

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2019 at 8.30pm in the Village Hall

### Present.

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

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

There was one member of the public present initially.

### **1. Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from PCSO Maggie Ledbury.

### *Clerk's Note.*

*Subsequent to this meeting, Cllr. Robinson confirmed that owing to a move of house to Cumbria he had tendered his resignation as a parish councillor with immediate effect. The Clerk commented that he will inform Wiltshire Council accordingly.*

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

There were no interests declared by councillors.

### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10 April 2019.**

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

### **4. Actions.**

There ensued a discussion on the current design of the Action Grid and whether there was a need to display all of the existing columns. The Clerk stated that in view of the continuing issues with the Action Grid he would not attach one to these minutes and wait for councillors to agree a revised design for him to use in future.

### **5. Community Policing.**

PCSO Ledbury of the Community Policing Team had sent the Clerk the April monthly report that he had subsequently sent to all councillors. The Clerk read out that part of the report that dealt with local issues and this, together with additional elements from the report, is reproduced below (in italics):

#### **ED13 Beat Code Monthly Report for May's Meeting 2019**

#### *April 2019 Figures*

**Poulshot** *No Reports.*

**Bulkington** *No Reports*

#### **Keevil**

*7<sup>th</sup> Violence against a person. – Local event*

*9<sup>th</sup> Theft of trailer – Farm*

#### **Steeple Ashton**

*27<sup>th</sup> Violence against a person – The longs Arms*

**Great Hinton** *No Reports*

**Semington** *No reports*

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## **Seend**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Attempt dwelling burglary – Seend</i>
7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Sgle vehicle RTC – minor injury – Bolands Hill</i>
21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Male arrested DUI – High Street</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Male arrested DUI – Bollands Hill</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Minor RTC – two vehicles – High Street</i>

*For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit...*

**<https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>**

**Sector Inspector – Inspector Andy Fee – [andy.fee@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andy.fee@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**

**Community Coordinator – Pc Charly Chilton – [charlotte.chilton@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:charlotte.chilton@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**

## End of Report.

The Clerk stated that PCSO Ledbury had suggested that she meets up with a Parish Council representative prior to a Parish Council meeting in order to brief that person on latest developments. The Chairman stated that he would contact PCSO Ledbury.

The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from the Police & Crime Commissioner to the letter from the Parish Council that commented on the lack of visibility of, or engagement with, the Community Policing Team and whether or not any improvement to the existing policing model was proposed. He read out the reply and commented that it failed to address the key issue in the letter from the Parish Council and concentrated instead of merely quoted the recent statistics of local incidents and attendance by police units. The Council asked the Clerk to write again to the Police & Crime Commissioner to seek an answer to the original letter.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that there were a total of seven Neighbourhood Watch signs in the village and he had been quoted a replacement cost of £30 per sign but he was uncertain whether this included affixing the new signs. Cllr. Bowyer was asked to confirm whether or not installing the signs was included in that price and, if not, what the total price would be for purchasing and installing the seven signs. The Clerk was asked to put this subject on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr. Oglesby reported that he had been informed by a parishioner that there had been recent car thefts involving a low-loader vehicle and he urged everyone to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police.

## **6. Adjournment.**

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

## **7. Wiltshire Council Report.**

Cllr. Seed had given a general report on Wiltshire Council at the earlier Annual Parish Meeting and this is reproduced here (in italics) for completeness:

*Another difficult year for Wiltshire Council. Budget efficiencies of £23m.  
Some successes County and locally.*

*After terrible time over the past year Salisbury will host National Armed Forces week in early July and this event will be attended by the Princess Royal.  
Council entering era of change Leader Baroness Jane Scott stepping down as leader in July.*

*Recent Boundary review means the Council division which contains Semington will change in 2021 and Steeple Ashton, Keevil, Great Hinton, Berryfelds and Broughton*

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*Gifford and stay in Melksham Community Area.*

