

GREAT SOMERFORD FREE GARDENS CIO

England & Wales · Charity number 1200436

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-09-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Adderbury
Dauntsey Road
Great Somerford
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 5HU

Phone 07731765066

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Activities

Objects: 1.TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE PARISH OF GREAT SOMERFORD INCORPORATING STARTLEY THE PROVISION OF ALLOTMENTS AND SUCH OTHER FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS; AND 2. WHERE FUNDS PERMIT THE TRUSTEES MAY, IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF ALLOTMENTS AND SUCH OTHER FACILITIES IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE GREAT SOMERFORD AREA.

Activities: Provision of allotments and such other facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the inhabitants of Great Somerford and Startley. At their absolute discretion the trustees may provide for the provision of allotments and such other facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for people who live outside of Great Somerford and Startley.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,059	£2,475	-	-
2024-03-31	£0	£0	-	-
2023-03-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Robert John Todd		2025-10-13
Dr Jacqueline Vale		2023-10-27
Elizabeth Ann Russell		2023-10-27
Robert Miller		2023-10-27
Toby Russell Sturgis		2026-03-05
Tracy Patricia Barker		2022-12-12

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2024/2025 GREAT SOMERFORD FREE GARDENS CIO TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Reference & Administrative Details

Charity Name: Great Somerford Free Gardens CIO
Charity Number: 1200436
Address: 9 Demainbray Close, Great Somerford, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 5FE
Current Trustee: Tracy Patricia Barker, Adam John Wilson Lloyd, Robert Miller, Timothy Phillips, Elizabeth Ann Russell, David Robert John Todd, Dr Jacqueline Vale
Prior Trustees: Christopher Blount, Meriel Matear Griffiths, John Harper

Structure & Governance

This charity was formerly launched on September 16th, 2024, via a transfer of assets and accounts from the previous charity (Free Gardens – 203850) which no longer operates. The governance document (CIO Foundation) is available on the Charity Commission website as amended on November 2nd, 2023.

The body of trustees consists of at least three Great Somerford Parish Councillors, at least one allotment holder, and at least one other parishioner. The Parish Council selects its trustees while the other trustees are selected by the board of existing trustees. The Chairperson is selected by the board of trustees and is currently a vacant position.

The policy for induction of trustees is included in the governance document.

The trustees meet on a quarterly basis to discuss activities.

Objectives & Activities

To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Great Somerford incorporating Startley the provision of allotments and such other facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants; and

Where funds permit the trustees may, in their absolute discretion provide or assist in the provision of allotments and such other facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances or for the public at large with the object of improving the conditions of life of people who live outside of the Great Somerford area.

The main activities include the maintenance of the 6.2-acre site, mostly via mowing of the grass, plus the management of annual contracts with allotment holders.

The main objective for the year was to continue to provide free allotments to parishioners. We achieved this by minimizing our costs, the main one of which was grass cutting.

2024/2025 GREAT SOMERFORD FREE GARDENS CIO TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Achievements & Performance

Due to a strong grass growth year, the charity saw increased grass cutting costs, but through a donation from the Great Somerford Parish Council, we were able to limit the negative cash flow to £415. We were able to keep allotment provision free of charge.

Financial Review

No specific financial reserve policy is in place.

The charity holds an investment in a COIP fund with CCLA. As of the end of the financial period for this report (March 31st, 2025) the value of that fund was £73,411. Dividends are paid from the investment quarterly and are used as the primary income for the charity. The charity policy for this fund is to not touch the capital investment.

The major financial risk faced by the charity is that the increased cost of grass cutting and tree maintenance may outstrip income from the investment and the donations received. The mitigation for this is to begin to charge an annual fee for allotment use, first to non-parishioners, and then in the future to parishioners too.

Custodian Funds and Assets

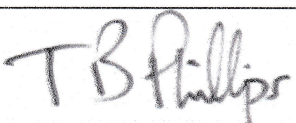
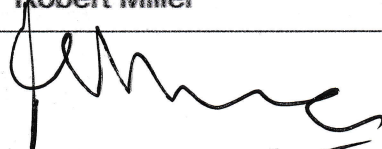
The charity holds in trust, the 6.2-acre site known as the Free Gardens for the people of the parish of Great Somerford and Startley.

Public Benefit Statement

The board of trustees hereby state that we have complied with our duty in section 4 of the Charity Commission 2006 Act in providing services for the benefit of the public. Free allotments are provided and managed for the benefit of the parishioners of Great Somerford and Startley, and some to non-parishioners. Quiet space for reflection is also provided in the Jubilee Gardens section.

