

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2015 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present.

Councillor Robert Oglesby and Councillors P Bowyer, F Dobbyn, K Lockwood, S Rimmer, R Robinson, W Scott, B Smyth, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

PCSO Helen Wilson of the Neighbourhood Policing Team attended (part-time).

There were three members of the public present (part-time).

1. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared.

2. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from m Wiltshire Councillor Cllr. J Seed.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14 January 2015.

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. Neighbourhood Policing.

PCSO Helen Wilson gave the following report (shown in italics):

There were no incidents occurring in Semington over the last month but there had been five reported crimes in the surrounding villages.

PCSO Wilson gave full details of these reported crimes.

There were no matters raised by councillors.

5. Adjournment.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for members of the public to raise any matters of interest. The meeting then reconvened.

6. Wiltshire Council Report.

In the absence of Cllr. Seed no report was given.

7. Planning.

a. The Council noted the status of the following extant planning application:

14/10797/FUL	Greenacres Mobile Park	Change of use of agricultural land to create 7 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches with associated ancillary development.	Deferred
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The Chairman stated that this application had been deferred by the Wiltshire Council Strategic Planning Committee at its meeting on 11 February 2015 following opposition to it voiced by representatives from Semington Parish Council, Cllr. Seed and some members of the Planning Committee. Subsequent to this meeting an amended application has been submitted with a request that comments on it are submitted to Wiltshire Council no later than 27 February 2015.

The Parish Council examined the amended application and **resolved** to send the following

19 February 2015

Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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comments to Wiltshire Council (shown in italics):

The proposed development will compromise highway safety – there will be significantly increased traffic moving on/off site and there will be disruption to the flow of existing traffic along the busy A361.

It is inappropriate development immediately next to the western boundary of the West Wiltshire Crematorium and will result in a loss of privacy, peace for quiet reflection and dignity. It represents overdevelopment and will result in a loss of open countryside.

The Appeal Decision in relation to the existing site (Ref. APP/Y3940/A/11/2156159 dated 24/2/12) clearly stated (at Para 17) that no development should take place on the site proposed in this application and Condition 5 stated ‘ Pitches shall not be formed, nor caravan sited on land other than the eastern part of the site identified for this purpose.....’. The ‘site’ is defined at Para 9 of the Appeal Decision and it is stated to be the whole site. To approve this application would overturn the Inspector’s decision.

The proposed development is contrary to the formally adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document.

- b. There were no planning applications received after 9 February 2015.
- c. The Council discussed this Agenda item under Minute 7a above.
- d. In view of the controversy that surrounded the original planning application for Greenacres (W/11/01206/FUL) the Council **resolved** to advise parishioners of this new application (14/10797/FUL Amended) and the view of the Parish Council by means of a leaflet drop. The Council **resolved** that, subject to a minor amendment, the wording of the leaflet was sufficiently informative.

8. Finance.

- a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 18 February 2015 was as follows:

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	7,506.16
31 December 2014		
Total:	£	7,506.16

Credits (1 January 2015 to 31 January 2015):

R P Coleman HMRC PAYE Month 9	£	-
(Sent to Lloyds Trowbridge 21/12/14 - Not credited)		
Re-sent to Lloyds 9/2/15	£	-
R P Coleman HMRC PAYE Month 10	£	156.00
Total:	£	156.00

Debits (1 January 2015 to 31 January 2015):

Clerk's Salary (December)	£	284.67
Clerk's Expenses (December)	£	16.17
HMRC PAYE Month 10	£	156.00
Total:	£	456.84

Balance at 31 January 2015:

£	7,205.32
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Credits (1 February 2015 to 18 February 2015):

R P Coleman HMRC/PAYE (Month 9)	£	114.00
Total:	£	114.00

Debits (1 February 2015 to 18 February 2015):

Clerk's Salary (January)	£	290.94
Total:	£	290.94

Balance at 18 February 2015:

	£	7,028.38
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Minus Semington War Memorial Monies Remaining:

	£	612.17
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Parish Council Balance at 18 February 2015:

	£	6,416.21
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Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 31-Dec-15	£	7,595.87
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Credits

Interest (Approx)	£	0.30
Interest (Approx)	£	0.28
	£	0.58

Debits

None	£	-
	£	-

Balance at 18 February 2015:	£	7,596.45
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Total Balance in hand at 18 February 2015:	£	14,012.66
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Payments to be authorised (18 February 2015).

Clerk's Salary (February)	£	290.94
Office Expenses (January)	£	13.23
R P Coleman HMRC/PAYE (Month 11)	£	116.40
TOTAL:	£	420.57

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (18 February 2015).

