

## SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 March 2021 at 7.30pm – Virtual/Remote Zoom Meeting (as a result of COVID-19 ‘Lockdown’ restrictions).

#### Present.

Councillors P Smith (Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman for the meeting), V Bodman, M Kasasian, R Oglesby, W Scott, C Wade, R Bruges, S Chown and the Clerk Roger Coleman.

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

There were no members of the public present.

#### **1. Apologies.**

There were no apologies. All councillors were present.

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

Cllr. Bodman declared an interest in any matters related to the Wiltshire Council Local Plan Review Consultation and withdrew from the meeting during the discussion of that subject at Agenda item 4. No other interests were declared by councillors.

#### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10 February 2021 and Decisions taken remotely (post-Lockdown).**

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

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

#### **4. Wiltshire Council Report.**

Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed gave the following report:

##### **Wiltshire Council Local Development Plan.**

At the commencement of the report by Cllr. Seed, the Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council thanked Cllr. Seed for his support in respect of the comments sent to Wiltshire Council on behalf of Semington and for challenging some of the ideas and views expressed by Wiltshire Council in that Draft Plan. Cllr. Smith also thanked Cllr. Seed for his participation in the recent meeting with Michelle Donelan MP and that he was hopeful that it would result in changes to the Draft Plan that acknowledged the concerns of Semington Parish Council. Cllr. Seed confirmed that he had spoken to both the Leader and Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council on the matter and that he was confident that his views and those of Semington Parish Council had been noted. He commented that although the proposed housing allocation for Semington might remain unchanged he was optimistic that other concerns may be addressed.

Cllr. Scott added that Trowbridge Town Council has expressed very strong views regarding some aspects of the Draft Plan, especially in respect of the relentless march eastwards of the urban settlement of Trowbridge and appears to support some of the views of Semington Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Seed for his report.

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### 5. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that he had nothing significant to add that were not already addressed in this Agenda.

### 6. Planning and Development

a. The Council examined the following planning applications and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown in italics:

21/00649/FUL Julie Terzoudis	19 Highfield Close Semington BA14 6JZ	To convert an existing detached double garage to an annexe	New
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*The Parish Council has no objections to this application provided that the Annexe remains as an integral part of the main residence and is not severed from it to become an independent and separate dwelling.*

21/01623/FUL	ansdowne, No. 3 Unit 2, Littleton, Semington BA14 6JJ	Proposed Family Dayroom to approved pitch No.3 and the resulting rearrangement of layouts of the remaining 3 Gypsy/Traveller pitches, consisting of 3 Static Mobile Homes, 1 further future Dayroom, 3 Tourers, parking spaces for 2 vehicles per pitch, the laying of hardstanding and associated ancillary works.	New
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The Council noted that this application had only been received today and it requested the Clerk to request an extension of the time for comments to ensure that it could be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. Councillors also remarked that there were no related documents available yet on the Wiltshire Council website.

#### b. Wiltshire Council Local Development Plan.

Cllr. Bodman withdrew from the meeting.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council response(s) to the Wiltshire Council Draft Local Plan Review consultation had been sent to Wiltshire Council and that they had also been sent, with covering letters to the Leader of Wiltshire Council and other Council officers, Michelle Donelan MP, Cllr. Seed, and other local Town and Parish Councils. He added that he had been able to contact Great Hinton Parish Council that had also been unaware of the change of HMA (Housing Market Area) from Chippenham to Trowbridge but, rather surprisingly, appeared indifferent to the implications of now being in the Trowbridge HMA, unlike Hilperon Parish Council that shared and had expressed many views similar to those of Semington Parish Council. The Chairman stated that some fifty-eight letters had been sent by parishioners to Wiltshire Council in respect of this consultation in addition to the Parish Council letters. He reported that the MP and Cllr. Seed were to write to Wiltshire Council expressing their views following the meeting (refer to Agenda item 5) and a copy of that letter was to be sent to Semington Parish Council.

Cllr. Bodman returned to the meeting.

