

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held
on 15 June 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village
Hall**



Present.

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

There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies.

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

2. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 15 May 2022.

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

4. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 15 May 2022.

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

5. Wiltshire Council Report.

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

6. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that the service provided by the Post Office Counters Ltd at Semington continues to be very poor and entirely unacceptable despite his strong and repeated representations to the Regional Office of Post Office Counters Ltd which included making a formal complaint. There ensued a discussion during which councillors echoed the sentiments expressed by the Chairman and the Parish Council **resolved** to elevate the complaint to the next level forthwith. The Chairman agreed to take the necessary action.

7. 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	Approved

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.	Approved
PL/2022/03378	2 St Georges Court Semington BA14 6GA	Replacement Front Door and Window	Pending
PL/2022/03673	Land to west of 5A High Street Semington BA14 6JR	Erection of a three bedroom detached chalet bungalow	Pending
PL/2022/03696	5A High Street Semington BA14 6JR	Addition of a dormer window to extend bedroom and create WC	Pending

b. There were no planning applications received after 9 June 2022.

c. It was reported that planning application PL/2022/01367 had been 'called in' by Cllr. Seed and that it was likely that it would be on the Agenda of the Western Area Planning Committee to be held on 6 July 2022. The Parish Council **resolved** that the comments objecting to this application be voiced at the Appeal Hearing.

The Chairman stated that he and other councillors had undertaken a 'village walkabout' to examine key features of the village that could be candidates for the Neighbourhood Plan. They were accompanied by representatives from Place Studios which was the consultancy assisting the Parish Council in the development of the Plan. Key features considered in the 'walkabout' were Significant Views, Character of the Built-up Environment, Green Spaces, Wildlife Corridors and a possible Conservation Area in the village.

7. Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. Scott reported that landowners had now been invited to offer land to be included within the proposed Neighbourhood Plan and to date, five landowners had responded. He added that parishioners had also been given the opportunity to comment on their preferred use of available land within Semington and replies were requested by 24 June. He stressed that no unilateral decision would be taken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group regarding these responses as it was primarily the responsibility of the parishioners to decide the future of their own village. Meanwhile, work to develop draft policies to define the objectives of the NPSG and the content of the resulting Neighbourhood Plan continues.

It was noted that a further grant of £8420 towards the cost of developing the Neighbourhood Plan had been received recently by the Parish Council.

It was confirmed that there will be a Neighbourhood Plan stall at the Village Fete on 23 July.

9. Finance.

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

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement
30 April 2022

£ 49,451.06

1377

Credits (1 May 2022 to 31 May 2022):

Groundwork UK

Total: £ 49,451.06

£ 8,420.00

Total: £ 8,420.00

Debits (1 May 2022 to 31 May 2022):

Clerk's Salary (April)

£ 230.59

HMRC PAYE Month 1

£ 214.40

Internal Audit Fee

£ 120.00

Christmas Lights etc

£ 80.98

Jubilee (Horn) Equipment

£ 15.98

Total: £ 661.95

Balance at 31 May 2022:

£ 57,209.11

Credits (1 June 2022 to 15 June 2022):

None

£ -

Total: £ -

Debits (1 June 2022 to 15 June 2022):

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

£ 266.99

Clerk's Expenses (March)

£ 6.30

Clerk's Expenses (April)

£ 2.70

HMRC PAYE Month 2

£ 178.00

Wilts Wildlife Trust

£ 36.00

Total: £ 489.99

Balance at 15 June 2022:

£ 56,719.12

Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement

£ 7,717.51

30-Apr-22

Credits

04-May-22

HMCTS

£ 1.12

09-May-22

Interest

£ 0.06

04-Jun-22

HMCTS (Approx)

£ 1.12

09-Jun-22

Interest (Approx)

£ 0.08

Total: £ 2.38

Debits

1378

None

£	-
£	-

Balance at 15 June 2021:

£	7,719.89
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Total Balance in Hand at 15 June 2022:

£	64,439.01
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Payments to be authorised (15 June 2022)

Clerk's Salary (June) To be paid 30 June (Cheque)	£	266.99
Clerk's HMRC PAYE (Month 3) (Cheque)	£	178.00
Place Studios	£	2,546.96
Village Hall Hire (NP Meetings)	£	143.00
	£	3,134.95

b. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 9a including the following payments:

Jubilee Flowers	£250.00
Plants for the Planter	£28.80
Plants for the Planter	£23.92
AM Print & Copy	£56.50

The Clerk confirmed that action to add Cllrs. Chown and Smith as authorised signatories for the Parish Council accounts with Lloyds Bank was now in hand.

