

LITTLE SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 13th January 2026 Little Somerford Village Hall

Minutes

Present	Cllr P Cameron (Chair)	Cllr S Orchard
	Cllr D Orchard	Cllr A Beer
	Cllr P Tilley	Cllr R Taylor
In Attendance	R Nuttall (Clerk)	Wiltshire Cllr
	1 member of the public	Threllfall

Public Question Time – No questions

Reports from Unitary Councillor and Council Representatives

WCllr Threllfall expressed her frustration that no consultation was allowed before a decision was taken by Cabinet to close 2 Household recycling centres, (at Purton and Lower Compton, Calne). When this happens, residents will have to use the small site at Stanton St Quintin or sites further way. Furthermore, there are major roadworks due near Stanton. A booking system will be put in place in the hope of reducing the frequent queues.

Cabinet has also proposed that kerbside recycling and rubbish collections should be changed to a 3-weekly rotation in future. This will be considered at Council in February. Please do send any comments to elizabeth.threllfall@wiltshire.gov.uk

At the last Wiltshire Council meeting, a proposal to charge double council tax on second homes in Wiltshire was narrowly defeated. Unlike Cornwall, Wiltshire has very few of these and it is an expensive and difficult tax to collect, with numerous simple expedients available to avoid it (such as advertising the house on AirBnB). A proposal to increase council tax on the tiny number of empty homes by up to 3 times was voted through although it was amended to only take effect after 2 years, rather than 1, as a reflection of the poor property sales market.

Recent bad weather has led to trees falling onto roads. It should be remembered that landowners are responsible for monitoring the health of their own trees and could be

subject to insurance claims if they injure someone. If the fallen tree on a road is a danger to life, please call 999. If it is only obstructing the road, please call Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0105 or report it online at MyWilts Reporting.

First contact number for Adult Social Care queries: Cllr Threlfall shared a contact telephone number for people who are concerned about others who may be vulnerable in the community - 0300 456 0111 - also Wiltshire Council website: Wiltshire Adult Social Care Advice and Contact Team | Your care Your support Wiltshire

26/01/1 **Apologies for Absence** – all present

26/01/2 **Declarations of Interest** . Cllr Beer has an interest in planning application PL/2025/08924 and withdrew from discussion on this. The Parish Council Co-opted Alison Simmons who signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Proposed: Cllr Beer, Seconded: Cllr Tilley.

26/01/3.1 **Minutes and Matters Arising** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 4th November 2025 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed: Cllr Taylor; Seconded: Cllr D Orchard

26/01/3.2 It was agreed that all items shaded green on the Action Register were completed. Ref gates, Cllr Cameron to contact Stephen Leonard to see if Wilts Council have any available to purchase.

26/01/4.1 **Planning Matters**

One planning application to be considered:

Application No:	PL/2026/00070
Application Type:	Consent under Tree Preservation Orders
Proposal:	T9 Tulip - Fell. G13 Ash x 2 - Fell. T15 False Acacia - Fell. G19 Ash x 3 - Fell.
Site Address:	SOMERHILL HOUSE, LITTLE SOMERFORD, SN15 5BH

The councillors are concerned that trees are to be removed when there is a Tree Preservation Order in place for the site. They are also concerned that removing the diseased Ash trees would provide an additional area for increasing the car park. The Parish Councillors resolved to visit the site before determining their response to this application which is required by 29th January.

26/01/4.2 The following decision, made between meetings, was ratified

Application No:	PL/2025/08924 NO OBJECTION
Application Type:	Full planning permission
Proposal:	Change of use of land as part of associated garden.
Site Address:	Dove House, Little Somerford, Chippenham, SN15 5JW

Approved *Ream* Chair 03/03/26 Date

26/01/4.3 Determined by Wiltshire Council.

Reference:	PL/2025/07656 - Prior approval Part 3 Class Q: Agricultural buildings to dwellinghouses
Site Location:	COACH HOUSE FARM, LITTLE SOMERFORD, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 5BH
Proposal:	Application for prior approval under Class Q of the GPDO 2015 (as amended), for change of use of agricultural building into 1 no. dwellinghouses (Class C3) with associated operational development.
Applicant Name:	Mr David Gyle-Thompson
Officer Name:	Hilary Quixley
Decision Date:	2 December 2025
Decision:	Prior Approval Not Required

26/01/4.4 Other Planning Issues.