#### c. Neighbourhood Plans.

Cllr. Bodman confirmed that she had undertaken research into the subject and had identified some Neighbourhood Plans that had already been written to act as possible templates. She gave details of the typical contents of a Neighbourhood Plan and added that it must conform with the Wiltshire Council Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework. Cllr. Oglesby stressed the

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need for the Neighbourhood Plan to be supported by the whole community and for the community, and not the Parish Council, to take the lead in its development. He recommended holding an open meeting to judge the support for such a plan and to identify those members of the community who may possess the key skills necessary to contribute to, or to lead, the development of the Plan. The Chairman invited members to continue with researching the subject and added that at the next meeting a decision would be made whether to hold such a public meeting.

Cllr. Bruges commented that a typical Neighbourhood Plan is a lengthy and very detailed document and he queried whether a 'slimmed down' version could be developed instead, based on addressing the various Parish Council 'themes' and whether such a document could influence how the village developed.

The Chairman confirmed that he will arrange a meeting with Wiltshire Council, Mr Kilmister to discuss the subject of Neighbourhood Plans. Cllr. Bodman agreed to also attend that meeting.

### d. Ashford Homes.

The Chairman stated that the Agenda for the Community Meeting to be held on 18 March 2021 at which Ashford Homes would be presenting their views for the development of land at Church Street, Semington had been agreed and had now been publicised. There ensued a discussion on the proposed Agenda item 6 'Next Steps' and how this would be addressed. Councillors decided that the public would have expressed their views regarding the Ashford Homes development proposals earlier in the meeting and that it would be for Ashford Homes to assimilate those views and at a later stage to present their views, possibly revised, based on those exchanges. It was suggested that it may be appropriate to invite Ashford Homes to comment on what they have learned from this meeting at Agenda Item 6.

The Chairman stated that he would be writing an article for the Newsletter to alert parishioners to this meeting and he requested that it be publicised on Facebook and the website.

### 8. **Environment and Streetscene.**

Cllr. Bruges reported that a very useful meeting of this Group had been held and that he was in the process of drafting a document to capture the many ideas expressed.

Cllr. Scott requested that this theme and report should also cover RoWs (Rights of Way). He added that he and the RoW Group had been exploring RoWs to the east of the village and that the route of many of the paths did not correspond to their recorded position on the RoW Definitive Map. He added that a path towards Littleton was impassable.

Cllr. Wade reported that the latest bulb planting had been very successful with many of the bulbs now in bloom.

### 9. **Transport and Traffic.**

Cllr. Wade stated that he attended the Melksham CATG last week and it was reported that there were no uncommitted funds for FY2020/21 and that there was no information given regarding the budget for FY2021/22. He commented that following the recent electoral boundary changes, there had been some changes to the Melksham Community Area. Whilst Semington remains a member of Melksham CA some other villages were now in the Bradford on Avon and Devizes Community Areas and he was fearful that Melksham CA would become town-centric to the exclusion of village interests.

### 10. **Recreation and Wellbeing.**

Cllr. Chown stated that the search for Neighbourhood Watch representatives and a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator is proving difficult despite an extensive advertising campaign. She commented that one parishioner had stepped forward and she would be contacting her to take this project forward. She stated that there was nothing else significant to report. The Chairman stated that he had been hopeful that there would have been more interest shown by parishioners, especially from those areas more vulnerable to anti-social behaviour from outsiders.

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### 11. Community and Communication.

Cllr. Bodman stated that there was very little to report except information regarding the website (reported under Agenda item 14) and that the Support Group will be a year-old next week and that it has proved very successful.

### 12. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 10 March 2021 was as follows:

#### Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	30,410.99
31 January 2021		

	Total:	£ 30,410.99
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#### **Credits (1 February 2021 to 28 February 2021):**

None	£	-
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	Total:	£ -
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#### **Debits (1 February 2021 to 28 February 2021):**

Clerk's Salary (January 2021) (Paid 8 February 2021)	£	374.92
Clerk's Expenses (September)	£	5.86
Clerk's Expenses (January)	£	5.23
C Wade (Tacklestore Ltd)	£	9.94
Dorothy Housw	£	50.00
SLCC Membership (Shared)	£	62.00
Southview Nurseries	£	36.00

