

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 May 2021 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present.

Councillors P Smith (Chairman), V Bodman, M Kasasian, W Scott, C Wade (from Agenda item 3), R Bruges (from Agenda item 3), S Chown and the Clerk Roger Coleman.

There were five members of the public present initially.

1. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Wiltshire Council Cllr. Seed.

2. Co-option of a New Member.

- a. The Council **resolved** to co-opt two new members – namely Messrs. Bruges and Wade.
- b. The Council co-opted Richard Bruges and Colin Wade as members of Semington Parish Council.

Messrs. Bruges and Wade each signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form in the presence of the Clerk who then countersigned them as the Proper Officer of the Council. The Clerk explained to Cllrs Bruges and Wade that as they had both recently been Semington Parish Councillors immediately before the 6 May 2021 elections their record of any interests that had previously been advised to Wiltshire Council remained valid and that it was only necessary to register any new interests or changes to existing ones.

3. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared.

4. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14 April 2021 and Decisions taken remotely (post – Lockdown).

- a. The Council **resolved** that the minutes were a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
- b. The Council resolved to endorse the decisions taken remotely shown at the end of these minutes.

5. Wiltshire Council Report.

In the absence of Cllr. Seed, there was no report.

6. Chairman's Report.

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

7. Planning and Development.

- b. To note the status of extant planning applications thus:

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21/01623/FUL	Lansdowne, 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.	Pending
21/01165/FUL	37 Pound Close, Semington BA14 6JP	Single storey brickwork and flat roofed horizontal extension to side of property.	Pending

b. There were no planning applications received after 11 May 2021.

c. Greystoke Appeal.

The Clerk confirmed that he had sent the latest agreed comments and the original comments from the Parish Council to the Planning Inspectorate that related to the new appeal by Greystoke (24 houses on land north of St George's Road) that is to be held following the recent decision of the High Court regarding the original appeal. He added that the appeal is to be held by way of written submissions. Neither the Clerk nor Cllr. Scott had been informed of the date(s) of the Appeal.

d. Ashford Homes – Church Street.

In respect of the proposed Ashford Homes development at Church Street there was a consensus for a Community meeting to be held when the relaxation of the existing COVID-19 restrictions permit larger public meetings to be held. The purpose of such a Community meeting would be for the community to be briefed on proposals by Newland Homes to develop the field at Church Lane for housing and for their views to be sought. Cllr. Bruges was less sanguine about the benefit of such a meeting arguing that the recent Ordinary PC Meeting held in April had already provided the community that opportunity. Cllr. Chown stated that more information regarding the proposed development was required and councillors expressed their views that more evidence of biodiversity issues needed to be seen as having been addressed in revisions to the proposed development plans and whether the views of the Parish Council had been reflected in any revised plans. It was noted that there had been an earlier planning application, dated 1988, for the development of that field. The Council **resolved** that the developer/owners of the field be requested to provide details of any earlier related planning applications, including details of the 1988 one.

e. Neighbourhood Plans.

The Chairman reported that he and Cllrs. Scott and Bodman had meet recently to discuss the merits or otherwise of developing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Semington village and had decided, that on balance, that there was some merit in developing such a plan but that it had to be a Parish Council decision whether or not to proceed. Cllr. Wade questioned whether such a Plan would have any relevance bearing in mind the proposed changes to the planning system enshrined in a recent Government White Paper and the introduction of 'Zoning' for housing developments. He argued that Neighbourhood Plans and Housing Supply numbers would make such Neighbourhood Plans irrelevant.

The Chairman explained that the development of such a Plan must have Parish Council and Community support and that he would be seeking a team of some eight to ten parishioners (including one or two parish councillors) to take the lead in producing such a Plan. He proposed holding a Community meeting to gauge village interest and at the meeting it would be proposed that presentations are given by a village or villages that have produced such Plans and by Wiltshire Council to explain the development and approval process and their relevance to extant

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planning policy. Cllr. Bodman emphasised that it was important to exploit existing skill sets within the village to contribute towards the Neighbourhood Plan team.

