

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13
October 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**



Present.

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

There were two members of the public present initially.

1. Apologies.

There were no apologies. All councillors were present.

2. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 15 September 2021.

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

4. Wiltshire Council Report.

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

Councillors commented that when absent at a meeting he might wish to provide a brief written report. A similar comment was made in relation to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The Chairman added that he will write to PCSO Gould to check why reports are no longer provided regarding current anti-social or criminal activities in Semington – as had been the practice up until recently.

5. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that he had nothing to add that was not already addressed in this Agenda. However, he reminded councillors that it will be the November Parish Council meeting when the forthcoming budget for FY2022/23 and the required Precept will be agreed and he invited all 'Theme Leads' to give thought to their forward plans and possible expenditures, and to circulate to all members of the council their budgeted plans prior to that meeting.

6. Planning and Development.

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

21/00649/FUL Amended Plans	19 Highfield Close Semington BA14 6JZ	To convert an existing detached double garage to an annexe	Pending
PL/2021/06541	Littleton Stables, Littleton BA14 6LF	Change of use of kennels stables and store into 2 x 2 bed holiday lets	Approved
PL/2021/07764	25 St Georges Court, Semington BA14 6GA	Replacement front door and frame to match existing.	Pending

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

PL/2021/09152 Steven Sims	Church Farm, Church Street, Semington BA14 6JS	Repair and refurbish barn and form two garages within it.	New
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No Comment

PL/2021/09400 Yancy Sun	4 Manor Close, Semington BA14 6LA	Proposed extension to enlarge existing kitchen and provide additional bedroom at first floor level.	New
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No Comment

There were no planning applications received after 5 October 2021.

c. The Chairman stated that he had attended a Wiltshire Local Plan meeting on 1 October at Trowbridge - attended also by Hilperton and Staverton Parish Councils – and was advised of a new possible development of land to the east of Trowbridge by Lightwood Strategic in association with the existing landowner. He stated that it was important for Semington Parish Council to continue to be represented at these meetings because the effect of such a large development – some 2000+ houses – would have a profound effect on Semington and he added that together with existing proposals contained in the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan there are now two possible developments being considered for that area.

In respect of the Housing Market Area (HMA) the Chairman stated that Great Hinton Parish Council had written to him supporting the campaign to move Semington and other local villages, including Great Hinton, back into the Chippenham HMA. He added that he had responded to the latest letter from Wiltshire Council (Cllr. Botterill) but it was obvious that Wiltshire Council did not wish to be drawn further into the argument, instead relying on the comments received during the forthcoming Wiltshire Local Plan consultation period before commenting further.

d. The Council noted that the proposed names to be considered by Wiltshire Council/Newland Homes for the development at St Georges Road were Union Lane, Dragon Lane, Ragged Smock Lane and Kendall Lane. The Council **resolved** to approve this choice and asked the Clerk to advise Wiltshire Council accordingly.

Cllr. Scott confirmed that, as requested at the last Parish Council meeting, he had written to Greystoke Ltd but had not received a reply.

7. Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman stated that the first meeting of the Steering Group (SG) was held on 29 September 2021 at which a number of agreements reached, such as Terms of Reference and some Roles for members of the SG and some key decisions were taken e.g. to appoint a Consultant to assist in the drafting of the Plan, to apply for grant aid and to establish a Semington Village Consultation Working Group.

The Minutes of the meeting can be found thus:

<https://www.semington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan-documents/>

The Chairman concluded his report by stating that the next SG Meeting is to be held on 9 November 2021 and a report on that meeting will be given at the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 23 November 2021.

For Reference: The email address for correspondence etc relating to the Neighbourhood Plan is:

np@semington.org.uk

8. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 13 October 2021 was as follows:

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	30,963.23
31 August 2021		

Total:	£	30,963.23
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Credits (1 September 2021 to 30 September 2021):

WC Precept (Part)	£	6,750.00
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Total:	£	6,750.00
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Debits (1 September 2021 to 30 September 2021):

Clerk's Salary (August 2021) (Paid September 2021)	£	437.40
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Clerk's Expenses (July)	£	14.06
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Clerk's Expenses (August)	£	0.20
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P Smith (Litter Pick/Planters) - Balance	£	59.98
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Murapec	£	36.62
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James Walker (Logo)	£	100.00
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Total:	£	648.26
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Balance at 30 September 2021:

£	37,064.97
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Credits (1 October 2021 to 13 October 2021):

None	£	-
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Total:	£	-
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Debits (1 October 2021 to 13 October 2021):

Clerk's Salary (September 2021) (Paid 1 October 2021)	£	437.40
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Place Studios (??)	£	240.00
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Total:	£	437.40
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Balance at 13 October 2021:

£	36,627.57
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Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement	£	7,704.72
31-Aug-21		

Credits

04-Aug-21	HMCTS	£	1.32
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09-Aug-21	Interest	£	0.07
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02-Sep-21	HMCTS	£	1.32
09-Sep-21	Interest	£	0.07
09-Oct-21	Interest (Approx)	£	0.07

Total: £ 2.85

Debits

None		£	-
		£	-

Balance at 13 October 2021:

£ 7,707.57

Total Balance in Hand at 13 October 2021:

£ 44,335.14

Payments to be authorised (13 October 2021).