Plans for Future Periods

To fulfill its complete charter as outlined in the constitution governing document, the trustees plan to utilize the site to introduce recreational opportunities beyond allotment for our parishioners that are appropriate to the existing environment of the site.

Signed: Timothy Phillips – 6/1/2026	Signed: Robert Miller
	

Free Gardens CIO Accounts 2024/2025

#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	FY Closing Balance
Free Gardens CIO						
16 October 2024	Opening transfer from Free Gardens	7,502.89				
07 November 2024	Bank Trans to Lee Butcher – Grass Cutting: Inv No 3239 †				(165.00)	
07 November 2024	Bank Trans to Lee Butcher – Grass Cutting: Inv No 3239 †				(165.00)	
07 November 2024	Bank Trans to R Miller – Maintenance: Inv No 3239 †				(40.00)	
18 November 2024	Transfer from Free Gardens (GSFC s. 137 donation)		1,000.00			
18 November 2024	Bank Trans to Lee Butcher – Grass Cutting: Inv No 3239 †				(165.00)	
18 November 2024	Bank Trans to Lee Butcher – Grass Cutting: Inv No 3239 †				(165.00)	
18 November 2024	Bank Trans to Lee Butcher – Grass Cutting: Inv No 3239 †				(165.00)	
29 November 2024	Bank Giro Credit from COIF †		529.47			
15 January 2025	JH Forbes for new FG sign				(90.00)	
19 February 2025	Clear Insurance annual renewal				(160.80)	
18 February 2025	Bank Giro Credit from COIF †		529.84			
17 March 2025	Bank Trans to Wykeham - Final CIO transfer fees				(1,029.00)	
27 March 2025	Bank Trans to Lee Butcher – Grass Cutting: Inv No 4322				(165.00)	
31 March 2025	Bank Trans to Lee Butcher – Grass Cutting: Inv No 4362				(165.00)	
NO MORE TRANSACTIONS						
FY Totals		7,502.89		- 2,059.31	(2,474.80)	7,087.20
Closing Balance less Opening Balance						(415.49)

COIF Investment Fund *	
Opening value (18 October, 2024)	77,035.96
Value at 31/1/25	79,639.30
Value at 28/2/25	77,404.13
Value at 31/3/25	73,411.47

Treasurers Acc. As of close-of-play 31st March 2025

80,498.87

† - Indicates verified in Statement

COIF yield 2.74%

* - CF £55,000 when invested in 2018

For report

Bank	£
Opening balance	7,502.89
Income	2,059.31
Expenditure	(2,474.80)
Current balance	7,087.20
COIF	
Opening balance (Dec 24)	77,035.96
Change in value	(3,624.49)
Closing balance	73,411.47
Total financial assets	80,498.67

Signed: Timothy Phillips - 1/6/2026

Signed: Robert Miller - 1/6/2026

T B Phillips

Robert Miller

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Great Somerford Free Gardens CIO Finance Report

Prepared by: John Harper, Treasurer

Date: 28th January, 2025

Period covered: 31st March 2023 to 31st March 2024

Introduction

The CIO was incorporated on 21st September 2022 for the purpose of taking over the assets and administration of the Free Gardens charity (number 203850). Transfer of the assets of the Free Gardens did not take place until October 2024, so there are no transactions to report in the 2023/24 financial year.

JDH 28.1.25

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Great Somerford Free Gardens CIO Finance Report

Prepared by: John Harper, Treasurer

Date: 23rd February, 2024

Period covered: 21st September 2022 to 31st March 2023

Introduction

The CIO was incorporated on 21st September 2022 for the purpose of taking over the assets and administration of the Free Gardens charity (number 203850). The rationale of the transfer is that the Free Gardens are currently held in trust by Great Somerford Parish Council and all parish councillors are obliged to become Free Gardens trustees. This was deemed not to be in the best interests of the Free Gardens and that a CIO would provide greater clarity of ownership and purpose, and that Trustees would be drawn from a wider pool of candidates (the constitution stipulates a mix of parish councillors and representatives of both the villagers and allotment holders).

The transfer of assets (cash and the Free Gardens land) was approved by Great Somerford Parish Council post the end of the financial year. There were therefore no transactions during the year and the charity did not take ownership of its assets, which is expected to take place in the 2023/24 financial year.