

# 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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

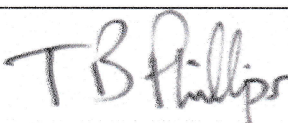
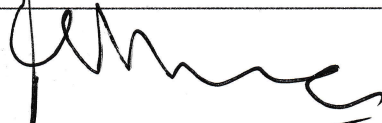
The charity holds in trust, the 6.2-acre site known as the Free Gardens for the people of the parish of Great Somerford and Startley.

## 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 (GSPC 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**

<b>FY Totals</b>	<b>7,502.89</b>	<b>- 2,059.31</b>	<b>(2,474.80)</b>	<b>7,087.20</b>
<b>Closing Balance less Opening Balance</b>				<b>(415.49)</b>

### COIF Investment Fund \*

Opening value (16 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

80,498.67

† - Indicates verified in Statement

COIF yield 2.74%

\* - CF £55,000 when invested in 2018

### For report

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

Signed: Timothy Phillips - 1/6/2026

Signed: Robert Miller - 1/6/2026

TB Phillips

*[Signature]*