

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 November 2019 at 8.00pm 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.

PCSO Maggie Ledbury attended part-time.

There were three members of the public present initially.

1. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed. He was attending the Melksham Area Board meeting this same evening.

2. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared by councillors.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9 October 2019.

The Council **resolved** that the minutes were 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 13 November 2019.

5. Community Policing.

a. PCSO Ledbury of the Community Policing Team had sent the Clerk the November 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 November's Meeting 2019

October's Figures

Poulshot

08/10/2019 *THE GREEN*

Known male has previously made offensive comments to the IP. The male has also been trespassing onto the front garden of the IP's property.

Bulkington

26/10/2019 *THE HIGH STREET*

Single vehicle RTC. Pain to back and neck.

Keevil

NO REPORTS

Steeple Ashton

01/10/2019 *HINTON LANE*

Industrial accident

04/10/2019 *COMMON HILL*

14 November 2019

Roger Coleman

Clerk to Semington Parish Council

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INJURY: Driver has hit a telegraph pole and driven into a ditch, causing damage to the pole/roadside furniture. Driver has sustained pain to his back.

Great Hinton

NO REPORTS

Semington

06/10/2019 KENNET AND AVON CANAL

Unknown suspect has stolen the reporting persons HONDA EO20I generator which was chained to her boat. They cut the chains leaving them in situ.

07/10/2019 SEMINGTON

Housing Association vehicle has been witnessed hitting a parked vehicle causing a dent to the passenger front wing.

09/10/2019 SOMERSET ARMS

Third party Counter allegation of an assault where the suspect has punched the IP however it was not reported.

13/10/2019 SOMERSET WAY

IP is currently living in rented accommodation. Her house is currently unoccupied and for sale. In October, IP returned to her house to check all was well and found that her neighbour has cut down all her beech hedge that is inside her garden approx. 30 feet. All the logs from her trees are stacked in his garden.

Seend

09/10/2019 BOLLANDS HILL

RTC – Non Injury

17/10/2019 SELLS GREEN

Unknown suspect(s) have gone on to the RP's barge and stolen a secured bright orange Honda suitcase generator.

21/10/2019 BOLLANDS HILL

1 Vehicle RTC, minor injury sustained. - Vehicle travelling north on stated road, and has failed to negotiate a right hand bend. The vehicle collided with the nearside front quarter with the verge and a tree, causing the tree to uproot and the vehicle to roll before coming to rest in the middle of the road.

26/10/2019 BOLLANDS HILL

Female arrested for drink driving and driving with no insurance.

26/10/2019 THE HIGH STREET

Single vehicle RTC. Pain to back and neck.

End of Report.

PCSO Ledbury commented on the following:

- The dangers of 'pick pockets' in shops – especially relevant to the more vulnerable in the community.
- Recent heating oil thefts.
- Increased police interest in cyclist cycling without lights during dark evenings.
- Keeping an eye on vulnerable/elderly neighbours – especially during cold weather.
- Leaving Christmas presents visible in unattended vehicles.

Cllr. Oglesby highlighted the dangers of small motorised scooters favoured by youngsters and often ridden on the pavement.

Cllr. Smyth commented that police officers had recently undertaken patrols at the 'No Entry' Gate.

14 November 2019

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Clerk to Semington Parish Council

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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.

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. The Council examined the following planning application and **resolved** that it is to be passed to the Conservation Officer for comment.

19/10312/LBC	26 Church Street	Replacement of timber framed windows	New
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c. The Council noted the Village Green (Great Lees Field) Hearing had been held 22 to 24 October 2019 at Semington Village Hall but that it had been necessary to allocate two further days – 4/5 December - to complete the Hearing. Cllr. Scott commented that the initial days had been dedicated to the large number of witnesses giving evidence in support of the application and additional time was required to allow the objectors time to give their evidence. He added that a decision by the Inspector was unlikely before Christmas.

d. The Chairman stated that no date had yet been allocated for the Planning Appeal in respect of planning application 19/02147/OUT and he observed that any comments in respect of this appeal must be received by the Planning Inspectorate no later than 27 November. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Scott for proposing possible comments to be sent in respect of this appeal – copies of which had been sent to all councillors – and following a short discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that the following comments be sent (shown in italics):

Semington Parish Council opposes this development because it seeks to build too many houses in an inappropriate location.

