

## SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present.

Councillors P Smith (Chairman), V Bodman, S Chown, J Hailey, S Rimmer, W Scott, C Wade and the Clerk Roger Coleman.

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

There was one member of the public present.

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. R Bruges.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

There were no interests declared.

**3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 16 June 2021.**

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

**4. Wiltshire Council Report.**

Cllr. Seed was invited to give his report at Agenda item 6d as it related entirely to the matter of the allocation and possible change of the Housing Market Area (HMA).

**5. Chairman's Report.**

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

**6. Planning and Development.**

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

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

b. There were no planning applications received after 7 July 2021.

c. The Council noted the details of the current proposals and consultation relating to the (new) A350 Melksham Bypass – especially in relation to Route 10c - and **resolved** that it had no comments to send to Wiltshire Council.

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The Council **resolved** that it supported the proposal to construct a cycleway alongside the northern edge of the A361 road (Semington to Hilperton – from the Turnpike to Trowbridge Rugby Club) and that any new cycleway along this route must not be to the detriment of the existing Byway (SEMI9A/10 – HILP21/10) between Semington and Hilperton that must be repaired and regularly maintained. The Clerk was asked to respond to Wiltshire Council along those lines.

### d. Housing Market Area (HMA).

The Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to participate in relation to the discussions on the Housing Market Area (HMA).

The Council noted the response from Wiltshire Council (Cllr. Botterill) to the earlier letter from the Chairman of Semington Parish Council (Cllr. Smith) which was less supportive than had been hoped regarding returning Semington to the Chippenham HMA. Cllr. Seed commented that had the change of HMA (from Chippenham HMA to Trowbridge HMA) been proposed post the May 2021 Elections with the current officers at Wiltshire Council now in post, the outcome may have been different. The Chairman added that neither the Parish Council nor the Wiltshire Council member for Summerham & Seend had been explicitly consulted on the change of HMA. Instead the consultation exercise had buried this information in appendices to the main report, allowing Wiltshire Council to say that everyone had been consulted.

Cllr. Smith was passionate in his condemnation of the manner in which Wiltshire Council had decided to transfer Semington Parish and three other local parishes to the Trowbridge HMA from the Chippenham HMA – a decision based solely on a few lines in a Consultant's Report. He commented that the Report indicated that a slightly greater number of Semington residents travel for work to Trowbridge than to Melksham (55% v. 45%), even though Semington has been active and firmly established in the Melksham Community Area for many years thereby qualifying it to remain in the Chippenham HMA. He argued that the rationale for creating the Community Areas (initially advocated in a Wiltshire Council commissioned study detailed in a short book by John Chandler entitled 'A Sense of Community') and the existing closeness of community ties of Semington with Melksham (and not Trowbridge) had been ignored by Wiltshire Council in its pursuit for the opportunity to increase housing development in the area.

Cllr. Seed stated that there does appear to be solid evidential grounds to continue to challenge the decision of Wiltshire Council to transfer Semington to the Trowbridge HMA.

The Parish Council **resolved** to write again to Wiltshire Council challenging the decision to change HMAs quoting the evidential grounds that such a decision was wrong. The Chairman stated that he would write to Wiltshire Council on behalf of the Parish Council and that he would publish the key facts of his argument to encourage parishioners to also write to Wiltshire Council along similar lines.

Cllr. Seed stated that he would fully support the Parish Council and that he would also write to the relevant officers at Wiltshire Council and would challenge the decision and the evidence on which the decision was based.

### e. Planning Appeal.

The Council had noted the details of the Appeal (Y3940/W/10/32336869/19/02147/OUT) – Land North of St Georges Road - and Cllr. Scott agreed to draft an appropriate letter from the Parish Council to the Appeal Inspectorate addressing the latest issues raised by the developer in relation to this planning application.

### f. Rural Housing Need Survey (RHNS).

Cllr. Bodman reported that the RHNS would take place 26 July to 30 August and that it would be mainly conducted 'on-line' with provision made for those households without internet connection. She explained that there would be prepared postcards to advertise the RHNS and they would be delivered to each household at the beginning of August. She commented that posters advertising the RHNS would be displayed at the forthcoming fete to be held on 31 July. Cllr. Bodman commented that the results of the RHNS are likely to be available October/November.

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g. Cllr. Bodman stated that Wiltshire Council is to take on the ownership and management of the 'affordable' housing that is to be built as part of the Newland Homes development.

Cllr. Scott reported he understands that there is to be a further 'Melksham Link (Kennet & Avon Canal/River Avon) Scheme planning application submitted.

### Neighbourhood Plan.

h. The Chairman confirmed that all arrangements were in place for Neighbourhood Plan Public/Community Meeting to be held on 21 July 2021, commencing at 7.30pm and that an informal meeting, involving Cllrs. Scott, Bodman, Chown and him was planned for this Friday to confirm final arrangements.

i. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Scott for drafting the following documents and added that they were very useful in taking the Neighbourhood Plan project forward.

The Parish Council **resolved** to endorse the following Draft Neighbourhood Plan documents:

- NP Steering Group Roles – Draft A.
- NP Communications Matrix – Draft A.
- NP Prospective Timeline – Draft A.

