

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held  
on 18 May 2022 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall**



Present.

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

Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended Part-time.

There were no members of the public present.

Cllr. W Scott was elected Chairman for the meeting.

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllrs. P Smith and V Bodman.

The Chairman, Cllr. Scott announced the untimely death of Cllr. Steve Rimmer. He stated that Steve had been a stalwart and very active member of the Parish Council since his appointment in May 2007 and this represented fifteen years of service to the Council, and more especially to the parishioners of Semington. The Chairman commented that Steve left a lasting and enduring legacy to the village resulting from his enthusiasm and as a local advocate for promoting the planting of trees in the village and for leading on other green, initiatives – examples of which included the Jubilee Wood, the ten oak trees opposite the Crematorium, the Rowan trees at Highfield Close and the bushes near the Wessex Close Play Area. Cllr. Scott concluded by stating that Steve's legacy will last for a long time and that his humour and contributions at Council meetings will be missed.

These comments were endorsed by all councillors present.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for councillors to express their own comments regarding Steve.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

There were no interests declared.

**3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13 April 2022.**

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

The Council **resolved** that in future the minutes of the meeting should be printed in duplex.

**4. Wiltshire Council Report.**

Cllr. Seed gave a brief report on the current situation regarding the refurbishment of the Lamb on the Strand Public House and he explained the reason for some of the controversy surrounding this refurbishment.

**5. Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman reported that there were no issues he wished to bring to the Council's attention other than those already on the agenda.

**6. Planning and Development.**

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

PL/2022/01367	Land off St Georges Road, Semington	Residential development of 18 Dwellings with associated works including vehicular access and parking.	Pending ('called in' by Cllr. Seed
PL/2022/01830	52 Littlemarsh Semington BA14 6JF	Proposed two storey side extension.	Pending
PL/2022/02631	50 Littlemarsh Semington BA14 6JF	Two storey rear extension to provide an extension to bedroom 1 & a family day room	Pending
PL/2022/02656	Littleton Mill, Littleton, Semington, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 6LQ	Proposed wooden hut to house and protect turbines	Pending
PL/2022/02756 Steven Vellance	37 Pound Close Semington BA14 6JP	Single storey brickwork and flat roofed horizontal extension to side of property.	Pending

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

PL/2022/03378	2 St Georges Court Semington BA14 6GA	Replacement Front Door and Window	New
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*The Parish Council has no objections to this proposed development and recommends that the views of the Conservation Officer are sought.*

c. The Council examined the following planning applications received after 11 May 2022 and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown in italics:

PL/2022/03673	Land to west of 5A High Street Semington BA14 6JR	Erection of a three bedroom detached chalet bungalow	New
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*The Parish Council has no objections to this proposed development.*

PL/2022/03696	5A High Street Semington BA14 6JR	Addition of a dormer window to extend bedroom and create WC	New
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*The Parish Council has no objections to this proposed development.*

d. There were no other planning matters raised.

## **7. Neighbourhood Plan (NP).**

The Chairman, Cllr. Scott, gave the following report (shown in italics) which he read out to the Council:

*1. As the parish council noted in April, the neighbourhood plan steering group has asked Wiltshire Council to write to all those landowners in the parish (and/or their agents) who have expressed an interest in developing their land. Wiltshire Council has now done this, requesting that the landowners / agents write to the neighbourhood plan steering group if they want their land to be considered as part of the neighbourhood plan. The deadline for responses is the end of this week. The steering group will then forward a proforma questionnaire asking for full details of what is proposed. The deadline for this response is the end of June.*

*In parallel with this there will be an insert in the next parish magazine inviting all villagers to identify any land in the parish that they think might usefully have a change of use. The deadline for responses is also the end of June.*

*After this, the proposals will be evaluated by external consultants who will report on the suitability of the land for whatever development is proposed. A village consultation will follow this and proposals will then be made about whether to identify land for development as part of the neighbourhood plan.*

*2. The steering group is now gathering evidence for the development of policies in these four areas: Rural Living and Working, Environment and Wellbeing, Community Facilities, and Sustainability and Climate Change. Toolkits are being used that have been developed by our consultants, Place Studios. There will be a mix of household surveys, first-hand investigations and historical research. Draft policies will be subject to consultation.*

*3. There will be a neighbourhood plan stall at the village fete.*

*4. Grant funding (from central government) has been received for the current financial year.*

## **8. Finance.**

a. The Clerk gave a brief financial report and the Council noted the following financial position:

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

Bank Statement 31 March 2022	£	46,209.17
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Total:	£	<b>46,209.17</b>
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### **Credits (1 April 2022 to 30 April 2022):**

Wiltshire Council Precept (Part)	£	6,750.00
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Total:	£	<b>6,750.00</b>
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### **Debits (1 April 2022 to 30 April 2022):**

Clerk's Salary (March)	£	262.60
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Clerk's Back Pay (1/4/21 to 31/3/22)	£	91.08
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HMRC PAYE Month 12	£	174.80
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Clerk's Expenses (February)	£	7.10
Place Studio	£	1,524.97
Planters (Matting)	£	29.94
Grass Cutting Donation	£	50.00
Zurich Insurance	£	846.60
Wiltshire Concrete	£	334.48
Protectivity Insurance	£	145.80
Safety Supply Co. Ltd	£	40.74
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>3,508.11</b>