We argue this because:

- 1. The proposed housing development is outside the limits of development defined for Semington in the Wiltshire Core Strategy and in the Wiltshire Housing Sites DPD.*
- 2. Because of its scale and location such a development would protrude into the open countryside to the west of the village creating a large urbanised expansion beyond the existing built-up area.*
- 3. This would be a disproportionate addition to the existing village and would have a harmful impact on the character and appearance of Semington and the surrounding rural landscape,*
- 4. For these reasons the proposal conflicts with Core Policy 1 of the Wiltshire Core strategy, which seeks to properly plan for sustainable development of housing in the county.*
- 5. The proposal also conflicts with the Council's plan-led approach to the delivery of new housing sites outside of the identified limits of development, as set out in Core Policy 2 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.*

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6. *The proposal also conflicts with Core Policy 51 which seeks to protect the landscape from harmful impacts, and Core Policy 57, which seeks to create developments that are complementary to the locality.*
7. *It conflicts with paragraph 170 of the National Planning Policy Framework which seeks to ensure that new development enhances the natural and local environment by recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The proposal also conflicts with an underlying theme of the National Planning Policy Framework that planning should be genuinely plan-led (paragraph 15), and with paragraph 12 that states that where a planning application conflicts with an up-to-date development plan, permission should not normally be granted.*
8. *We think that the proposal is, at its core, the same as the application that was made in 2016 for the development of this site. This was refused by Wiltshire Council, and then by the Secretary of State on appeal. Although the number of houses has been reduced and the proportion of affordable housing increased, the ear-marked site remains inappropriate for this number of dwellings.*
9. *We need to make it clear, however, that the village and the Parish Council are not against appropriate housing development. To the contrary, there have been many examples of support for development where a convincing case is made that it will bring positive benefits to the village. The latest example of this is the building of 24 houses in the field that lies between St George's Court and The Knapps where there was co-operation between the council and the developer, based on a recent village housing needs survey. Building begins in 2020.*

Semington Parish Council wishes the Planning Inspectorate to refuse the developer's appeal.

The Council **resolved** that available parish councillors will attend this Appeal Hearing and that Cllr. Scott will take the lead.

9. Finance.

- a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 13 November 2019 was as follows:

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 30 September 2019	£	20,795.24
Total:	£	20,795.24

Credits (1 October 2019 to 31 October 2019):

HMRC PAYE Month 6	£	136.80
Friends of St George's School (SLOG) Donation	£	300.00
Total:	£	436.80

Debits (1 October 2019 to 31 October 2019):

Clerk's Salary (September) (Paid 1 October 2019)	£	341.90
Clerk's Expenses (September)	£	10.45
HMRC PAYE Month 7	£	136.80
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	£	36.00
Total:	£	525.15

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Balance at 31 October 2019:

£	20,706.89
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Credits (1 November 2019 to 13 November 2019):

None

£	-
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Total:

£	-
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Debits (1 November 2019 to 13 November 2019):

Clerk's Salary (October) (Paid 1 November 2019)

£	341.90
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Total:

£	341.90
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Balance at 13 November 2019:

£	20,364.99
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Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement

£	7,634.38
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31-Mar-19

Credits

09-Apr-19 Interest (Approx)

£	0.35
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09-May-19 Interest (Approx)

£	0.35
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09-Jun-19 Interest (Approx)

£	0.32
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09-Jul-19 Interest (Approx)

£	0.30
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09-Aug-19 Interest (Approx)

£	0.28
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09-Sep-19 Interest (Approx)

£	0.26
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09-Oct-19 Interest (Approx)

£	0.40
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09-Nov-19 Interest (Approx)

£	0.38
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£	2.64
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Debits

None

£	-
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£	-
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Balance at 13 November 2019:

£	7,637.02
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Total Balance in Hand at 13 November 2019:

£	28,002.01
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Payments to be authorised (13 November 2019).

Clerk's Salary (November) To be paid 1 December 2019

£	341.90
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Office Expenses (October)

£	17.76
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Office Allowance (Balance)

£	25.00
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HMRC PAYE Month 8 (Due 5 December)

£	136.80
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Christmas Tree Lights (S Rimmer)

£	278.95
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Christmas Tree Lights External Box etc (S Rimmer)

£	25.00
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TOTAL:

£	825.41
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- b. The Clerk presented the following Financial Forecast:

This is shown appended to the minutes – Page 1179.

The Council **resolved** that the finances were in good order and that no action need be taken.

