

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2016 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

### Present.

Councillor Robert Oglesby (Chairman) and Councillors P Bowyer, S Rimmer, R Robinson, W Scott, P Smith, B Smyth, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

Wiltshire Councillor Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time).

There were two members of the public present initially.

### **1. Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillor Cllr. K Lockwood and PCSO Helen Wilson of the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

### **2. Declaration of Interests.**

There were no interests declared.

### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 24 February 2016.**

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

### **4. Neighbourhood Policing.**

The Clerk reported that PCSO Wilson had sent a written report to him prior to the meeting. The Clerk read out this report (shown below in italics).

*27/02/2016 – 28/02/2016 - Crime/Miscellaneous – Semington Brook - Suspects are dumping rubbish into local farm gateways and into the ditches. Environment Agency is aware and was going to be issuing a fixed penalty ticket.*

### Update on No Entry Watch

*To date 309 vehicles have turned on seeing the volunteers, and 68 advisory letters have been sent to the registered keepers.*

*We have received good press coverage with pictures being in the Wiltshire Times and also the Melksham News. BBC Radio Wiltshire came out to the site about 2 weeks ago and did a live interview with Brian Smyth – which went and sounded excellent.*

*We have been given permission for 2 of the volunteers to be vetted to the next level. Once this has been done, they will have to attend a one day PNC course and this then will enable them to carry out all of the admin work i.e. pnc'ing the vehicles and then sending out the advisory letters.*

### **5. Adjournment.**

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

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

### **6. Wiltshire Council Report.**

Cllr. Seed gave the following report:

### Lansdowne.

An update on the current position with regard to enforcement action at Lansdowne. He stated that the 'No Commercial Activity' condition is now to be enforced by Wiltshire Council Enforcement Officers. Action is also being taken in respect of reported fly-tipping.

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## Area Board.

The Area Board meeting is to be held on 13 April. He indicated that the grant application for the Information/Interpretation Boards was likely to be successful but that relating to the Village Hall was not because of the strict criteria being applied to grant applications. He commented that it was possible that a smaller amount than that applied for in the application may be forthcoming. He added that he was looking at alternative ways of obtaining grants for the Village Hall.

## Wilts & Berks Canal.

It is possible that a planning application will be submitted in the near future but without the housing element included. Cllr. Seed stated that he would be investigating the exact position regarding the application.

## 7. **Planning.**

a. The Council noted the status of extant planning applications thus:

15/12704/FUL	29 High Street	Conversion of outbuilding to create ancillary (annexe) accommodation	Pending
16/00054/LBC	29 High Street	Conversion of outbuilding to create ancillary (annexe) accommodation	Pending

b. The Council examined the following planning application and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown:

16/01678/OUT	Land at St Georges Road	Erection of up to 24 dwellings with associated access and parking and land for allotments.	NEW.
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The Council supports this planning application.

c. There were no planning applications received after 17 March 2016.

d. Cllr. Wade reported that there was significant surveying work being undertaken in and around the large field that lies between Pound Lane and the canal. He added that there appeared to be an Environmental Impact Assessment taking place and topographical and drainage surveys. He commented that it appeared that there may be some significant developments planned for that area.

## 8. **Finance.**

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position was as follows:

### Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 31 January 2016	£	9,611.87
Total:	<b>£</b>	<b>9,611.87</b>

### **Credits (1 February 2016 to 29 February 2016):**

HMRC PAYE (R P Coleman) Month 11	£	116.40
Total:	<b>£</b>	<b>116.40</b>

### **Debits (1 February 2016 to 29 February 2016):**

Clerk's Salary (January)	£	290.94
Total:	<b>£</b>	<b>290.94</b>

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**Balance at 29 February 2016:**

	<b>£ 9,437.33</b>
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**Credits (1 March 2016 to 23 March 2016):**

None

	£ -
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Total:	£ -
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**Debits (1 March 2016 to 23 March 2016):**

Clerk's Salary (February)

	£ 290.94
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Clerk's Expenses (January)

	£ 14.39
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HMRC PAYE Month 11

	£ 116.40
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R Robinson

	£ 25.00
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Victim Support

	£ 50.00
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Total:	£ 496.73
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**Balance at 23 March 2016:**

	<b>£ 8,940.60</b>
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**Minus Semington War Memorial Monies Remaining:**

	£ 375.99
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**Parish Council Balance at 23 March 2016:**

	<b>£ 8,564.61</b>
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**Lloyds A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement

