

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 October 2019 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

### Present.

Councillors P Smith (Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman), P Bowyer, M Kasasian, P Bowyer, S Rimmer, C Wade and the Clerk Roger Coleman.

PCSO Maggie Ledbury attended part-time.

There was one member of the public present.

### 1. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillors R Oglesby, W Scott and B Smyth and from Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed.

### 2. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared by councillors.

### 3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 16 September 2019.

The Council **resolved** that the following amendments be made:

Delete the word 'DRAFT' from the title, replace '£50' from the narrative at Agenda item 9e with

'£25' and amend the date of the Financial Statement (Agenda item 9) to read '16 September 2019.

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

### 4. Actions.

The Actions in accordance with the Action Grid were addressed during the course of the meeting and the current state is recorded on the attached Action Grid dated 9 October 2019.

### 5. Community Policing.

a. PCSO Ledbury of the Community Policing Team had sent the Clerk the October monthly report that he had subsequently sent to all councillors. PCSO Ledbury gave a verbal report to the meeting, summarising the main points in her written report relating to Semington.

This report is reproduced below (in italics):

#### ***ED13 Beat Code Monthly Report for October's Meeting 2019*** ***September's Figures***

#### ***Poulshot***

27/09/2019 *POULSHOT ROAD*  
*Unknown suspect has punctured the IP tyres with an unknown object.*

29/09/2019 *POULSHOT ROAD*  
*IP as suffered further ASB from known male.*

#### ***Keevil***

07/09/2019 *PICKNEY FARM*  
*Unknown person(s) by unknown means have damaged a trap used for Op Cobb.*  
*The IP went to check the trap this morning and it had been flattened. Damage value unknown.*

#### ***Steeple Ashton***

02/09/2019 *EDINGTON, WESTBURY, (ED13)*

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*Sometime between the 22 and 30 Aug an offender has broken into a shed and stolen garden tools and equipment*

12/09/2019 HILL FARM

*Unknown suspects have stolen a caravan by unknown means.*

19/09/2019 WITHHELD

*Known male suspect has sent naked photos of IP to another person.*

23/09/2019 NEWLEAZE

*Known offender has blocked the IPs path with his vehicle so he could not get by, the offender then got out of his vehicle and approached the IP in an aggressive manor telling him he would break his jaw.*

### Semington

01/09/2019 LITTLETON ROUNDABOUT

*Driver seen to be using mobile phone, later found to have no insurance. Driver reported and permitted to take a policy out at the roadside.*

01/09/2019 TROWBRIDGE ROAD

*Several vehicles damaged overnight and items stolen.*

10/09/2019 ST GEORGES PLACE

*IP has received a message from her friend. This has caused the IP distress.*

16/09/2019 LITTLETON

*Known female has had a verbal argument with her partner and slapped him once to the face and grabbed him by the arms*

23/09/2019 GREENACRES

*During domestic argument- suspect has grabbed IP by the neck and pushed a mobile into her mouth. Suspect arrested for Common Assault.*

24/09/2019 TROWBRIDGE ROAD

*Known suspect has left the IP's belongings out in the road, causing it to become wet and damaged. Cost of damage TVO £1100. PROPERTY: Electrical items, air conditioning unit, laptop, books, cassette tapes, clothing, shoes and sentimental property.*

25/09/2019 LITTLETON ROUNDABOUT

*Unknown suspect has thrown water bottle at IP's vehicle and spat at IP's passenger.*

26/09/2019 KENNET AND AVON CANAL

*Theft of a generator TVO £399.99 from a canal boat. Generator was secured by a heavy chain.*

### Seend

27/09/2019 HIGH STREET

*Known male suspect has hit another vehicle with his and failed to stop and leave the appropriate details required.*

### End of Report.

PCSO Ledbury commented that police officers had recently patrolled the No Entry Gate/Bus Gate to assist in its enforcement and two persons had been stopped and advice given. In response to a comment by councillors she agreed to request additional patrols by officers.

