

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Semington Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8 April 2015 at 8 pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT:

Robert Oglesby, Chairman, Semington Parish Council and Chairman for the meeting.

Roger Coleman, Clerk.

The following Parish Councillors were present: K Lockwood, S. Rimmer, R Robinson and W Scott.

Wiltshire Councillor J Seed attended the meeting.

There were seventy-one members of the public present for Agenda items 1, 2 and 3 and ten members of the public present for the remainder of the meeting.

Agenda item 4 was taken after Agenda item 6 and is reported in these minutes to accord with the proceedings of the meeting.

1. Introduction and Apologies.

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting and he explained the nature of an Annual Parish meeting. The Clerk then handed over to the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. Oglesby.

2. Wilts & Berks Canal Presentation.

A presentation by the Wilts & Berks Canal Project Team.

A presentation on the proposed renovation of the Wilts & Berks Canal and the proposed associated development was given by Mr Paul Lenaerts and Mr Jock Mackenzie.

The presentation was followed by a Question & Answer session.

3. Observations from Wiltshire Council Councillor, Cllr. J Seed.

Cllr. Seed introduced himself to the meeting and explained that he was the Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member responsible for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding.

Cllr. Seed explained his role and actions in respect of recent controversial planning applications and the current position in respect to the planning applications relating to Greenacres and Lansdowne.

He explained that the revised proposal to add six pitches to the site at Greenacres was unacceptable and gave the reasons for this view and added that it conflicted with the Wiltshire Core Strategy. He was hopeful that it would be rejected by the Strategic Planning Committee and cited the refusal by Wiltshire Council of the proposed development at Bromham based on the Wiltshire Core Strategy as evidence of

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the approach now being adopted by Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Seed explained that the site at Lansdowne exhibited breaches of the extant planning permission and that enforcement notices in respect of each breach had now been served on the occupant by Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Seed commented on the Wilts & Berks Canal presentation and stated that he valued and noted the views of the public expressed during the Question and Answer session and that it would be helpful for members of the public to send their views directly to the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Seed for his contribution.

5. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 26 March 2014.

The Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

6. Annual Report of the Parish Council.

The Chairman presented his Annual Report of the Parish Council in which he described the activities of the Parish Council during the year.

A summary of his report and the topics are shown below (in italics):

Annual Report from the Parish Council - Year 2014 – 2015

9 councillors for whole year - Full Council (9 members).

The following is a summary of some of the activities of the Parish Council on behalf of the parishioners of Semington:

11 Ordinary PC Meetings, 1 Annual PC Meeting, 1 Annual Parish Meeting

Consideration of Planning Applications – Around 20 (25 last year).

- Travellers'/Gypsy Sites etc.*
- Attending WC Planning Committee meetings.*

War Memorial Project (Thanks to Ray Heard)

Neighbourhood Policing Team Activities (Tasking Meeting etc)

- PC Emily Thomas and PCSO Rose Baldock.*

Village Environment/Expenditure:

- Semington Jubilee Wood – Time Capsule/Memorial Plaque.*
- St George's PCC – Churchyard & Grass Cutting.*
- St George's PCC – Village Newsletter.*
- Christmas Tree/Christmas Lights.*

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Defibrillator Project.

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust involvement.

Website – Development/Maintenance.

Donations/Subscriptions:

- *Wiltshire Wildlife Trust*

Parish Steward - Footpath Clearance/Brambles/Grass Cutting/Overgrown Hedges.

Footpath by Village Hall – Reduce/Remove hedge?

Highways issues:

- *Reduced Speed limit on A361 road (CATG).*
- *'No Through Road' ignored.*
- *Grass Cutting (e.g. at Roundabout)*

Other Matters:

- *Melksham Community Area Board involvement plus Area Board grant.*
- *Melksham Campus (Support).*
- *Consideration/Consultation on numerous WC Documents.*

Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2015.

The Clerk presented the following report (shown in italics):

The balance brought forward from FY2013/14 had been £15620.90 and, allowing for the payments and receipts during the year, the balance carried forward at the end of FY2014/15, is £15211.16 The total receipts for the year to date are £11050.35, payments for the year to date total £11460.09 and the value of the fixed assets owned by the Council is £26793.

Out of the balance of £15211.16 carried forward some £612.17 represents the remaining donations from the War Memorial Fund and £5306.48 represents the St George's Development Fund, namely the Tennis Court Fund.

The General Reserve at 31 March 2015 was £9292.51.

Main Receipts in the year were:

<i>Precept:</i>	<i>£8500</i>
<i>HMRC VAT Refund:</i>	<i>£23</i>
<i>WC Area Board Grant (Defibrillator)</i>	<i>£1100</i>
<i>HMRC PAYE</i>	<i>£1414</i>

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Bank Interest: £4

Main Payments in the year were:

Staff Costs: £3529
Office Expenses: £332
Donations: £640 - £40(Grass Cutting), £500 (St George's PCC –
Newsletter/Grass Cutting), £100 (Social Club).
Memorial Stone/Time Capsule £247
War Memorial £3514
Website: £400
HMRC PAYE: £1414.
Insurance/Subscriptions/Audit Fees: £935
Hall Hire: £450

The Annual Return has been completed and the the Internal Auditor will be invited to undertake the Internal Audit and thereafter the Annual Return will be presented to the Parish Council for approval. The Annual Return will be submitted to the Parish Council at the next meeting for approval and thereafter it will be sent to Grant Thornton, the External Auditor.

In the years that I have been Clerk, that is from 2002, the auditors – Internal and External – have found no matters that had to be brought to the attention of the Council.

4. To consider matters raised by those present.

The following topics were raised by those present:

Canal Bridge – Vehicle parking on the bridge is dangerous as it causes an obstruction and prevents a view of oncoming traffic when travelling over the bridge. Cllr. Seed advised that this subject should be raised with the Wiltshire Council Community Area Transport Group.

Semington Information Board – Consideration should be given to the purchase of an information board to advise visitors of local footpaths and areas or features of interest. Cllr. Seed commented that this may attract an Area Board grant.

It was reported that young children were seen playing in the ditch outside the crematorium near to Greenacres.

7. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

8. Close.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Chairman