	£ 7,599.64
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30-Dec-16

**Credits**

Interest (Approx)

	£ 0.29
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Interest (Approx)

	£ 0.27
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Interest (Approx)

	£ 0.25
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	<b>£ 0.81</b>
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**Debits**

None

	£ -
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	£ -
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**Balance at 23 March 2016:**

	<b>£ 7,600.45</b>
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**Total Balance in hand at 23 March 2016:**

	<b>£ 16,165.06</b>
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**Payments to be authorised (23 March 2016).**

Clerk's Salary (March)

	£ 290.94
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Office Expenses (February)

	£ 13.25
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R P Coleman HMRC/PAYE (Month 12)

	£ 116.40
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<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ 420.59</b>
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## Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (23 March 2016).

None	£	-
	£	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>-</b>

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

### 9. Highways/Environment.

a. Cllr. Smyth reported that the new Parish Steward had already started work in advance of the new contract that Wiltshire Council has with Ringway commencing in April and that he had undertaken some weed clearance. He commented that Stuart Renfrew, Wiltshire Council had thanked the new contractor on behalf of Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council.

b. Councillors are continuing to identify possible locations for the Interpretation Boards and Lecterns and it is intended that firm proposals will be tabled at the next meeting. It was noted that placing the order for the two Interpretation Boards was on hold pending the result of the grant application currently before Melksham Area Board.

c. In the absence of Cllr. Lockwood, the Chairman requested that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

d. The Council noted the correspondence from Fisher German on behalf of Esso that related to the pipeline that crosses the Parish. The Clerk stated that Fisher German had confirmed that the Parish Council owns tracts of land beneath which the pipeline passes and had sent a copy of the relevant legal document (dated 19 October 1961) allowing an 'easement' for Esso to maintain the pipeline at those locations to the Parish Council. Councillors commented that they did not know that the Parish Council owned any land in Semington and requested that enquiries be made. The Council resolved that the Clerk visits the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre at Chippenham and researches minutes of the Parish Council and any other relevant documents that may prove that ownership.

e. The Clerk tabled correspondence from the West Wiltshire Ramblers in which the West Wilts Rambler Group had offered assistance in footpath maintenance work such as clearing and repairing and upgrading, perhaps by replacing a stile with a kissing gate. He handed the correspondence to Cllr. Scott.

Cllr. Rimmer reported that the bulbs that had been planted and for which the Parish Council had paid £70 were a disappointment – very few blooms were in evidence.

Cllr. Rimmer reported that he had contacted 'Grow Wild' and had been send packets of wildflowers – one of which will be given to St Georges School and the other will provide seeds to be planted in the churchyard.

Cllr. Scott advised that Council of a blocked footpath and commented that he had informed Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Robinson confirmed that he had investigated the complaint received at the last Council meeting in relation to Path Semi 11/10 and he confirmed that the footpath was some distance from the brambles.

Cllr. Smith reported that there were many established footpaths across and around the land that is

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currently the subject of the surveying activity at Pound Lane/Canal area. He queried whether it warranted claiming these footpaths as 'public footpaths' and making an application for them to be formally recognised as such and for them to be added to the Definitive List. Cllr. Smith was requested to make further enquiries and to advise the Clerk if a decision regarding an application was to be an item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

### **10. Melksham Community Area Board/Community Area Transport Group Meetings.**

The Clerk stated that the next Melksham Area Board meeting is to be held on 13 April at Semington Village Hall, commencing at 6.30pm. He stated that the grant application for the Interpretation Boards is to be considered and that it was important that representatives from the Parish Council were present and that they were prepared to speak at that meeting. Cllr. Robinson stated that he would be attending that meeting and other councillors indicated that they would also attend.

### **11. Wilts & Berks Canal.**

There was nothing further reported – Refer to Agenda item 6.

### **12. Tennis Court.**

There was nothing reported.

### **13. Any Other Business.**

There was nothing further reported.

### **14. Date of Next Meeting.**

The Council noted the date of the next Parish Council meeting thus:

- 27 April 2016, commencing at 8pm – Ordinary PC Meeting.

The Clerk stated that subsequent meetings are held on the following dates:

- 25 May 2016, Commencing at 7pm – Annual PC Meeting, Ordinary PC Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting,
- June meeting - Date To Be Advised – Ordinary PC Meeting.
- 20 July 2016, commencing at 8pm – Ordinary PC Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10.00pm.

R A Oglesby  
Chairman, Semington Parish Council