The Chairman commented that this enforcement action required greater publicity, such as an article in the Melksham News. He added that Cllr. Seed had informed him that around fifty vehicles a day are flouting the No Entry Gate restriction. Cllr. Smith reinforced the need for extra vigilance by police officers at the No Entry Gate/Bus Gate but the lack of available police resources for such an activity is seen as exacerbating the problem.

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b. Cllr. Rimmer confirmed that the new Neighbourhood Watch signs had been purchased by Cllr. Smyth and that he, Cllr. Rimmer, had obtained aluminium sheeting that needed to be cut into appropriately sized panels on which to mount the signs. He added that he would investigate and obtain the necessary fittings to allow the signs to be mounted to the available posts.

### 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.

In the absence of Cllr. Seed no report was given but the Chairman stated that in a telephone conversation with Cllr. Seed he had been told the current situation regarding the No Entry Gate/Bus Gate enforcement – which he had already reported – and the results of the Local Government Boundary Review (reported under Agenda item 8e below).

### 8. Planning.

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

19/07938/REM	Land at St Georges Road	Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, pursuant to outline permission 16/01678/OUT for the erection of 24 dwellings and associated works.	Pending
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b. There were no planning applications received after 1 October 2019.

c. The Council noted the Village Green (Great Lees Field) Hearing – 22 to 24 October 2019 at Semington Village Hall.

d. Councillors commented that there were no significant implications identified in the published 'Local Plan Review' issued by the Wiltshire Council Strategic Planning Department.

e. The Council noted that the Boundary Commission Local Boundary Review had proposed that the Electoral Division of Summerham and Seend be replaced by a boundary change that placed Semington in a new Melksham Without Rural Electoral Division. Cllr. Wade commented that this change continues to recognize Semington as a rural village and that the new Division will comprise similar villages and would not include a large urban area. He added that he was pleased to note that Semington would remain in the Melksham Area Board.

### 9. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 9 October 2019 was as follows:

#### Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	16,793.01
31 August 2019		
Total:	£	<b>16,793.01</b>

#### **Credits (1 September 2019 to 30 September 2019):**

WC Precept (Part)	£	6,500.00
HMRC PAYE Month 5	£	136.80
Total:	£	<b>6,636.80</b>

#### **Debits (1 September 2019 to 30 September 2019):**

Clerk's Salary (August) (Paid 1 September 2019)	£	341.90
Clerk's Expenses (July/August)	£	13.00

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HMRC PAYE Month 5	£	136.80
St Georges PCC (Newsletter/Churchyard)	£	550.00
St Georges PCC (Gazebos)	£	180.00
Friends of Great Lees	£	1,250.00
Melksham Remembers Book	£	25.00
B Smyth (Litter Pick)	£	137.87
Total:	<b>£</b>	<b>2,634.57</b>

**Balance at 30 September 2019:**

<b>£ 20,795.24</b>
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**Credits (1 October 2019 to 9 October 2019):**

HMRC PAYE Month 6	£	136.80
Total:	<b>£</b>	<b>136.80</b>

**Debits (1 October 2019 to 9 October 2019):**

Clerk's Salary (September) (Paid 1 October 2019)	£	341.90
HMRC PAYE Month 6	£	136.80
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	£	36.00
Total:	<b>£</b>	<b>514.70</b>

**Balance at 9 October 2019:**

<b>£ 20,417.34</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
09-Jun-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.32
09-Jul-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.30
09-Aug-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.28
09-Sep-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.26
09-Oct-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.40
			<b>£ 2.26</b>

**Debits**

None	£	-	
			<b>£ -</b>

**Balance at 9 October 2019:**

<b>£ 7,636.64</b>
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**Total Balance in Hand at 9 October 2019:**

<b>£ 28,053.98</b>
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### Payments to be authorised (9 October 2019).