Cllr. Bruges commented that it may be helpful to seek professional advice and support when developing such a plan and that he was aware that there are grants available for the development of such plans.

Cllr. Bodman stated that it is necessary to define the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area and for that to be agreed by Wiltshire Council. She agreed to send details of this process and an application form to the Chairman and, following a request from the Chairman, she stated that would also send copies of 'successful' Neighbourhood Plans to the Chairman for information. The Chairman will circulate these papers to all councillors with a request that they read them before the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Scott stated that he considered that a Neighbourhood Plan would be a good thing for the village and utilitarian. He proposed that the Parish Council agrees that the immediate way forward is to consult villagers and village organisations on the desirability of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Semington. The Parish Council **resolved** to adopt this proposal.

f. The Council **resolved** to request Wiltshire Council to undertake a Housing Needs Survey. Cllr. Bodman stated that she would take the necessary action to initiate a Housing Needs Survey for Semington. The Chairman asked that this subject is placed on the Agenda for the June meeting.

Cllr. Scott stated that a report in The Wiltshire Times stating that Newland Homes were planning to build thirty-one houses was incorrect and that the correct figure was twenty-four. He had contacted the Newspaper regarding this error.

Cllr. Scott reported that there had been a planning application for a Solar Farm west of Whaddon Grove Farm which was to include battery storage.

8. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 18 May 2021 was as follows:

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 31 March 2021	£	29,284.20
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Total:	£	29,284.20
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Credits (1 April 2021 to 30 April 2021):

Wiltshire Council Precept (Part)	£	6,750.00
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Total:	£	6,750.00
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Debits (1 April 2021 to 30 April 2021):

Clerk's Salary (March 2021) (Paid April 2021)	£	437.40
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Zurich Municipal	£	834.28
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Total:	£	1,271.68
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Balance at 30 April 2021:

£	34,762.52
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Credits (1 May 2021 to 18 May 2021):

None

	£ -
Total:	£ -

Debits (1 May 2021 to 18 May 2021):

Clerk's Salary (April 2021) (Paid 4 May 2021)

	£ 437.40
Total:	£ 437.40

Balance at 18 May 2021:

	£ 34,325.12
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Lloyds A/C 7754288
Bank Statement
31-Mar-21

	£ 7,691.29
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Credits

07-Apr-21	HMCTS	
09-Apr-21	Interest (Approx)	
09-May-21	Interest (Approx)	

	£ 4.78
	£ 0.07
	£ 0.07
Total:	£ 4.92

Debits

None

	£ -
	£ -

Balance at 18 May 2021

	£ 7,696.21
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Total Balance in Hand at 18 May 2021:

	£ 42,021.33
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Payments to be authorised (18 May 2021).

Clerk's Salary (May) To be paid 1 June 2021	
Clerk's Expenses (March)	
Clerk's Expenses (April)	
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	
idverde (Ludus Play Equipment)	
Zurich Municipal (Paid 14/4/21)	

	£ 437.40
	£ 4.79
	£ 25.18
	£ 36.00
	£ 621.00
	£ 834.28
	£ 1,958.65

HMRC PAYE Month 1 - Paid to HMRC Directly (4/5/2021)

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b. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 8a.

9. Environment and Streetscene.

Prior to the commencement of this Agenda item, appointments of councillors to the vacant positions for the Parish Council Themes was agreed. The full list is shown below:

- Planning & Development – Cllr. Scott/Cllr. Bodman.
 - Environment & Streetscene – Cllr. Bruges/Cllr. Smith.
 - Transport & Traffic – Cllr. Wade/Cllr. Bruges..
 - Recreation & Wellbeing – Cllr. Chown/Cllr. Bodman.
 - Community & Communication – Cllr. Bodman/Cllr. Chown.
- Village Hall Management Committee Representative(s) – Cllr. Wade.
(The second representative will be appointed at the next Parish Council meeting)

a. The following 'street' names were proposed by the Parish Council for the Newland Home development.