**Balance at 30 April 2022:**

**£ 49,451.06**

**Credits (1 May 2022 to 18 May 2022):**

None

£ -

**Total: £ -**

**Debits (1 May 2022 to 18 May 2022):**

Clerk's Salary (April) (Paid May 2022)

£ 230.59

HMRC PAYE Month 1

£ 214.40

**Total: £ 444.99**

**Balance at 18 May 2022:**

**£ 49,006.07**

**Lloyds A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement

£ 7,716.32

31-Mar-22

**Credits**

05-Apr-22	HMCTS	£	1.12
11-Apr-22	Interest	£	0.07
02-May-22	HMCTS (Approx)	£	1.12
09-May-22	Interest (Approx)	£	0.10

**Total: £ 2.41**

**Debits**

None

£ -

£ -

**Balance at 18 May 2021:**

**£ 7,718.73**

**Total Balance in Hand at 18 May 2022:**

<b>£</b>	<b>56,724.80</b>
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**Payments to be authorised (18 May 2022)**

Clerk's Salary (May) To be paid 31 May (Cheque)	£	266.99
Clerk's PAYE (Month 1) (Cheque)	£	178.00
Clerk's Expenses (March)	£	2.70
Clerk's Expenses (April)	£	6.30
Internal Audit Fee	£	120.00
	<b>£</b>	<b>573.99</b>

b. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 8a including a payment of £36 for membership of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, £15.98 to Graham Wyllie (Village Fete/Jubilee equipment) and £80.98 for replacement Christmas Tree lights.

**9. Environment and Streetscene.****a. Rights of Way.**

Following a comment by Cllr. Bruges the Clerk stated that he had yet to write to Wiltshire Council requesting that they investigate that Path SEMI 8/10 had recently had a further two gates fitted that provided an obstacle to horse riders and other users of that bridleway and whether such gates were appropriate on this bridleway when there were no animals to protect but would do so directly.

The Chairman reported that a request had been received from the owner of the affected farm that Path SEMI 8/10 be diverted. The Council **resolved** that it would support this diversion provided that the alternative path proposed was a suitable path and that the request was not designed to eliminate Path SEMI 8/10 without a replacement.

Cllr. Bruges enquired whether the Parish Council was in a position to contribute financially to the installation of 'dog gates' and/or new stiles. The Chairman commented that the Parish Council could only do so for land within Semington parish and noted that a Ramblers / Wiltshire Council Rights of Way Team / local volunteers working party often did this work. He added that it was clear that there are a number of stiles in the parish that need repair or replacement. He asked Cllr. Bruges to bring problematic stiles to his attention

**Other Matters.**

b. Cllr. Wade confirmed that the Village Hall Management Committee had agreed that the existing three noticeboards could be removed from the front of the Village Hall and that two new Parish Council noticeboards could be installed to replace the removed Parish Council ones. The Chairman stated that the design of noticeboard will be decided at the next meeting.

c. Cllr. Hailey stated that the application process had commenced for additional tree planting to address the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. The planting was planned for November and the trees would be provided by the Woodland Trust at no cost to the Parish Council. She gave a detailed account of the results of her survey to identify possible areas within the village for further tree planting and was asked by the Chairman to present her final proposals for the areas to be investigated at the next meeting. The Chairman commented that he and Cllr. Smith intended to have a conversation with the various landowners involved and that this initiative fitted in well with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan as through this (and following approval) particular plots of land could be identified as areas for tree planting.

He suggested that Cllr. Hailey use the village 'change of use' process (explained in 7, above) to designate particular plots of land as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. Hailey stated that she would advertise the availability of 'free' trees – subject to certain conditions being met – in the Village Newsletter.

d. Cllr. Hailey confirmed that the Village Litter Pick is to take place on Thursday 2 June 2022 – Volunteers to meet at the Village Hall at 10am.

#### **10. Transport and Traffic.**

Cllr. Wade reported that the results of the Wiltshire Council Traffic Survey at the High Street, Semington had been published and that they indicated that although mean recorded speeds were only very slightly above 30mph, Semington would qualify for the establishment of a Community Speed Watch Scheme. Cllr. Wade agreed to write an article on this matter for the forthcoming issue of the Village Newsletter.

Cllr. Wade commented that the recent work undertaken on Path SEMI 9A/10 has been modest and appears satisfactory and had taken account of the representations made in respect of the surface treatment.

#### **11. Recreation and Wellbeing.**

a. Cllr. Wade stated that there was nothing to report in respect of the allotments.

b. The Chairman and Clerk stated that there had been no costed proposals presented to the Parish Council for implementing the increased security at the Football ground.

c. Cllr. Bruges reported that the church continues to investigate refurbishment – especially in respect of adding toilets. He added that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is keen to obtain a detailed estimate of the work and cost involved and wished to engage a Quantity Surveyor to assist in providing this estimate – the cost of engaging a Quantity Surveyor was estimated to be £1000 and he enquired whether the Parish Council would consider making a contribution to this cost.

The Council expressed their support in principle for making a contribution but requested Cllr, Bruges to ask the PCC to make a formal application to the Parish Council for it to consider.

#### **12. Community and Communication.**

Cllr. Chown confirmed that the arrangements for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations that will be held over the weekend 3 – 6 June were progressing well.

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

a. The Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting was to be held on 15 June.

b. The Council noted the agreed dates for the subsequent Parish Council meetings in 2022 – all meetings commencing at 7.30pm - 13 July, 17 August, 14 September.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm