enough information including the site of the building in relation to the other buildings and access to the building.
- 23/11/4.3 **Applications Determined by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting.**
PL/2023/08274 Dove House, Tree works – No Objection
PL/2023/08275 Lynians, Tree Works, No Objection
- 23/11/4.4 **Other Planning Issues**
There is no further information from the Enforcement officer regarding the land adjacent to B4042.
Agricultural Building at Church Farm, this is now a legal matter between the property owner and Wiltshire Council.
- 23/11/5 **Finance**
- 23/11/5.1 **To approve Payments & Receipts**
The Finance report was received, and the Parish Council ratified and approved payments of £1856.34 and £94.98; and noted receipts of £5675.63.
Proposed: Cllr S Orchard; seconded Cllr Beer
- 23/11/5.2 The Receipts and Payments to the 7th November were noted and the bank reconciliation for September and October signed by the Chair.
The current account stands at £17899, and the year-to-date surplus is £6507.
- 23/11/5.3 **Draft Budget Considerations 2024/25**
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 2024/25. The Councillors discussed whether the Precept should be raised substantially in order to avoid setting a deficit budget. Councillors were asked to obtain costs for Capital projects which may be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

Action: Cllrs

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

23/11/6 **Governance**

23/11/6.1 **Playpark**

The RoSPA report was received, and actions noted. The bolt on the table will be trimmed, the bolt on the Burma Bridge is fully tightened.

23/11/6.2 **Grass Cutting Specification for contract renewal.**

It was agreed to increase the period of the contract to 3 years. The Millennium Green maintenance was amended to as per General Specification – to cut short grass areas every two weeks per year during the growing season.

Clerk to circulate specification to interested parties for consideration at the January meeting.

Action: Clerk

23/11/6.3 **Millennium Green Review**

The Councillors reviewed the results of the survey.

1. The grass will be mown short.
2. A short report on survey results to be circulated
3. The Millennium Green Aims to be reviewed, along with a group made up of LS residents
4. Sign to be purchased

Action: Cllr Oakley

Action: Cllr Oakley

Action: Clerk

The Councillors agreed to review how they consult with the residents of Little Somerford and resolved to draw up a 12 month and 36-month plan for presentation at the May Annual Meeting.

Action: All Cllrs

An email circulation list to be compiled for contacting residents on important issues.

Action: Cllr D Orchard

23/11/7 **Highways Matters**

23/11/7.1 The Councillors approved the applications to LHF IG for a) visibility review at Mill Lane/The Street junction; b) Speed limit/pavement review at Field View.
Proposed: Cllr Cameron; Seconded: Cllr S Orchard.

23/11/7.2 **The Parish Steward** has been asked to clear the ditch grill on Clay Street, clear the gullies under Dauntsey Road bridge, and cut the grass along the raised walkway.

23/11/7.3 **Road Signs**

The annual review of road signs has been completed.

1. 50mph sign at top of Clay St, post to be replaced.
2. 40mph sign towards Great Somerford to be replaced.
3. 30mph on rhs on East End Lane to be replaced.
4. No Through Road, Meadow Lane, can this be re-positioned, frequently hit by large vehicles entering the lane.
5. Can there be more 30mph repeater signs in the village?

6. Mill Lane – are 30mph signs necessary, can they be re-positioned as cause issues with hedge maintenance.

- 23/11/8.1 **Carols on the Green** will be on 15th 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**
- 23/11/8.2 **Footpaths & Rights of Way – Self-Closing Gates**
5 of the gates have been fitted, with the remainder to be fitted in the next few weeks.
LSOM14 is very overgrown, Cllr Simmons will speak to the landowner.
Action: Cllr Simmons
- 23/11/8.4 **Speed Indicator Device**
The Parish Councillors agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the SID at a cost of £2585 plus VAT, £3102.23
Proposed: Cllr Beer; Seconded: Cllr Oakley.
Action: Clerk
- 23/11/9 Clerk's Correspondence
A grant of £250 has been awarded from Malmesbury Carnival for a picnic bench for the play park and bench for the Community Orchard. To be purchased from Willis Bros,
Action: Cllr Cameron
- 23/11/10.1 **Update on Standing items.**
Allotment and Paddock
The Parish Councillors approved the paddock deposit refund to Toby Davidson
Action: Clerk
Water to be turned off **Action: Cllr Simmons, Cllr Cameron**
- 23/11/10.2 **Cemetery**
Many thanks to R. Burnett for her work in tidying up the cemetery, Cllr S Orchard will reply to email with queries.
Action: Cllr S Orchard
- 23/11/10.3 **Emergency Plan** Cllr Oakley working on this in conjunction with Wiltshire Council resilience team.
- 23/11/10.4 **Website** no updates.
- 23/11/10.5 **Telephone Book Exchange** – no updates
- 23/11/11 **Dates for Future Meetings**
2024 – 9th January, 27th February, 14th May (APCM), 11th June, 8th July, 9th September, 11th November