

LITTLE SOMERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 1st September 2026 Little Somerford Village Hall

Minutes

Present	Cllr Cameron	Cllr Beer
	Cllr Tilley	Cllr Gawthrop
	Cllr Steele	Cllr Simmons
In Attendance	R Nuttall (Clerk)	Wilts Cllr Threlfall
		1 member of the public

Cllr Cameron had invited Kit Beazley to speak to the Parish Council about the People's Emergency Briefing, with a view to showing it in Little Somerford. All Councillors were encouraged to view the film. It was felt that Little Somerford Hall would not be a suitable venue due to audio visual constraints.

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

Reports from Unitary Councillor.

WCllr Threlfall mentioned again that the Government's new scheme of delegation means that the majority of planning applications (anything up to 9 houses) will be decided by officers (i.e. she can no longer call into committee) including such things as reserved matters on developments up to 500 homes. This will greatly reduce local democratic input into the planning system - contrary to the stated aims of devolution of powers. This comes in at the end of October.

The preparation of a new Wiltshire Local Plan has started after the minority administration withdrew the draft plan just before submission. This will take some years and several consultations, the first of which runs until 30th September. This Scoping consultation is the least important in some ways since it is about what is contained in the plan (largely mandated already) and how consultations will be managed. Nonetheless it might be worth the PC or individuals responding - for example to suggest that the hierarchy of the last Local Plan is maintained - i.e. significant development is primarily aimed at larger settlements from Town to Large Village and is not supported at Small Village or open countryside sites - if that is their view? [Scoping consultation - Wiltshire Council](#)

Parking - the rates and hours for parking in WC car parks has changed. The new rates and hours seem to be different for almost every car park (depending on the level of pressure by residents?) and so she recommended that drivers check details again before they park.

HRCs/tips - the 'pilot scheme' of booking visits is starting on 14th September (booking opens 9th September) at Purton and Stanton St Quintin. There is a limited issue with queues at Stanton occasionally on weekends/bank holidays - but none at Purton - but this is proposing an inconvenient complication to residents' lives. A telephone number will be provided for people without access to online services. [Household Recycling Centre Booking System Pilot - Wiltshire Council](#) This scheme may also lead to an increase in fly-tipping as was seen during the duration of the COVID booking system.

Internet signal. Many areas have extremely poor signal. Digital Wiltshire is running a survey which has had 1500 responses but needs 2000 to take further. Please do follow the link to the questions and encourage others who suffer from this to do so: [Mobile Connectivity in Wiltshire](#)

Highways - our local engineer is coming back after several months away - slowly at first - but this will be a great help as we have struggled to get updates or new work done during her absence.

26/09/1 **Apologies for Absence** Cllr Taylor

26/09/2 **Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest.
The Parish Council Co-opted Thomas Steele and Charles Gawthrop who signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Proposed: Cllr Beer, Seconded: Cllr Simmons.

26/09/3.1 **Minutes and Matters Arising**
The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 7th July 2026 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Cameron; Seconded: Cllr Beer

26/09/3.2 It was agreed that all items shaded green on the Action Register were completed.
All other items shaded amber are in progress.

26/09/4.1 **Planning Matters**
Planning Applications - to consider the Council's response to any applications received.
PL/2026/05015 Tree works – Old Station House – No Objection
PL/2026/04986 Conversion of barn to residential – Maunditts Park Farm – No Objection
Action: Clerk

26/09/4.2 **Applications Determined by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting.**
PL/2026/03712 Tree Works – The Old Smithy – No Objection

26/09/4.3 A Premises Licence has been granted to Ashleigh, The Hill, Little Somerford.

26/09/5 **Finance & Audit**

26/09/5.1 **To approve Payments & Receipts**
The Finance report was received, and the Parish Council ratified and approved payments and receipts.
Proposed: Cllr Beer; seconded: Cllr Simmons

26/09/5.2 The Receipts and Payments to the end of August were noted and the bank reconciliation for July and August signed by the Chair.

The current account stands at £13890, and the year-to-date deficit is £719.

26/09/6 **Governance**

26/09/6.1 **Financial Regulations** were reviewed, agreed and signed by the Chair.
Proposed: Cllr Beer; seconded Cllr Tilley.

26/09/6.2 All agreed that the service provided for website hosting and clerks email was good value and an excellent service.

26/09/6.3 The Cemetery Regulations were reviewed and it was agreed to make an amendment regarding the removal of headstones for restoration.

26/09/6.4 It was agreed to add Wildfire to Annex F of the Emergency Plan.

26/09/6.5 The Chair for November will be Cllr Beer, and the Vice Chair Cllr Steele.

26/09/7 **Highways Matters**

Blocked drain at Vale Leaze.

For Parish Steward – all road drains will need clearing of leaves and debris. Footpath sign at top of Clay Street to be fixed to pole

26/09/8 **Clerks Report/ Correspondence Received, Items for next Meeting**

To note that the Councillors have approved the interment of ashes into an occupied grave.

Action: Clerk

Donation of bench for Play Park

Action: Cllr Cameron

The Speedwatch has officially ended, with all equipment handed back to the police.

The MGT Annual Return has been submitted to the Charity Commission.

Cllr Cameron will contact the Salvation Army for dates for Carols on the Green.

26/09/9.1 **Update on Standing items.**

Allotment and Paddock Permission given for current tenant to erect Field Shelter

Action Cllr Simmons

26/09/9.2 **Defibrillator** – pads have been replaced, and spares purchased.

26/09/9.3 **Play Park** – RoSPA inspection due in September.

26/09/9.4 **Telephone Book Exchange** – all clean and tidy

26/09/9.5 **Speed Indicator Device** – will be moved to The Hill in October.

26/09/9.6 **Rights of Way** – many are quite overgrown with brambles, particularly LSOM8, clerk to write to landowner.

Application to be made to LHFIG for 4 gates for LSOM1(lower part)

26/09/10 **Dates for Future Meetings**

3rd November 2026

2027 - 12th January, 2nd March, 4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 7th September,
2nd November

DRAFT