Clerk's Salary (October) To be paid 1 November 2019	£	341.90
Office Expenses (September)	£	10.45
HMRC PAYE Month 7 (Due 5 November)	£	136.80
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>489.15</b>

b. The Council noted that the Clerk had written thanking the Semington Slog Committee for its generous donation of £300 to the village and that it had agreed that it would be spent on the Village Christmas Tree and associated Christmas Tree lights. The Council **resolved** that the sum of £250 would be allocated to the tree and a further £250 towards the lights and related paraphernalia. Cllr. Wade noted this resolution and offered to obtain the Christmas Tree and Cllr. Rimmer agreed to assist Cllr. Wade in investigating and obtaining suitable lights. Cllrs. Rimmer and Wade also agreed to investigate how best to erect the tree on the Village Green – an activity planned for Saturday 23 November at 10am. The Chairman asked that the proposal for erecting the tree is an item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

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

### 10. Highways.

a. The Chairman stated that there were no specific issues that had been reported to Wiltshire Council.

b. The Chairman stated that he needed to speak to Cllr. Smyth regarding the issues and concerns raised by a parishioner in his letter to the Parish Council regarding highway/fly-tipping issues at Littlemarsh but that he would speak directly to the parishioner if this matter remained outstanding.

c. The Chairman stated that in his telephone conversation with Cllr. Seed in which the enforcement of the No Entry Gate/Bus Gate was discussed and the results of the recently installed CCTV at the Gate reviewed it was clear that Wiltshire Council would not install Enforcement Cameras because of the low offending rate and if the Parish Council wished such cameras to be installed the cost of installing the cameras and the subsequent data analysis would fall entirely on the Parish Council. The Chairman requested that this subject is reviewed at three-monthly intervals. He added that Cllr. Seed considered that a greater police presence at the Gate was the best solution.

d. The Chairman stated that the subject of a Community Speed Watch Scheme and discussion on whether or not to request lower speed limits for some roads in Semington would be deferred until the next meeting.

### 11. Environment.

a. The Council **resolved** that a Village 'Litter Pick' would take place on Saturday 9 November – Village Hall at 10am.

b. Cllr. Rimmer gave a brief explanation of his understanding of the Wiltshire Council initiative to promote Wiltshire Council scheme to promote 'Wildflower Meadows/Areas' in the County. He commented that a possible site in Semington could be where the commemorative oaks have been planted and councillors suggested that the verge area south of the High Street commemorative bench was another possible site. The Clerk was asked to resend information on this scheme to all councillors. Cllr. Rimmer agreed to take the lead on this topic and stated that he would contact the Melksham Area Community Engagement Officer. The Chairman said that discussion of this subject will be deferred until the next meeting.

c. The Chairman stated that discussion on the grass-cutting in the village will be deferred until the subject of the 'Wildflower Meadow/Areas' had been discussed and any proposals for their implementation in Semington agreed.

d. Cllr. Rimmer stated that he wished to highlight to parishioners that when a Grit Bin is empty, or very depleted, a telephone call to Wiltshire Council or a message on the Wiltshire

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Council website will result in it being replenished and that it was not a Parish Council responsibility. He recommended that a note in the Newsletter to this effect is added. He stated that he was not seeking additional Grit Bins in the village.

e. Cllr. Rimmer stated that a Working Party would clear the vegetation that is encroaching on to the Tennis Court this Friday, 11 October and, if necessary Sunday 13 October, commencing on each occasion at 10am.

f. There were no other matters raised.

### 12. Footpaths.

Cllr. Rimmer reported that in the company of Cllr. Smyth and Brian Micklam (Ramblers Association) he had surveyed a number of public paths in the village – many of which were overgrown with vegetation and had stiles and finger posts damaged or partly missing. He stated that it had been agreed that these paths would be progressively improved – especially clearing the overgrown vegetation. He added that the damaged or missing finger posts and stiles would be reported to Wiltshire Council for it to take action. Cllr. Rimmer stated that it was the intention to develop a work programme for these paths that would be presented to the Parish Council at its next meeting and that it might prove viable to allocate one Saturday/month to undertake the work – assisted by interested members of the public.

