

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2017 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

### Present.

Councillor B Smyth (Vice –Chairman and Chairman of the meeting), Councillors Robert Oglesby (Chairman) (Part-time), P Bowyer, K Lockwood, S Rimmer, R Robinson, W Scott, P Smith and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time).

There were four members of the public present.

### **1. Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Cllr. C Wade and PCSO Simon Partington of the Community Policing Team.

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

There were no interests declared.

### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 8 February 2017.**

The Council **resolved** that the minutes were a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

### **4. Community Policing.**

The Clerk stated that PCSO Simon Partington had sent a brief written report to the Clerk prior to the meeting that the Clerk had sent to all councillors. The Clerk stated that the report confirmed that there had been no incidents in Semington.

Cllr. Robinson reported that there had been recent reported incidents of individuals attempting to use fake Scottish five pound notes.

Cllr. Smyth reported that three new volunteers had offered to assist in the 'No Entry Watch' scheme.

### **5. Adjournment.**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

The Chairman invited members of the public present to raise any points of interest and concern.

The Chairman then reconvened the Parish Council meeting.

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

Cllr. Seed gave a report on the following topics;

- Planning application 17/01053/OUT.
- The relocation of the Bus Gate and the possibility of introducing camera enforcement. Cllr. Seed explained that Wiltshire Council was investigating whether a licence could be obtained to allow camera enforcement of the 'No Entry' Bus gate. There ensued a discussion at the end of which the Parish Council **resolved** unanimously to support camera enforcement of the Bus gate.
- The Wiltshire Council budget.

### **7. Planning.**

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a. The Council examined the following planning applications and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown (in italics):

17/00921/VAR Katie Yeoman	6 High Street	Removal of Conditions 1 & 4 on W/01/01491/FUL to allow for changes to parking arrangements.	New
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*The Parish Council objects to this proposed development for the following reasons:*

1. *This proposed development reduces the amount of visitor parking from four vehicles (at the front) down to one vehicle. The consequence is that vehicle parking by visitors will now take place on the High Street. Eight apartments are likely to require more than one visitor parking place.*

2. *Apartment 6 is not being provided with a parking space in the new arrangement. Hence putting yet another car(s) on the High Street.*

17/00958/FUL Helen Garside	72B High Street	To construct a replacement rear extension to the house. Replace the flat roofs to the front bay windows with pitched roofs and a new central porch to the front door. Two new rear rooflights, internal alterations to improve the layout.	New
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*The Parish Council supports this proposed development.*

17/01053/OUT Matthew Perks	Land to the North of Pound Lane	The erection of 75 dwellings including 30% affordable homes, with ancillary public open space and play areas and access from Pound Lane (Outline Application relating to access).	New
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*The Parish Council objects to this proposed development for the following reasons:*

1. *Villagers want Semington to retain the character of a small village community and to stay the sort of place where people like to live. This proposal would change the nature of the village.*

2. *The village is in favour of appropriate development and has a track record of supporting it. Recent examples are the Turnpike houses and the Hannick Homes development along St George's Road.*

3. *Hannick Homes worked with the Parish Council to develop its proposal to meet the village housing requirements that were established in the 2014 Housing Needs Survey. Richborough has not.*

4. *The site lies outside of the limits of development defined for the village in the Wiltshire Core Strategy. As such, development would conflict with Core Policy 2.*

5. *Such a development would be a disproportionate addition to the existing village. Given the lack of village facilities, the near-full primary school, poor public transport, and almost no local employment, it could not be sustainable development and so is contrary to Core Policy 1.*

6. *It would have a harmful impact on the appearance of the countryside because of its size and its location on agricultural land. It would create a large urbanised expansion beyond the existing built-up area of the village which would conflict with Core Policies 51 and 57.*

7. *It would have a negative impact on the use of the Kennet & Avon canal which is a national heritage asset that must be protected.*

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8. Building on this site has been refused three times (in 1972, 1989 and 2016) for the same reasons.
9. St George's school governors say that Pound Lane is already dangerous because of its narrowness and because of the existing volumes of traffic.
10. If this development is allowed along with the one proposed by Framptons, the village school would not be able to take all the children and some would have to travel to Melksham which conflicts with Core Policy 3.