- c. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' including a payment of £32 for the purchase of two copies of 'Melksham Remembers' books.

10. Highways.

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

b. The Chairman stated that Wiltshire Council was informed on a regular basis when fly-tipping occurred at Littlemarsh or elsewhere in the village but that there was not a current problem or outstanding matters to address.

c. There ensued a lengthy discussion on the subjects of whether or not a Community Speed Watch Scheme or lower speed limits for some roads in Semington should be introduced in Semington. Councillors generally supported the introduction of a 20mph speed limit throughout Semington but considered that a Community Speed Watch scheme was not justified – primarily because of the absence of through traffic and the generally low traffic count in the village. The difficulty of recruiting volunteer members for such a team was also cited as a difficulty. The Chairman asked Cllr. Wade to raise this matter at the next CATG Meeting and to seek guidance on how best to proceed. Meanwhile, the Chairman stated that he would write an appropriate article for the Village Newsletter to seek parishioners' views.

11. Environment.

- a. Cllr. Rimmer stated that he had purchased new lights and other related sundries for the Christmas Tree and that all that remained was to make the necessary connection to the electricity supply once the tree had been erected.

b. Cllr. Wade confirmed that the tree had been ordered and that he would advise councillors when delivery was expected and when assistance to receive, move and to erect the tree would be required. Currently, it was planned that the tree would be erected on Saturday 23 November at 10am. Cllr. Wade added that he had informed St Georges School of this event and it was suggested that this information should also be displayed on the website.

Cllr. Rimmer described the proposed method for erecting the tree.

c. Cllr. Rimmer stated that he had written to Wiltshire Council and had identified two sites that would be suitable for the creation of a 'wildflower meadow' and that Semington Parish Council was interested in participating in the scheme. He added that this correspondence had been acknowledged by Wiltshire Council but no further action had yet been taken. Cllr. Rimmer stated that he would contact Wiltshire Council to enquire whether there had been any progress with this project.

d. Councillors observed that any discussion on 'village grass cutting' was dependent on further discussions with Wiltshire Council regarding 'wildflower meadows' and the subject was deferred until a subsequent meeting. It was noted that Wiltshire Council does undertake some grass cutting in the village but there were some areas of grass not cut by Wiltshire Council and that it may be possible for volunteers to cut these areas of grass.

- e. There were no other matters raised.

12. Footpaths.

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The Chairman reported that he had now been provided with a spreadsheet by Wiltshire Council on which to record footpath survey results and to identify where work to clear or restore a public right of way was necessary. He added that he had also been informed of an individual who on a voluntary basis would take the necessary action with Wiltshire Council when 'waymarks/finger posts' required replacing or installing. Cllr. Scott stated that he would send the Chairman a copy of his survey report that identified missing 'waymarks'.

13. Semington Village Website.

Cllrs. Rimmer and Kasasian gave a report on a recent meeting with the webmaster and the proposed changes to the website to ensure that it is more relevant and informative for users. They commented that the meeting had been very useful and that the response of the webmaster was very helpful and engaging. An example of a revised website was circulated to all councillors and it was received favourably – an important point was that local organisations should be encouraged to provide content relating to its own organisation and to have the ability to control its inclusion on the website. It was noted that further meetings are planned.

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

Cllr. Wade confirmed that he had attended the Melksham CATG meeting held on 17 October 2019. He commented that there was nothing specifically relevant to Semington except to note that the CATG Budget for FY2019/20 had now been earmarked for existing projects.

Cllr. Wade stated that Wiltshire Council has embarked upon a programme of replacing existing inefficient streetlights with new LED based lights and he asked the Council to note that any 'unofficial' signs attached to the existing streetlights will be removed and not replaced.

15. Tennis Court and Wessex Close Play Areas.

The Council noted the concern expressed by a parishioner during the adjournment regarding the state of the Wessex Close Play Area. The Clerk stated that he had explained the position regarding the maintenance of the Play Area and Play equipment during the adjournment and the actions he had taken for a repair to be effected to the 'Tornado' equipment – to date, without success. Councillors had commented that this Play Area was owned and managed by Wiltshire Council and not the Parish Council and Cllr. Oglesby had added that the cost to the Parish Council of accepting responsibility for the Play Area under the 'Transfer of Assets' scheme was prohibitive.