### 13. Semington Village Website.

Cllr. Rimmer reported that a meeting had been held between him, Cllrs. Kasasian, Scott and the webmaster to discuss the future of the Semington website. He stated that it was a very positive and constructive meeting and it identified possible changes to the website content and a preferred means of encouraging local organisations and individuals to contribute content for the website. He stated that it was agreed that the website would be regularly reviewed and the next review was scheduled for 4 November.

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

There was nothing reported.

*Clerk's Note.*

*The next Melksham Area Board is to be held on 13 November 2019 at 7pm. The proposed venue is Bowerhill Village Hall, Bowerhill, Melksham*

*The next Melksham CATG meeting is on 17 October 2019.*

### 15. Wilts & Berks Canal.

There was nothing reported.

It was agreed that this would not continue to be an Agenda item until there had been further developments relating to the project.

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

The Clerk reported that a parishioner had written to the Parish Council lamenting the state of the Wessex Close Play Area. The Clerk stated that he had advised the parishioner that this Play Area was owned and managed by Wiltshire Council and not the Parish Council. He added that he had sent him contact details to enable him to make further enquiries.

### 17. Any Other Business.

There were no matters raised.

### 18. Dates of Next Meetings.

a. The Council noted that the dates of the next Ordinary PC Meetings were 4 November 2019 and 11 December 2019.

b. The Council agreed that the following dates are to be booked for Parish Council meetings in 2020:

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15 January, 12 February, 11 March, 15 April, 17 June and 15 July.

**NOTE: These dates are to be confirmed.**

The meeting concluded at 9.58pm.

Brian Smyth  
Semington Parish Council

13 November 2019

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<b>ACTION TABLE 9/10/19</b>						
<b>Action Serial</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Actionee</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>PCM 9/10/19 Agenda item</b>
18	13/2/19 Para10a	October 2019	Clerk	To put Grit Bins on Agenda (October)	Complete	11d
23	13/2/19 Para 11	10/4/19	Cllrs. Rimmer, Scott, Kasasian.	To review website	Complete	13
35	12/6/19 Para 15a	September 2019	Cllr. Rimmer	To form Working Party – Tennis Court vegetation.	Complete	11e
37	17/7/19 Para 10c	31/7/19	Clerk	To obtain report re.CCTV from Cllr. Seed.	Complete	10c
39	17/7/19 Para 11a	31/8/19	Cllr. Smith	To contact WC – Footpath reports.	Complete	12
41	16/9/19 Para 5b	9/10/19	Cllrs. Smyth, Rimmer, Bowyer	To decide how to mount NHW signs	Complete	5b
42	16/9/19 Para 8e	9/10/19	All Members & Clerk	To read WC Local Plan Review documentation	Complete	8d
43	16/9/19 Para 9f	9/10/19	Clerk	To write to Semington Slog Committee	Complete	9b
44	16/9/19 Various	9/10/19	Clerk	To add items to next Agenda.	Complete	10b, 10c, 10d, 11b, 11c
45	9/10/19 9b	23/11/19	Cllr. Wade	Christmas Tree	In Hand	N/A
46	9/10/19 9b	23/11/19	Cllrs. Rimmer/Wade	Christmas Lights	In Hand	N/A
47	9/10/19 9b, 10d, 11b	4/11/19	Clerk	To add items to Agenda	In Hand	N/A
48	11b	16/10/19	Clerk	Wildflower Meadow/Areas Details	In Hand	N/A
49	11b	4/11/19	Cllr. Rimmer	Wildflower Meadow/Areas	In Hand	N/A
50	12	4/11/19	Cllrs. Rimmer/Smyth	Footpath Programme	In Hand	N/A
51	18b	4/11/19	Clerk	Meeting Dates	In Hand	N/A