Union Lane – The original name of the road leading to the Trowbridge and Melksham Union Workhouse (now redeveloped as St Georges Court).

Ragged Smock Lane – The name of a Public House (Long since demolished) close to the proposed development.

Dragon Lane – As in St George and the Dragon.

b. The Chairman confirmed that Wiltshire Council had granted s96 Licences for the installation of two 'planters' at the entrance of the village. The Council resolved that a maximum of £300 be allocated to the construction of the planters. Cllr. Smith added that villagers had already indicated their generosity by donating plants for the planters. He added that the existing nine 'planters' are also to be refreshed.

c. The Chairman reported that Wiltshire Council had indicated that newer, more modern, signs indicating the village could be erected in place of the existing signs. He added that Wiltshire Council would pay for the supply and erection of the supporting posts but the Parish Council would have to procure the signs at a cost to the Parish Council. Also a further s96 Licence would be required. Cllr. Bruges asked councillors to note and to photograph any signs that may be suitable for Semington. Cllrs. Smith and Bruges agreed to investigate possible signs further and to report back to the Parish Council.

d. Cllr. Scott stated that a small Working Party had undertaken the clearance of some local Rights of Way and that a conversation is to be had with some landowners where there were blocked paths and stiles on their land – East of the A350 road.

Cllr. Scott added that the oak trees that had been planted opposite to the Crematorium were thriving and there was also an impressive display of wildflowers there also. He added that the trees and shrubs between the Salt Tip and the oak trees were also growing well.

Cllr. Bruges thanked the Chairman for organising the recent Litter Pick which had resulted in a good turnout of parishioners assisting in the task. He added that the village was now noticeably cleaner.

Cllr. Bruges commented that he had had a conversation with a landowner who had just become a member of Hilperton Parish Council and was keen to undertake a range of environmental improvements, including planting a line of trees. He added that further discussions are planned

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which may include involving the Anon Needs Trees Group and that there is a meeting planned on 27 May to take this idea forward.

10. Transport and Traffic.

Cllr. Wade reported that he and Cllr. Smith went to Littlemarsh to meet with the parishioners there to learn of their concerns – primarily related to anti-social behaviour – such as speeding and loud gatherings of youths and that there are some proposals that he will put to the CATG at its next meeting.

11. Recreation and Wellbeing.

Cllr. Chown stated that Catherine McGarvey had offered to be the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. She added that she has been speaking to the PCSO in order to progress this matter. She also commented that the Village Fete is to be held at the end of July. Cllr. Bruges commented that it is intended that the Fete involves the whole village and has a number of locations, such as the Village Hall, the Somerset Arms, the Church and Brook House.

Cllr. Bodman stated that the Wessex Close Play Area Group were currently putting together a bid to present to Semington Parish Council for new and improved play equipment.

12. Community and Communication.

Cllr. Bodman stated that the new name for the disparate community groups in the village was Semington Community Group. The Chairman commented how useful and 'immediate' the Facebook page is – especially in garnering support for assistance at short notice.

13. Website.

a. Cllr. Bodman stated that the website was proving a success and that she was intending to introduce some updates to it including updating information on forthcoming events

b. Discussion of the progress of the competition for the logo for the site was deferred until a subsequent meeting..

14. Date of the next meeting.

To note the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting – 16 June 2021.

The subsequent Ordinary PC Meetings in 2021 are to be held on the following dates:

14 July, 11 August, 15 September, 13 October, 17 November, 15 December.

Roger Coleman
Clerk to 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 14 April 2021.**

Zurich Municipal Insurance - £834.28.
Response: PINS Ref. APP/Y3940/W/19/3236860.

R P Coleman
11 May 2021

None.

R P Coleman
14 April 2021