## Post Meeting Note.

In response to a query from Cllr. Seed regarding Richborough's submitting an apparently identical planning application to that submitted previously Matthew Perks (Wiltshire Council Senior Planning Officer) responded as shown (in bold) below:

**Subject: 17/01053/OUT Land North of Pound Lane Semington**

**Dear Cllr Seed,**

**It would be seen as an application in its own right, so objectors should please let us have their comments (even if that is a copy and paste from their previous input). There is also an opportunity to submit any additional comment.**

**We did look into not accepting an identical application, but the Legislation (S 70A of the T & C Planning Act) and Government guidance on this is clear (extract from [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) "Making a Planning Application might be useful)**

**Where the Appeal is live we concluded that there was no option but to register.**

- b. There were no planning applications relating to Semington received after 28 February 2017.
- c. The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Chairman and President of the Air Ambulance Charity Trustees regarding the relocation of the Bus Gate and that a reply had been received confirming that the points made by the Parish Council will be addressed at the next meeting of the Trustees. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the letter from the Parish Council to Melksham Without Parish Council.

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Wessex Water regarding the sewage and foul water overflows at Palmer Grove and The Orchard and had received a reply that had been sent to all councillors. The Clerk was asked to write again to Wessex Water and to ask for the history of the inspection and maintenance that had been undertaken by Wessex Water at that site.

## **8. Finance.**

- a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 8 March 2017 was as follows:

### **Lloyds A/C 2149025**

Bank Statement	£	14,975.49
31 December 2017		
	Total:	<b>£ 14,975.49</b>

### **Credits (1 January 2017 to 31 January 2017):**

HMRC PAYE Month 9	£	116.40
	Total:	<b>£ 116.40</b>

### **Debits (1 January 2017 to 31 January 2017):**

Clerk's Salary (December)	£	290.94
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Clerk's Expenses (November)	£	8.55
Clerk's Expenses (December)	£	19.65
HMRC PAYE Month 9	£	116.40
W Scott (Appeal Documentation)	£	25.20
Total:	£	<b>460.74</b>

**Balance at 31 January 2017:**

	£	<b>14,631.15</b>
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**Credits (1 January 2017 to 31 January 2017):**

HMRC PAYE Month 9	£	116.40
Total:	£	<b>116.40</b>

**Debits (1 January 2017 to 31 January 2017):**

Clerk's Salary (December)	£	290.94
Clerk's Expenses (November)	£	8.55
Clerk's Expenses (December)	£	19.65
HMRC PAYE Month 9	£	116.40
W Scott	£	25.20
Total:	£	<b>460.74</b>

**Balance at 31 January 2017:**

	£	<b>14,286.81</b>
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**Credits (1 February 2017 to 28 February 2017):**

Healthcare 200 Donation	£	75.00
HMRC PAYE Month 10	£	116.40
Total:	£	<b>191.40</b>

**Debits (1 February 2017 to 28 February 2017):**

Clerk's Salary (February)	£	290.94
Clerk's Expenses (January)	£	15.92
HMRC PAYE Month 10	£	116.40
Victim Support	£	50.00
Total:	£	<b>473.26</b>

**Balance at 28 February 2017:**

	£	<b>14,004.95</b>
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**Credits (1 March 2017 to 8 March 2017):**

None	£	-
Total:	£	-

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**Debits (1 March 2017 to 8 March 2017):**

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

<b>Balance at 8 March 2017:</b>		£	<b>13,714.01</b>
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Minus Semington War Memorial Monies Remaining:		£	375.99
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<b>Parish Council Balance at 8 March 2017:</b>		£	<b>13,338.02</b>
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**Lloyds A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement 31-Dec-16		£	7,612.45
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**Credits**

		£	0.30
Interest (Approx)		£	0.29
		£	<b>0.30</b>

**Debits**

None		£	-
		£	-

<b>Balance at 8 March 2017:</b>		£	<b>7,612.75</b>
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<b>Total Balance in hand at 8 March 2017:</b>		£	<b>20,950.77</b>
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**Payments to be authorised (8 March 2017).**

Clerk's Salary (March)		£	290.94
Office Expenses (February)		£	30.94
R P Coleman HMRC/PAYE (Month 11)		£	116.40
Codewater Solutions		£	140.00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	£	<b>578.28</b>

**Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (8 March 2017).**

None		£	-
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TOTAL:

£ -

b. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above including a payment of £24.96 to Cllr. Scott.