Cllr. Rimmer stated that he had asked a parishioner for a quotation to remove the cut vegetation from the Tennis Court that arose from the recent Working Party exercise to clear the vegetation that was encroaching on to the Tennis Court

Cllr. Wade reported that two or three tensioning wires on the Tennis Court boundary fence had broken and needed replacing.

16. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Rimmer – He invited the Parish Council to consider an appropriate way to mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War 2.

Cllr. Smith commented that the rules for the deployment of flashing speed signs as a deterrent to speeding motorists have changed and are more prescriptive than previously.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he intended to address the following topics in the forthcoming Village Newsletter:

- Grit Bins – the process for replenishment.
- 'No Entry Gate'.
- Christmas presents left in vehicles.
- Cyclists with no lights at night.
- Views regarding 20mph speed limit in Semington.

17. Date of Next Meeting.

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The Council noted that the dates of the next Ordinary PC Meetings were 11 December 2019, 8 January 2020, 5 February 2020, 4 March 2020, 15 April 2020, 13 May 2020, 17 June 2020 and 15 July 2020.

NOTE: These dates have been confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 10.00pm.

Brian Smyth
Semington Parish Council

11 December 2019

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Financial Forecast at 31 October 2019				
ITEM (Description)	Agreed Budget FY2019/20	Actual Expenditure 31-Oct-19	Estimated Expenditure FY2019/20	
<u>Income:</u>				
Precept	13000	13000	13000	
WC Grant (Information Boards)	0	0	0	
Lloyds A/C 7754288 (Ex. St Georges Fund)	5	3	5	
Lloyds A/C 2149025	0	0	0	
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0	
VAT Reclaim	200	276	276	
Donations (Friends St George School)	0	300	300	
Tennis Court Maintenance Fund	0	0	0	
Total Income	13205	13579	13581	
<u>Expenditure:</u>				
Clerk Salary	3940	2360	4070	
Expenses	250	173	250	
Office Allowance	175	150	150	
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0	
Chairman	0	0	0	
Hire Hall	515	490	490	
Audit	120	120	120	
Subscriptions	76	76	76	
Insurance	820	797	797	
Community (Section 137)	3500	2140	3500	
Projects (e.g. Tree/Bulb Planting/Information Boards)	2500	2298	2500	
Road Safety Improvements	0	0	0	
War Memorial Project	0	0	0	
Neighbourhood Plan	0	0	0	
Training	0	0	0	
Elections	2750	0	2500	
Tennis Court	500	0	500	
Ex-WC Functions	0	0	0	
	15146	8604	14953	
Net Income	13205	13579	13581	
Net Expenditure	15146	8604	14953	
Surplus	-1941	4975	-1372	
Balance Carried Forward at 31 March 2019:				
(as per Annual Return FY2018/19)			£23,376.69	
Forecast Balance Carried Forward at 31 March 2020:				
			£22,004.69	
General Fund carried Forward at 31 March 2020:				
			£17,204.69	
Tennis Court Fund carried Forward at 31 March 2020:				
			£4,800.00	

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**ACTION TABLE 13/11/19**

Action Serial	Meeting Date	Completion Date	Actionee	Action	Progress	PCM 13/11/19 Agenda item
45	9/10/19 9b	23/11/19	Cllr. Wade	Christmas Tree	Complete	11a
46	9/10/19 9b	23/11/19	Cllrs. Rimmer/ Wade	Christmas Lights	Complete	11a
47	9/10/19 9b, 10d, 11b	4/11/19	Clerk	To add items to Agenda	Complete	Various
48	9/10/19 11b	16/10/19	Clerk	Wildflower Meadow/Areas Details	Complete	11c
49	9/10/19 11b	4/11/19	Cllr. Rimmer	Wildflower Meadow/Areas	Complete	11c
50	9/10/19 12	4/11/19	Cllrs. Rimmer/Smyth	Footpath Programme	Complete	12
51	9/10/19 18b	4/11/19	Clerk	Meeting Dates	Complete	17
52	13/11	Jan 2020	Cllr. Wade	Speed Limits at CATG	In Hand	TBA
53	13/11	20/12/19	Cllr. Wade	Christmas Tree arrival details	In Hand	TBA
54	13/11	11/12/19	Cllr. Rimmer	Wildflower Meadow progress	In Hand	TBA
55	13/11	11/12/19	Cllr. Scott	Footpath Survey results	In Hand	TBA
56	13/11	11/12/19	All Cllrs.	WW2 Anniversary commemorations	In Hand	TBA