

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Notice is hereby given that a Virtual/Remote meeting of the Semington Parish Council will be held on 10 February 2021 at 7.30 pm. and you are invited to attend.

This meeting is being held using Zoom technology

AGENDA.

Prior to the commencement of the Parish Council meeting, members of the public will be given the opportunity to make any representations that they wish the Parish Council to note.

Public Participation.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

1. Apologies.

To receive and to accept apologies for non-attendance.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Councillors to declare any interests.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 6 January 2021 and Decisions taken remotely (post – Lockdown).

- a. To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting as an accurate record.
- b. To endorse the decisions taken remotely (see details at end of Agenda).

4. Wiltshire Council Report.

To receive a report from Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed.

5. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman to update the Council on developments since the last meeting.

6. Planning and Development

- a. To decide the comments to be sent to Wiltshire Council in respect of any planning applications received after 3 February 2021.

Please refer to attached papers for items b, c, d, e.

- b. **Wiltshire Council Local Plan** - To decide the response to the Wiltshire Council Plan consultation.
- c. **Neighbourhood Plans** – To decide whether to develop a Semington Neighbourhood Plan.
- d. **Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE)** – To decide whether to enlist Semington Parish Council as a member.
- e. **Future Village Development** – To agree the approach of Semington Parish Council to future village development and how to publicize this approach.
- f. **Development North of St Georges Road** – To agree how best to influence the possible development of this land for the benefit of the village should it proceed and to agree how to engage with possible developers.
- g. To note any other planning and development related matters.

7. Environment and Streetscene.

To note any current issues and to decide the action necessary.

8. Transport and Traffic.

To note any current issues and to decide the action necessary.

9. Recreation and Wellbeing.

To note any current issues and to decide the action necessary.

10. Community and Communication.

To note any current issues and to decide the action necessary.

11. Finance.

a. To note the report from the Clerk on the current financial position.

b. To agree the payments to be made.

12. Website.

a. To note the launch of the website and to seek feedback on any aspect of it.

b. To note that the competition for the logo for the site has been launched.

13. Date of the next meeting.

To agree the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting – 10 March 2021 proposed.

Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

3 February 2021

Decisions taken remotely by Semington Parish Council – Subsequent to Contingency Plan 17 March 2020 and Post Parish Council Meeting held on 6 January 2021.

1. Payment of £1240 to. D Muns (Website).
2. Payment of £120 to Codewater Solutions.

R P Coleman
3 February 2021

Planning / Development Paper for the PC February 10th 2021

1 Wiltshire Council Local Plan proposals: feedback from the consultation seminars \ consideration of how to respond (March 9th deadline). No paper here other than the email that the Chairman will be sending following the consultation meetings.

2 Neighbourhood Plans: a proposal that Semington Parish Council agrees not to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Semington.

There is a range of reasons for developing a Neighbourhood Plan [NP] and Vicky helpfully set these out in an email on January 8th noting that there are a number of plans at the final stage of approval at the WC [Consultation Portal](#). Vicky's email also set out what the community might gain from the NP process when all that what was now happening in the village in relation to the five themes is taken into account. It seemed to us [RO/WS] that this did not add up to a convincing case for developing a plan.

Because of this, we propose that we take a formal decision NOT to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. We do this for the following reasons:

- They take over 7 years to complete
- They cost a lot of money (even though grants are available) and consultants have to be employed at high cost
- They ensure certain land is highlighted for development
- They require a lot of unpaid effort from residents (eg, a committee of between 10 and 15 mostly not PC members)
- If the plan conflicts with the Council local plan it has to be changed
- By the time it's confirmed it will be out of date
- Current government planning proposals may make them unnecessary
- The current development work that we are doing with the village is appropriate and sufficient to ensure appropriate development

3 CPRE: a proposal the Parish Council should join the CPRE

CPRE [cpre.org.uk / cprewiltshire.org.uk] now styles itself as "the countryside charity" although its full title is still The Council for the Preservation of Rural England. Its vision statement is:

"We want a thriving, beautiful countryside for everyone. We believe in countryside and green spaces that are accessible to all, rich in nature and playing a crucial role in responding to the climate emergency. With a local CPRE group in every county, we're advocating nationwide for the kind of countryside we all want: one with sustainable, healthy communities and available to more people than ever, including those who haven't benefited before. We stand for a countryside that enriches all of our lives, regenerating our wellbeing, and that we in turn regenerate, protect and celebrate. ..."

As a PC for an actively rural community, membership of CPRE would offer support to CPRE in its role and provide some help to us in ours. 46 PCs are currently members of CPRE. The cost is £36 / year. The Clerk advises that the cost of membership would be a legitimate expense under section137 provision.

4 Semington Parish Council's Approach to Village Development

To propose an addition to the information currently on the website which sets out our approach to development in the village. This is based on current practice but sets it out for the first time.

The following indented text is on the web at the moment and summaries our position:

“Planning Applications

Information and updates on planning applications and related issues affecting the parish are discussed at Parish Council meetings in open session. Details of all applications can be found on the Wiltshire Council [Planning Portal](#).

Semington Parish Council never holds formal meetings with developers or landowners that the public are excluded from. Where major developments are proposed, the Parish Council invites the developer to present their proposals to villagers. Sometimes these are part of scheduled Parish Council meetings, or meetings can be specially convened.”

The proposal is that the following new text is placed immediately after this:

“Our policy stance towards development in the village is that we will

- always resist disproportionately large developments, and while
- not actively support any development, unless it address an objectively identified housing need within the parish,
- engage with appropriate proposals to ensure developers understand the actively rural character of the village and its needs, so that if their application is successful, it has a positive impact on the village.

By disproportionately large, we mean any that would increase the housing stock by more than about 5%. By character, we mean the village's heritage and cultural legacies, the nature of its existing housing stock, and its environmental assets. By needs, we mean infrastructure and facilities that will enhance the lives of people living and working in the community.”