## 9. Wessex Close Play Area.

Cllr. Lockwood confirmed that he had surveyed the Play Area and play equipment and that the following action needs to be taken:

- Power wash all areas to remove moss and algae.
- Refresh the paint work on some of the equipment.
- Obtain plastic spikes for the top of the play equipment in order to deter pigeons and other birds.
- Improve the playing surface of the 'football pitch'.

Cllr. Lockwood stated that these actions were in hand.

## 10. Highways/Environment.

a. There were no specific highway/environmental issues reported.

b. This item is reported at Agenda item 11 below.

c. Cllr. Smyth reported the following:

- The 'Litter Pick' was very successful with some sixteen persons taking part and twelve bags of litter collected.
- The Bus Shelters need cleaning.
- It has been proposed that a new solid footpath be constructed on an existing grass verge near to the school. Cllr. Robinson stated that he would raise this at the next CATG Meeting.
- 'Dropped Kerbs' have been requested. Cllr. Robinson stated that he would also raise this at the next CATG Meeting.

Cllr. Scott reported that the pothole at Pound Lane had been repaired.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he was keen to establish a community volunteer group in Semington that would undertake minor community-based tasks such as litter picking or Bus Shelter or road sign cleaning.

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

Cllr. Robinson stated that he attended the CATG Meeting and he reported that the proposed improved safety measures on the A361 near to The Turnpike will proceed – probably in the next Financial Year (FY2017/18). The project is currently being costed and it is certain that the Parish Council will be expected to make a financial contribution to it. He commented that he also attended the Area Board meeting but there was nothing significant to report.

## 12. Wilts & Berks Canal.

There was nothing reported in respect of current developments.

Cllr. Smith stated that he and Cllr. Scott had met with councillors from Melksham Without Parish Council and had attended a meeting that discussed the Melksham Without Neighbourhood Plan. He commented that the plan was in an embryonic state and was not yet suitable for public consultation. He stated that proposed building development at the southern end of the Melksham Without boundary would have a direct impact on Semington and from discussions held there appeared to be no defined boundary associated with this building development. He and Cllr. Scott argued that a close watch needs to be maintained regarding this plan although Cllr. Scott was

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Roger Coleman

Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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sceptical that such a plan could be completed when the various developments associated with the canal have yet to be agreed.

The Clerk was asked to add a new item to the Agenda in future – Neighbourhood Plan.

### 13. Tennis Court.

The Clerk stated that he had sent the response and quotation from Neill Newport to all councillors. The Council **resolved** to accept the quotation from Neill Newport of £860 plus VAT for the maintenance work to be undertaken.

Cllr. Rimmer re-emphasized the need for a formal 'relaunch' of the Tennis Court be undertaken once the maintenance tasks have been completed.

### 14. Local Government Elections – 4 May 2017.

The Clerk drew the attention of councillors to the letter and election timetable that he had received from Wiltshire Council and had sent to all councillors.

### 15. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Lockwood – The hedge at 2 Pound Close was obstructing the pavement.

Cllr. Robinson – One of the two advertising signs on the roundabout had been defaced.

### 16. Date of Next Meeting.

The Council noted the date of the following meeting thus:

- 12 April 2017, commencing at 8pm – Ordinary PC Meeting.

The Clerk proposed a number of dates for subsequent meetings that he will discuss with the Village Hall booking officer..

The meeting concluded at 10.10pm.

R A Oglesby  
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

12 April 2017