Clerk's Salary (September) To be paid 1 October 2021	£	437.40
Clerk's Expenses (September)	£	2.90
Neighbourhood Plan - email Account		
	£	440.30

HMRC PAYE Month 6 (£174.80) - Paid to HMRC

The Clerk stated that the report from PKF Littlejohn (External Auditor) in respect of the AGAR for Westwood Parish Council for FY2020/21 stated that the Clerk's salary should not be paid gross – as had been the practice for the last 20 years – but that it should be paid net of deductions. The Clerk added that the PAYE Income Tax had always been paid separately. The Clerk commented that notwithstanding this, PKF Littlejohn had confirmed that all required PAYE payments had been made and the totals are correct. The Clerk stated that as similar 'gross pay' arrangements existed with Semington Parish Council, and had so for around 18 years, it would be necessary to make changes to those arrangements as per comments made by PKF Littlejohn for Westwood Parish Council.

b. The Clerk stated that he would carry forward his Clerk's Expenses until next month. There were no payments to be made.

9. Climate Strategy' and 'Our Natural Environment Plan Consultations.

Cllrs Scott and Bruges stated that they had each sent comments to Wiltshire Council in respect of this consultation.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **resolved** that the Parish Council would not send comments but that it would encourage parishioners to make their own representations. It was noted that the consultation period ends on 17 October 2021.

10. Environment and Streetscene.

a. Rights of Way.

Cllr. Bruges stated that he understood that Wiltshire Council was undertaking two surveys for the cycleway between Semington and Hilperton – one along the A361 road; the other along the HILP22/10 Byway and he questioned the necessity for both surveys to be undertaken when he understood that one of the routes was the favoured one. Cllr. Scott stated that he would make enquiries of Wiltshire Council.

b. Other Matters.

Cllr. Scott stated that he represents Parish Council on the Wiltshire Swindon & Oxfordshire Canal Partnership and it is setting up a new partnership Working Group for the Melksham Link. The Parish Council **resolved** that Cllr. Scott would be the link with this Working Group.

The Council **resolved** that Cllr. Chown is to purchase two 'Villagers at Work' safety signs at a cost of £38 each to protect councillors and parishioners when undertaking community work where traffic may be a hazard.

The Chairman reported that a parishioner has offered a batch of crocus bulbs to the Parish Council for planting out in the village. The Council **resolved** to accept this offer, to arrange a 'planting party' and to consider a contribution to the charity supplying the bulbs.

11. Transport and Traffic.

There was a lengthy discussion on the reported abuses of the 'No Entry' Bus Gate at the northern end of the village on the (old) A350 road and possible means of countering it, although it was thought that the present abuses had been exacerbated by the roadworks on the Semington Bypass road and that following the conclusion of these works the situation might ameliorate. Notwithstanding this, the Parish Council decided to investigate reintroducing the 'Gate Watch' scheme that had proved effective previously and to observe firsthand the current abuses. The Parish Council **resolved** to request that an article be placed on the Facebook website and in the Village Newsletter explaining the background to the restrictions on the bus gate, noting that it is a criminal offence for a motorist to ignore this sign and if a motorist does ignore it a substantial fine and possible points on his/her Driving Licence could be the result.

12. Recreation and Wellbeing.

a. Cllr. Wade reported that he is currently working through the list of contacts who have expressed an interest previously in acquiring an allotment plot. He added that he would confirm that the developers are to provide water to the allotment site.

b. Cllr. Scott enquired whether there had been any progress in improving the Wessex Close Play Area. The Chairman reported that some very useful maintenance and improvement work had been undertaken, though there was still work to be done including groundworks in the goal area and new basketball kit.

Cllr. Chown reported that a planned meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme with a person interested in becoming the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator had been postponed.

13. Community and Communication.

Cllr. Bodman asked whether a date had been agreed for the 'lighting up' of the Christmas Tree this year. Cllr. Wade replied that no date had yet been agreed. Cllr. Rimmer stated that the earlier the better in order to ensure that maximum advantage was gained for the village.

Cllr. Bruges stated that St George's Church is considering a major project to restyle the Nave, including the installation of a toilet, to encourage greater use of the church as a community facility and to be better integrated with the village. The church working group had asked for Parish Council support in considering the options and seeking wider village consultation. The Parish Council **resolved** to fully support this consultation.

14. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting – 23 November 2021.

The meeting ended at 9.55pm

Peter Smith
Chairman Semington Parish Council