

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 May 2020 at 8.00pm – Virtual/Remote Zoom Meeting (as a result of COVID-19 ‘Lockdown’ restrictions).

Present.

Councillors P Smith (Vice -Chairman and Acting Chairman for the meeting), R Blake, P Bowyer, M Kasasian, R Oglesby, W Scott, C Wade and the Clerk Roger Coleman.

There was one member of the public present.

1. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillor S Rimmer and Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed and accepted by the Parish Council.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared by councillors.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 4 March 2020.

The Council **resolved** that the minutes were a true and accurate record. The Chairman agreed to sign the minutes.

The Council **resolved** to endorse the decisions made following email consent from councillors and these decisions are shown appended to these minutes.

4. Wiltshire Council Report.

In the absence of Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed, no report was given.

5. Chairman’s Report.

The Chairman updated the Council on developments since the last meeting. A Summary of the matters raised by the Chairman is appended to these minutes.

The following notes (in italics) summarise the discussions/decisions on these matters that took place at the Parish Council meeting:

Footpaths: *Cllr. Scott stated that he had commenced the process of surveying local public Rights of Way and some corrective actions had already been implemented including the need to repair two stiles. It was noted that Brian Smyth continued to be an active member of the Footpath Group.*

Fly-Tipping: *Cllr. Blake commented that Fly-Tipping had also occurred along the Byway (Green Lane) that was the continuation of St Georges Road. Cllr. Smith reported that there had been a spate of broken glass beer bottles left on the High Street which he had cleared up.*

Pavements: *Concern was expressed regarding the growth of weeds on the pavements but the Council decided that no action is to be taken at present.*

Liaison with Semington, Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group: *Councillors expressed their admiration and gratitude to this Group for their work in the village and **resolved** that steps must be taken to foster and to continue this ‘community spirit’ once the COVID-19 Pandemic is over. Cllr. Scott suggested that ‘Initiative Leads’ within the village could be nominated and that a Working Group be formed comprising Support Group members who would take the lead and representatives from the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to include this subject on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.*

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

6. Planning.

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

20/01306/OUT	Land North of St Georges Road, Semington	Residential development of up to 26no entry-level affordable dwellings with associated car parking, access, internal roads, public open space, landscaping, drainage and other associated infrastructure.	Refused
20/02204/FUL	14 The Knapps Semington	Proposed 4 bedroom bungalow with attached garage	Approved

b. There were no planning applications received after 11 May 2020.

c. Cllr. Scott gave a brief summary of the reasons given by Wiltshire Council for the refusal of planning application 20/01306/OUT and commented that it was likely now to go to Appeal. Councillors noted that the Western Area Planning Committee meeting to be held on 18 March 2020 at which it was hoped that a decision on the Village Green application would be made was postponed and that the Planning Appeal in respect of Planning application 19/02147/OUT scheduled to take place on 13/14 May 2020 was also postponed.

7. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 20 May 2020 was as follows:

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement
31 March 2020

	£	24,164.85
Total:	£	24,164.85

Credits (1 April 2020 to 30 April 2020):

Wiltshire Council Precept (Part)

	£	6,750.00
Total:	£	6,750.00

Debits (1 April 2020 to 30 April 2020):

Clerk's Salary (March) (Paid 1 April 2020)

	£	341.90
Total:	£	341.90

Balance at 30 April 2020:

	£	30,572.95
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Credits (1 May 2020 to 13 May 2020):

None

	£	-
Total:	£	-

Debits (1 May 2020 to 13 May 2020):

Clerk's Salary (April) (Paid 1 May 2020)

	£	364.78
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Zurich Insurance

	£	822.32
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AM Print & Copy

	£	40.00
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SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Total: £ 1,227.10

Balance at 13 May 2020:

	£ 29,345.85
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Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement
31-Mar-19

	£ 7,648.32
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Credits

09-Apr-20 Interest (Approx)

	£ 0.31
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09-May-20 Interest (Approx)

	£
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	£ 0.63
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Debits

None

	£ -
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	£ -
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Balance at 13 May 2020:

	£ 7,648.95
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Total Balance in Hand at 13 May 2020:

	£ 36,994.80
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Payments to be authorised (20 May 2020).