There is a two-week delay on the Enforcement Notice served on Land off B4042

26/01/5 **Finance**

26/01/5.1 **To approve Payments & Receipts**

The Finance report was received, and the Parish Council ratified payments of £3370.43; and noted receipts of £308.64.

Proposed: Cllr Cameron; seconded Cllr D Orchard

26/01/5.2 The Receipts and Payments to the end of December were noted and the bank reconciliation for November and December signed by the Chair. The current account stands at £18256, and the year-to-date surplus is £2811.

26/01/5.3 **Draft Budget Considerations 2026/27**

The Parish Council had before it a draft budget. The Councillors discussed various Capital Projects and reviewed the draft budget; the final budget will be signed off at the March meeting. Capital Projects being considered included improvements to the cemetery pathway.

26/01/5.4 **Precept Request 2026/27**

A table of different Precept rates was considered based on the tax base figure of 191.72. The table showed the annual cash difference per band D household of different levels of Precept.

The Parish Council recognised the need to increase its Precept. It determined to set the Precept Request at £12500 which equates to an annual rise for a band D household of £0.24.

Proposed: Cllr Cameron; seconded Cllr D Orchard

The Clerk was tasked to submit this to Wiltshire Council by 20th January 2026.

Action: Clerk

Setting the Precept Request at £12500 does mean that the Council will be approving a budget deficit for 2026/27, to be met from reserves.

26/01/5.5 Clerk Appraisal.

The Parish Councillors agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to award a pay increase to the Clerk following an appraisal on 21st January, if felt appropriate. Proposed: Cllr D Orchard, Seconded: Cllr Beer.

26/01/6 Governance

26/01/6.1 All Councillors confirmed that their own **Register of Interests** on the Wiltshire Council Website were correct.

26/01/6.2 The Chair at the March Meeting will be Cllr S Orchard, the Vice Chair will be Cllr Taylor.

26/01/7.1 Highways Matters

The Parish Steward will be asked to dig out the ditch grips for water to run off road into drainage ditches, along the main road to Great Somerford. Also to check ditches on left, uphill, on Clay Street. Dauntsey Road bridge drain channels to be checked and cleared if necessary. Cllr Simmons will be contact with Parish Steward from February.

Action: Clerk

26/01/7.2 Mill Lane

Various issues of vehicles and dog walkers was discussed. It was agreed that this is not a Parish Council issue, the residents may wish to put signs on their own land reminding owners that dogs should be kept on a lead.

26/01/7.3 **Traffic Survey** at Vale Leaze / Dauntsey Road showed that most vehicles 85% were within the speed limit, and an average speed of 27mph. There was a peak of 136 vehicle movements per hour, at the start and end of the working day. Vehicles were more likely to be increasing in speed exiting the village.

26/01/8.1 **Spring Litter Pick** will be on Sunday 22nd March at 9am from the Millennium Green

- 26/01/8.2 **Carols in the Hall** was well attended with £132 collected for the Salvation Army. Note of thanks to be sent to David & Pam Matthews for providing electricity for the lights on the Christmas tree on the Green.
Action: Clerk
- 26/01/9 Clerk's Correspondence - the date for the appeal by the owner of the dangerous dog has been postponed.
- Update on Standing items.**
- 26/01/10.1 **Allotment and Paddock**
Clerk to look for tap to turn off water supply.
- 26/01/10.2 **Cemetery**
Cllr Tilley to obtain quotes for timber edging to cemetery path and gravel.
- 26/01/10.3 **Emergency Plan** – almost completed, clerk to print and circulate.
- 26/01/10.4 **Website** - all up to date
- 26/01/10.5 **Telephone Book Exchange** – Cllr Beer considering adding a box for children's books.
- 26/01/10.6 **Defibrillator** – small issue, cabinet heater appeared to stop working but all working well now.
- 26/01/10.7 **Playpark** – repairs to slide completed.
- 26/01/10.8 **Speed Indicator Device** – all working well
- 26/01/11 **Dates for Future Meetings**
3rd March, 5th May (APCM), 2nd June, 7th July, 1st September, 3rd November