*The Melksham Area Board continues to support both the Town and local villages and has supported Semington well over the years.*

*I am due to resume AB chairmanship next month. In Semington.*

*I continue to attend your Parish Council whenever I can. Many of you here tonight know that I get involved wherever I can and also where I am asked.*

*Locally we are progressing the issue of illegal use of the canal bridge route to and from Melksham via the bus gate and hope to see an enforcement camera installed in the near future.*

*On a personal note I have been your councillor for ten years but have been selected to be the Conservative candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner for Wilts and Swindon for election next year. This means I will remain as your councillor until elections in 2021 but I am unlikely to stand for re-election at that time.*

*I really enjoy my connection with Semington and look forward to not only the next two years as your Wiltshire Councillor but also continued friendships in the village.*

*Finally I would also like to thank Brian as PC Chairman for his help to me over the past year and look forward to working with him and his Council in the forthcoming year.*

End of Report.

Cllr. Seed stated that work is progressing well to obtain and to install an 'enforcement camera' at the Bus gate and the cost will be borne by Wiltshire Council and not the CATG.

## 8. Planning.

a. The Council noted the status of the following planning applications:

19/02442/FUL	23 St Georges Court	New external door in an external wall	Approved
19/02759/LBC	23 St Georges Court	New external door in an external wall	Approved
19/02290/VAR	1 – 12 Turnpike Close	Variation of Condition 08 of 07/02532/OUT to alter restrictions for the use of the building as solely for affordable housing.	Withdrawn

b. The following planning application was examined by the Parish Council and the Council **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown (in italics):

19/02147/OUT	Land North of St Georges Road, Semington	Residential development of up to 26 dwellings (of which 50% would be affordable) with associated car parking, access, internal roads, public open space (including retention of the existing WW2 Pill Box), landscaping, drainage and other associated infrastructure (Outline application with all matters reserved).	Comments by 24/5/19
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*The Parish Council objects to this proposed development for the following reasons:*

*This application is essentially the same as the application by Oxford Law and Framptons in 2016 ( Ref: 16/3164255 ) which was turned down by Wiltshire Council and then refused on appeal (Ref:*

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APP/Y3940/W/16/3164255 ).

As there have been no changes to material circumstances affecting the village's (un)suitability for additional houses, the reasons set out by the appeal inspector in her judgement that the application should fail, still apply.

The objections to this proposed development are:

- 1 – The site is outside the settlement boundary and too many houses are proposed.
- 2 – Building on the proposed site would extend the village into the open countryside.
- 3 – There are no benefits to the village from the proposed development.
- 4 – Too many houses are being proposed for a village such as Semington.
- 5 – Affordable homes should be built where they are most needed.
- 6 – The proposal is contrary to the carefully-constructed (and approved) development plan and core strategy.
- 7 – There is no need to build these houses here.

NB. Reference is to be made to the Appeal Inspector's Appeal Report.

The Parish Council noted that Cllr. Seed had 'called in' this application if it were likely to be approved by officers under their delegated powers.

- c. There were no planning applications received after 8 May 2019.
- d. Cllr. Rimmer commented that he had heard that West Wiltshire Crematorium had acquired the field that adjoins the crematorium.

## 9. Finance.

- a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 15 May 2019 was as follows:

### Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	15,742.50
31 March 2019		

Total:	£	<b>15,742.50</b>
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### **Credits (1 April 2019 to 30 April 2019):**

HMRC PAYE Month 12	£	129.20
Wiltshire Council Precept (Part)	£	6,500.00
HMCE VAT Refund	£	275.96

Total:	£	<b>6,905.16</b>
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### **Debits (1 April 2019 to 30 April 2019):**

Clerk's Salary (March)	£	322.50
Clerk's Expenses (March)	£	25.74
HMRC PAYE Month 1	£	128.80

Total:	£	<b>477.04</b>
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**Balance at 30 April 2019:**

