

# Annual Parish Meeting

## Minutes of the Semington Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

### **PRESENT:**

Brian Smyth, Chairman, Semington Parish Council and Chairman for the meeting.

Roger Coleman, Clerk.

The following Parish Councillors were present: P Bowyer, R Oglesby, S. Rimmer, R Robinson, P Smith and C Wade.

There were three members of the public present.

Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended.

### **1. Introduction and Welcome.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and he explained the nature of an Annual Parish meeting.

### **2. To consider matters raised by those present.**

The following matters were raised by those present:

- The Bus Gate and the refusal (to date) of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust to relocate the Bus Gate. The Chairman and Cllr. Seed explained the current position and the actions taken by the Parish Council to secure its relocation.
- The future of the Semington Post Office, currently provided on a part-time basis in the Village Hall.
- The availability of allotments. It was explained that the provision of these allotments was dependent on Hannick Homes commencing their proposed development and achieving a 70% completion of new homes before the allotments would become available. It was estimated that this development would commence in 2020/2021.

### **3. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2017.**

The Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

### **4. 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.

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Roger Coleman

Clerk to Semington Parish Council

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

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

## **Annual Report from the Parish Council - Year 2017 – 2018**

The Chairman commenced the meeting by highlighting a number of key activities that dominated the year at Semington.

*Richborough and Framptons Planning Appeals.*

*The Chairman gave the background to these planning applications and the subsequent appeals and offered the following comments:*

*The key issues in achieving the dismissal of the appeals were not the ones that were originally considered to be 'key' by the Parish Council and valuable lessons have been learned should arguments against large scale development in the village need to be prepared.*

*The Chairman thanked all those involved, especially parishioners, for their support in opposing these appeals.*

*The campaign by the Parish Council for the relocation of the Bus Gate following the creation of the new base for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance continues unabated and has resulted in considerable correspondence and the occasional meeting with the Air Ambulance Trust and Wiltshire Council. This matter continues to be unresolved.*

*The development by Hannick Homes is progressing – albeit slowly with an intended start date in early 2019.*

*The Chairman thanked PCSO Ledbury for attending Parish Council meetings and for her regular reports. Her attendance at the Village Hall Coffee morning was also appreciated. He added that the 'No Entry Watch' at the Bus Gate was continuing and that last year (2017) there had been 98 separate shifts undertaken with 126 'Drive throughs' and 309 'Turn rounds'. The Chairman reported that each shift was around 75 minutes long which actually represented a very small proportion of the year.*

*The following is a summary of some of the activities of the Parish Council on behalf of the parishioners of Semington that was reported by the Chairman:*

*9 councillors at start of year then 8 councillors after the resignation of Kevin Lockwood. A Full Council comprises 9 members.*

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

*Consideration of Planning Applications – Around 10 (15 last year).*

- Richborough/Framptons applications – Went to Appeal (27/6/17)  
(Major involvement of PC – Thanks to all concerned including parishioners)*
- Hannick Homes progressing.*
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance – 'No Entry' gate relocation.*

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- *Attending WC Planning Committee and meetings and Appeal Hearings.*

## *Community Policing Team Activities*

*PCSO Maggie Ledbury – has attended a couple of meetings.*

## *Village Environment/Expenditure:*

- *A361 Road Safety Improvements*
- *A361 Road (opp. Crematorium) further Tree Planting.*
- *Telephone Box Purchase and Refurbishment.*
- *St George's PCC – Churchyard & Grass Cutting.*
- *St George's PCC – Village Newsletter.*
- *Tennis Court – Repair/Refurbishment.*
- *Bulb / additional tree planting.*
- *Christmas Tree/Christmas Lights.*

*Wilts & Berks Canal Trust involvement.*

*Village Website – Development/Maintenance.*

## *Donations/Subscriptions:*

- *Wiltshire Wildlife Trust*
- *Dorothy House.*
- *Bobby Van Trust.*

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

## *Highways issues:*

- *'No Through Road' Watch.*
- *Grass Cutting (e.g. at Roundabout)*

## *Other Matters:*

- *Melksham Community Area Board involvement.*
- *Consideration/Consultation on numerous WC Documents.*

## ***Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2018.***

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

## **Statement on the Semington Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2018.**

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

*The balance brought forward from FY2016/17 had been £21476 and, allowing for the payments and receipts during the year, the balance carried forward at the end of FY2017/18, is £24740 The total receipts for the year to date are £13900, payments for the year to date total £9636 and the value of the fixed assets owned by the Council is £35288.*

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*Out of the balance of £24740 carried forward some £376 represents the remaining donations from the War Memorial Fund and £5320 represents the St George's Development Fund, namely the Tennis Court Fund from which £1032 has to be deducted for Tennis Court Maintenance Work undertaken this year and that sum transferred to the main Treasurer's Account.*

## Main Receipts in the year were:

Precept:	£12000
HMRC VAT Refund:	£251
HMRC PAYE	£1436
Bank Interest:	£4
Healthcare 2000 Donation	£200

## Main Payments in the year were:

Staff Costs:	£3591
Office Expenses:	£405
Donations:	£50 (Bobby Van Trust), £500 (St George's PCC – Newsletter/Grass Cutting, £30 (Dorothy House)
Website:	£120
HMRC PAYE:	£1551.
Insurance/Subscriptions/Audit Fees:	£1166
Hall Hire:	£490
Telephone Kiosk	£1
Christmas Tree etc	£533

*The Annual Return has been completed and the Internal Auditor has undertaken the Internal Audit and the Annual Return will be submitted to the Parish Council for approval.*

## **5. Any Other Business.**

There was no other business.

## **6. Close.**

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.

Chairman