	Total:	£ 543.95
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#### **Balance at 28 February 2021:**

	£	29,867.04
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#### **Credits (1 March 2021 to 10 March 2021):**

None	£	-
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	Total:	£ -
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#### **Debits (1 March 2021 to 10 March 2021):**

Clerk's Salary (February 2021) (Paid 1 March 2021)	£	437.40
Codewater Solutions	£	120.00

	Total:	£ 557.40
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#### **Balance at 10 March 2021:**

	£	29,309.64
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#### Lloyds A/C 7754288

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Bank Statement	£	7,676.83
31-Jan-21		

### Credits

11-Feb-21	Interest (Approx)	£	0.32
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### Debits

None	£	-
	£	-

<b>Balance at 10 March 2021:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>7,677.15</b>
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<b>Total Balance in Hand at 10 March 2021:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>36,986.79</b>
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### Payments to be authorised (10 March 2021).

Clerk's Salary (March) To be paid 1 April 2021	£	437.40
Clerk's Expenses (February)	£	5.44
	<b>£</b>	<b>442.84</b>

### **HMRC PAYE Month 11 - Paid to HMRC Directly (1/3/2021)**

b. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 12a.

### **13. Local Elections – 6 May 2021**

a. The Clerk stated that Local Elections – Parish Council, Wiltshire Council, Town Council and Police & Crime Commissioner) – are to take place on 6 May 2021 and although it is currently intended to have Polling Stations open, voters are being encouraged to opt for a Postal Vote. He added that this election for the Parish Council is known as an Ordinary Election. The Clerk explained that full details of the Electoral process can be found on the Wiltshire Council website and that he had sent all councillors details of this and the Electoral Timetable. He stressed the need for all candidates to complete Nomination papers. Cllr. Oglesby observed that a 'wet' signature was required on the Nomination papers and that the Nomination Form had to be handed in personally to Wiltshire Council and NOT posted to Wiltshire Council. The Clerk added that he is able to provide details of the Polling District and Electoral Roll numbers of the candidates' witnesses it requested.

b. There ensued a discussion on how best to attract parishioners to become candidates for the Parish Council election. It was agreed that maximum publicity should be given to this matter, including publicising it on the website and Newsletter and adopting a personal approach by existing councillors to use their own initiative to persuade interested parishioners to become candidates. Councillor Bodman, with support from other councillors, stated that she would make a video of councillors expressing their enthusiasm for the Parish Council and its ability to directly affect the nature of the village to the benefit of the community. Cllr. Oglesby and the Clerk were invited to list the main successes of the Parish Council over the many years of their respective tenures to assist in the publicity campaign.

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### 14. Website.

a. Cllr. Bodman stated that she had been updating the website and adding the latest information to it including the addition of a Rights of Way page. She added that she intended to 'rotate' the Semington photograph every two months or so to retain the 'freshness' of the site.

b. Cllr. Bodman stated that there had not been much interest shown in the competition for a new logo. However, she will work with one designer who provided the most preferred designs to develop the logo and report back.

### 15. Date of the next meeting.

The date for the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting was agreed to be Wednesday 14 April 2021 and that it would be a remote/virtual (Zoom) meeting and would commence at 7.30pm.

The Clerk explained the rules regard the 'first' meeting after an Ordinary Election were fixed and it must happen between the fourth day after the election and within fourteen days, that is between 10 May 2021 and 24 May 2021. It was agreed that the 'first meeting' of the new Council would be held on Wednesday 12 May 2021.

The Meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Acting Chairman  
Semington Parish Council

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**Decisions taken remotely by Semington Parish Council – Subsequent to Contingency Plan 17 March 2020 and Post Parish Council Meeting held on 10 February 2021.**

1. Payment of £5.86 to Clerk (Sept. Expenses).
2. Payment of £36.00 (CPRE Membership)
3. Payment of £374.92 (Clerk's January Salary).
4. Draft Local Plan Review Comments (Response to Wiltshire Council).
5. Draft Local Plan Review Comments (Response to other Councils/Individuals).

R P Coleman  
10 March 2021