<b>£ 22,170.62</b>
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### **Credits (1 May 2019 to 15 May 2019):**

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HMRC PAYE Month 1	£	128.80
	Total:	<b>£ 128.80</b>

**Debits (1 May 2019 to 15 May 2019):**

Clerk's Salary (March)	£	322.50
SWAS Defibrillator	£	2,160.00
	Total:	<b>£ 2,482.50</b>

<b>Balance at 15 May 2019:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>19,816.92</b>
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<b>Minus Semington War Memorial Monies Remaining:</b> (Includes Donation of £38.50 from Mr R Heard - 14/11/18)	£	434.49
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<b>Parish Council Balance at 15 May 2019</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>19,382.43</b>
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**Lloyds A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement 31-Mar-19	£	7,634.38
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**Credits**

09-Apr-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.35
09-May-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.35
		<b>£</b>	<b>0.70</b>

**Debits**

None	£	-
	<b>£</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Balance at 15 May 2019:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>7,635.08</b>
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<b>Total Balance in Hand at 15 May 2019:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>27,017.51</b>
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**Payments to be authorised (15 May 2019).**

Clerk's Salary (May) To be paid 1 June 2019	£	337.50
Office Expenses (April)	£	6.90
Office Allowance	£	150.00
Clerk's Back Pay (1/4/19 to 30/4/19)	£	12.64
HMRC PAYE Month 2	£	140.00
Zurich Insurance Renewal	£	797.04
Rebecca Randall (Internal Audit)	£	120.00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ 1,564.08</b>

b. The Council **resolved** to make a donation to the Parochial Church Council of £135 towards the total cost of £270 for three gazebos that are available for community use.

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c. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above including a payment of £31.71 to Shredit for recent shredding services.

## 10. Highways/Environment.

a. The Chairman stated that he would request the Parish Steward to clear the weeds in the road/kerb. He commented that the build-up of litter at Littlemarsh, reported at the last meeting, had now been cleared.

b. It was reported that there has been no further correspondence sent or received in relation to the Bus Gate, but Cllr. Seed had confirmed that progress is continuing in respect of obtaining an 'enforcement camera' for the Bus Gate and that the cost is likely to be borne by Wiltshire Council.

c. Cllr. Rimmer confirmed that the Memorial Bench has been delivered and subject to the completion of the hard standing for it that was currently underway it would be installed over the next week or so. In respect of the associated plaque, Cllr. Rimmer stated that he would send all councillors the possible wording to be used for their comments. There ensued a discussion on the possible addition of names to the Information Board that was in the telephone kiosk and it was agreed to revisit this subject at a subsequent Parish Council meeting.

## 11. Semington Village Website.

There was nothing further reported.

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

There was nothing reported.

## 13. Wilts & Berks Canal.

There was nothing reported.

## 14. Tennis Court and Wessex Close Play Areas.

a. There were no matters raised.

b. The Clerk stated that he continues to contact Wiltshire Council regarding the unserviceable play equipment – the 'Tornado' – at Wessex Close but that his requests continue to be ignored.

## 15. Any Other Business.

- Cllr. Rimmer – The lawn mower used to cut the grass at the Football field requires repair and that the Sports Club may be seeking a donation towards the cost of repair from the Parish Council.
- Cllr. Rimmer stated that a parishioner requested permission from the Parish Council for his small agricultural vehicle to go through the Bus Gate. Councillors commented that it was a Highway/Traffic matter and not a Parish Council matter and that the parishioner should contact Wiltshire Council in the first instance.
- Clerk - There was to be a Canal & River Trust User Group meeting on 5 June 2019 (6pm to 8pm) at St Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon
- Clerk – The diversion of Path 'Keevil 22' had been approved by Wiltshire Council.
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## 16. Dates of Next Meetings.

- 12 June 2019 – Ordinary PC Meeting.
- 17 July 2019 – Ordinary PC Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10.05pm.

Brian Smyth  
Semington Parish Council

12 June 2019