Independent Living Centre		TBA
Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust		TBA
	£	-

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TOTAL:

£

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- b. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above.

9. Defibrillator.

Cllr. Bowyer confirmed that the Melksham Area Board had given a grant of £1100 to the Parish Council for the acquisition of a Defibrillator. The Council **resolved** to agree to the Terms and Conditions of the grant and to inform the Area Board accordingly.

The Council **resolved** to acquire a defibrillator and cabinet and the Clerk was asked to inform South West Ambulance Service. Cllr. Rimmer stated that he would inform the Village Hall Management Committee so that arrangements could be made for the fitting of the cabinet to the Village Hall wall.

10. Highways/Environment.

a. Cllr. Smyth stated that he had met up with Stuart Renfrew, the Wiltshire Council Highways and Streetscene Focal Point on 26 January 2015 and had advised Mr Renfrew of tasks that needed to be completed in the village. Cllr. Smyth reported that all the tasks requested had since been completed.

b. The Council noted the representations made by the public during the Adjournment and the Council **resolved** that it would retain the hedge and that it would seek to reduce its height so that it ceased to be a hazard and could be easily maintained by adjoining landowners. The Council recognised that any work on the hedge must now be delayed until the Autumn to avoid nesting birds.

c. The Chairman advised Cllr. Smyth that a parishioner had reported a pothole in the road at The Knapps.

There were no other matters raised.

11. Melksham Community Area Board/Community Area Transport Group Meetings.

The Council noted the grant award by the Area Board (already reported under Agenda item 9) and the Clerk stated that he had sent the minutes of the latest CATG meeting to all councillors.

12. Wilts & Berks Canal.

Cllr. Smyth reported that he and Cllr. Robinson had attended a meeting of the re-invigorated Wilts and Berks Canal Working Group on 17 February 2015. Cllr. Smyth distributed drawings of the proposed canal/canalside development to all councillors (a copy of the drawing is appended to these minutes). Cllr. Smyth gave the following report (shown in italics) to the Council:

Update on work done

- *After a year of environmental study work there do not appear to be any major wildlife issues although badger sets have been identified on the canal route. Also a Greater Horseshoe bat was discovered. Action will be taken on these.*
- *Archaeology – full survey of route using ground radar revealed evidence of possible Roman remains.*
- *Water resource – water to fill and replenish the new canal will have to come from the river and not the K&A canal.*
- *Water quality – still a bit of an issue and will require a “fish” expert to advise on the effect of water entering river from the new canal.*
- *Hydro scheme – now definitely in the plans as “Archimedean Screw” type.*
- *New issue arisen on space behind new inn,*

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Funding

- Funding will come mainly from developments – In the order of 600 houses in total to be built in 4 distinct areas shown on drawing.
- Current drawing is only an initial proposal and will be subject to change as consultation continues and design firms up.

Programme

- Aiming for planning consent at end of summer 2015.
- Then will go to consultation.
- Programme thereafter is vague

Current Proposal

- 4 areas of housing comprising 600 houses
- Marina
- Possible shop to serve Berryfields/ Semington area
- Holiday log cabins and glamping facility
- New pub and hotel on the South side of the disused railway bank by Outmarsh Farm
- Nature and rare breeds reserve
- Marsh and wetlands wildlife reserve with information centre and “bike hub”.
- Area for an educational facility or community facility at Berryfields.

Miscellaneous

- General feeling by all at the meeting, without prompting from Cllr. Robinson or myself, was that the traffic control gates currently at the Police Station should be moved southwards to the canal bridge.
- Recommended reading – “The Economic and Tourism Benefits of the Melksham Link” available online (actually, not just recommended but mandatory reading as it cost the project £14K to produce).
- Project team want to give us the presentation we didn't see at the Melksham Area Board meeting.

13. Tennis Court.

There was nothing to report.

14. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Scott – There is a lot of litter in the village and it needs clearing. The Chairman stated that Lee Norris was keen to assist in this task and councillors suggested that the Chairman requests Mr Norris to undertake a ‘litter pick’ in the village.

15. Date of Next Meeting.

- The Council noted the date of the next scheduled Ordinary Parish Council meeting thus:
 - 25 March 2015.

Note.

The following dates were agreed for Parish Council meetings:

22 April 2015, 20 May 2015, 17 June 2015.

- A possible date for the Annual Parish Meeting was 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 April – the preferred date being 8 April or 15 April. The date is to be confirmed. Once the date is confirmed, Cllr. Smyth stated that he would ask the Melksham Link Project team to give the presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting that was originally given at the Melksham Area Board meeting.

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The meeting concluded at 10.10pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council