Clerk's Salary (May) To be paid 1 June 2020

	£ 364.78
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Office Expenses (March))

	£ 12.80
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Office Expenses (April)

	£ 0.22
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Annual Office Allowance (Clerk)

	£ 175.00
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	£ 552.80
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HMRC PAYE Month 2 (Due 5 June)

	£ 146.00
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(To be paid by Clerk directly to HMRC)

The Council **resolved** that the Annual Subscription of £36 be paid to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

b. The Council unanimously **resolved** to approve the Certificate of Exemption of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 and the Chairman agreed to sign it on behalf of the Council.

The Council unanimously **resolved** to approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 and the Chairman agreed to sign it on behalf of the Council.

The Council unanimously **resolved** to approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 and the Chairman agreed to sign it on behalf of the Council.

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

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

8. Date of the next meeting.

Wednesday 1 July 2020 at 8pm (a Zoom – Virtual/Remote Meeting).

The following matters were raised by councillors prior to the meeting closing:

Cllr. Oglesby – He gave a brief update on the possible future of the Semington Post Office and stated that he was optimistic regarding developments.

Cllr. Blake – He expressed concern at the increased vehicular traffic using the Byway (Green Lane) that was the continuation of St Georges Road and the overgrown nature of that path was making it especially difficult for pedestrians to seek a safe refuge from the vehicles. He stressed that the grass verges needed cutting back or vehicular traffic temporarily restricted or prevented from using it. Cllr. Smith stated that he would contact Cllr. Blake outside the meeting and agree a 'way ahead'.

The Meeting ended at 9.10pm

Acting Chairman
Semington Parish Council

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Vice Chairman's Report, 20th May 2020

There are no urgent items to report, but these matters are ongoing:

Footpaths – complaints from parishioners of footpaths being ploughed out by landowners or tenants. Individual members of the RoW group have been walking and monitoring the paths and trimming back vegetation encroaching on stiles etc. Is this an area where we could encourage wider village involvement?

Fly-tipping – continues to be a problem near the litter bin on the old service road at Little Marsh (reported via "my Wiltshire" app. and currently clear);

Pavements – the sides and edges of pavements are very weedy and overgrown. Often the parish council has organised a work party to clear the High Street, which could still happen if people worked individually and socially distanced themselves;

Liaison with Semington, Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group – is continuing and includes: ID for volunteers; pension collection process for the isolated; guidance on access to foodbanks; Semington Covid-19 Time Capsule; and funding for initiatives.

Cllr. P Smith (Vice-Chairman)

(Acting Chairman – Semington Parish Council)

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Decisions taken remotely by Semington Parish Council – Subsequent to Contingency Plan 17 March 2020.

- To adopt Contingency Plan (17/3/20) including Cheque signing authorisation/procedure.
- To agree comments to be sent to Wiltshire Council in respect of:

Spatial Planning Policy - Wiltshire Council (Open Space Survey).
Planning application comments 20/01306OUT.
Planning application comments 20/02204/FUL.
- To thank Community Support Group for their work (Formal Motion):
"Semington Parish Council is very grateful to everyone in the Semington Support Group for all that they are doing in the village to support vulnerable members of the community. We are expressing these thanks on behalf of the whole village, and look forward to continuing to support your very valuable activities."
- To agree WC proposal to seek s106 contributions towards Sports/Play Facilities (£29168.23 for Wessex Close Play Area and £4720 PC Tennis Court) if Planning application 20/01306/OUT is approved.
- To agree a donation for 'Community Flyers' (£120 and ID Papers (£100) – includes £40 payment to AM Print & Copy.
- To pay Zurich Insurance (as per £822.32 Quotation).
- To pay Clerk's March Salary.
- To pay Clerk's April Salary.
- To hold a Virtual/Remote meeting and to invite Cllr. Seed to participate.

The Clerk is to arrange/host a Zoom Virtual/Remote PC Meeting for 8pm, 20 May 2020 and to issue the Agenda and to invite all councillors to participate. Arrangements are to be made for members of the public to participate. Provided the meeting is quorate (minimum three members participating) the meeting will proceed.