### 7. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 14 July 2021 was as follows:

#### **Lloyds A/C 2149025**

Bank Statement	£	34,295.15
31 May 2021		
	Total:	£ 34,295.15

#### **Credits (1 June 2021 to 30 June 2021):**

None	£	-
	Total:	£ -

#### **Debits (1 June 2021 to 30 June 2021):**

Clerk's Salary (May 2021) (Paid June 2021)	£	437.40
Clerk's Expenses (May)	£	14.31
R Randall (Internal Audit)	£	120.00
Idverde (Lupus - Wessex Close)	£	621.00
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	£	36.00
L Callaghan (Planters)	£	48.50
P Smith (Litter Pick/Planters)	£	303.54
	Total:	£ 1,580.75

#### **Balance at 30 June 2021:**

	£	<b>32,714.40</b>
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#### **Credits (1 July 2021 to 14 July 2021):**

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None		£ -
	Total:	£ -

### Debits (1 July 2021 to 14 July 2021):

Clerk's Salary (June 2021) (Paid 1 July 2021)		£ 437.40
	Total:	£ 437.40

### Balance at 14 July 2021:

		£ 32,277.00
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### Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 31-May-21		£ 7,700.99
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### Credits

09-May-21	Interest (Approx)		£ 0.07
09-Jun-21	Interest (Approx)		£ 0.07
09-Jul-21	Interest (Approx)		£ 0.07
		Total:	£ 0.21

### Debits

None		£ -
		£ -

### Balance at 14 July 2021:

		£ 7,701.20
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### Total Balance in Hand at 14 July 2021:

		£ 39,978.20
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### Payments to be authorised (14 July 2021).

Clerk's Salary (July) To be paid 1 August 2021		£ 437.40
Clerk's Expenses (June)		£ 5.78
P Smith (Litter Pick/Planters) - Balance		£ 75.59
Information Commissioner		£ 40.00
AM Print & Copy		£ 20.00
		£ 578.77

### **HMRC PAYE Month 3 - Paid to HMRC Directly (1/7/2021)**

The Clerk reported that he had sent a VAT Reclaim for a total of £179.83 to HMRC.

b. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 7a including a donation of £575 to St Georges PCC for the Village Newsletter and Churchyard maintenance.

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

#### Rights of Way.

a. The Chairman invited Brian Smyth (Semington Village Rights of Way Working Group Leader) to join the discussion on this subject.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, expressed thanks to the parishioners who had cut back the Pound Lane/Highfield Close/Wessex Close hedge. He added that with the rapid growth of vegetation this year it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep all the Rights of Way clear and some are now proving impassable.

Brian Smyth stated that there is an initiative to establish a 'Parish representative' in each parish to be the focal point for establishing a team within the village that would be responsible for regularly maintaining rights of way (RoW) and identifying those paths and structures e.g. stiles, gates that need particular attention.

Mr Smyth added that he now has access to a spreadsheet that identifies where work to RoWs is necessary and he commented that Wiltshire Council is several years behind undertaking work on RoW and that duplication of requests for work to be undertaken on RoW had, and still is, causing a problem when Wiltshire Council is attempting to identify specific problems.

Mr Smyth reported a blocked RoW – PathSEMI37/10 – a path shared with Keevil.

Mr Smyth stated that there needs to be date set for the next RoW Working Party meeting.

The Council resolved that there will be a RoW Working Party on Monday 19 July.

#### Other Matters.

b. The Chairman reported that the new Planters at the entrance of the village have now been constructed, installed and planted. The Chairman was thanked by councillors for his work in undertaking this project.

A parishioner had enquired whether he could 'sponsor' a Planter i.e. be responsible for planting it out each season and for a notice to advertise the sponsor be erected. The Council decided that the possibility of 'sponsorship' should be open to the whole village and it was agreed that such an opportunity should be advertised more widely.

Cllr. Rimmer reported that area around the Tennis Court needed clearing of overgrown vegetation.

c. There was no report in respect of the replacement of existing Village Signs with newer, more appropriate, signs.

d. The Chairman reported a request from Hilperton Parish Council to assist in their hedge cutting and survey of hedgerow flora along the Byway (SEMI9A/10 – HILP21/10) between Semington and Hilperton where it is in Semington Parish. Cllr. Scott agreed to undertake this task seeking support from other councillors when necessary.

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

There were no new matters reported. Cllr. Wade noted that a date was still awaited for meeting with the Wiltshire Council highways engineer on issues pertaining to Littlemarsh.

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

a. The Chairman stated that he had recently sent all councillors relevant and current literature in relation to the establishment, maintenance and management of allotment gardens. Cllr. Wade offered to be the Parish Council Focal Point with respect to the proposed allotment gardens at the Newland Home development.

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b. Cllr. Chown confirmed that she and other parishioners had recently cleared the Telephone Box of rubbish and had tidied it up. She and other helpers were thanked for their efforts by councillors who remarked how the appearance of the Telephone Box had been much improved.

Cllr. Chown added that all arrangements for the Fete on 31 July had now been satisfactorily completed and on an unrelated subject, that she was attempting to progress the appointment of a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

She highlighted the danger of 'cold calling' door to door salesmen – known as Nottingham Knockers – and would be advertising this issue more widely. The Clerk stated that in relation to the appearance of Nottingham Knockers in a community, Wiltshire Police should be advised immediately.

### **11. Community and Communication.**

Cllr. Bodman confirmed that a logo for the website had now been designed and she displayed this to councillors who offered many helpful comments in return.

### **12. Website.**

The progress of creating a logo was addressed at Agenda item 11 above.

Cllr. Chown stated that the website is up to date with all profiles updated.

### **13. Date of the next meeting.**

The Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting – 11 August (possibly a shorter meeting than usual).

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

15 September, 13 October, 17 November, 15 December.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm

Peter Smith  
Chairman Semington Parish Council