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

Councillors commented that Paths SEM19A/10 and HILP22/10 – known locally as Gypsy Lane and recently designated a 'cycleway' by Wiltshire Council – had now been completed and that the smoothness of the surface dressing would attract some users – especially some of those in vehicles – to drive along it at high speeds. The speed limit on the Byeway is 60mph. It was noted that these paths comprised a Byeway between Semington and Hilperton and thereby available to be used by all road users and councillors expressed their concerns that the mix of walkers/cyclists/horseriders/motor vehicles on that Byeway would prove to seriously compromise the safety of users.

The Parish Council **resolved** to express these concerns to Wiltshire Council and to invite Wiltshire Council to implement safety measures as a matter of urgency. The Clerk was asked to invite Cllr. Wade to agree the wording of the representation to Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Wade recommended that this matter is also raised at the next Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group (the 'renamed' CATG) meeting.

Other Matters.

b. Cllr. Wade confirmed that he had examined possible designs and costs for the two new noticeboards and that he would send these details to all councillors. The Council **resolved** that a decision which design to adopt would be taken via email correspondence to enable them to be purchased.

The Council **resolved** that a sum of £1500 be allocated for the purchase of the two noticeboards.

c. The Chairman stated that the Queen's Green Canopy initiative has provided the incentive and opportunity for possible areas within the village to be identified for further tree planting – see Agenda item 10e.

d. The Chairman reported that the Litter Pick held on 2 June was very successful and well attended. The Council **resolved** to thank everyone involved.

e. Cllr. Hailey presented her draft proposals for the areas in the village to benefit from additional tree planting under the Queen's Green Canopy Scheme:

- Walkway next to St George's School.
- Verge on corner of Hunt Close and High Street.
- Littlemarsh – Verge leading from roundabout on A361.
- Littlemarsh – Verge opposite entrance to football club.
- Walkway into Highfield Close by entrance to St George's Road/Bus Stop.
- Wessex Close Play Area.

The Council **resolved** to adopt the proposals by Cllr. Hailey but noted that there would need to be a consultation period for parishioners to express their views, especially those closest to the proposed sites and that consultation would also be necessary with Wiltshire Council – the owner of many of the proposed sites - for permission to plant the trees. Cllrs. Smith and Hailey agreed to talk to Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Hailey commented that it was possible that The Woodland Trust would provide the trees. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Hailey for her work in identifying possible tree planting sites. She was asked to provide a possible budget for this project. Cllr. Bruges stated that he had many available saplings that could be used for this project.

The Chairman agreed to include details of this proposed tree planting project in the Village Newsletter.

Cllr. Bruges proposed that Wiltshire Council may be persuaded to change its current policy with respect to 'mowing'. He suggested that the main roundabout could be left to become more 'wildlife friendly' and to even support further tree planting there. The Chairman added that it would be useful to review the current policy regarding cutting the grass verges in the village, but it was important to consult parishioners on this matter.

f. The Chairman confirmed that he had advised the Parish Steward of possible tasks within the village, including removing overhanging branches and intrusive vegetation, such as brambles.

11. Transport and Traffic.

Cllr. Wade reported that the CATG had been renamed Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group and had benefitted from a higher budget although there is no longer any opportunity to 'carry over' unspent funds from one Financial Year to the next.

12. Recreation and Wellbeing.

a. Cllr. Wade stated that it was now becoming necessary to establish, and agree, the relationship between the Parish Council and Newland Homes and the role of any proposed Allotment Association. Cllr. Wade agreed to initiate these discussions and that he would contact Mike Kurton of Newland Homes. It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council should own the allotments and that an Allotment Association be formed to manage the allotments on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Wade agreed to contact Wiltshire Council to obtain details of the s106 Agreement that related to this Newland Homes development. The Chairman agreed to request the articles of association from the Gloucester Road Allotments Association in Trowbridge.

b. The Clerk stated that there had been no costed proposals presented to the Parish Council for implementing the increased security at the Football ground. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Football Club and the proposal from the Football Club was for heavier duty bolts and locks to be fitted with a request that the Parish Council consider offering a budget for the works.

c. Councillors noted that the proposed resurfacing work in relation to the Tennis Court has yet to commence.

The Council reiterated its support in principle for making a contribution to St Georges PCC in respect of the refurbishment but requested Cllr, Bruges to ask the PCC to make a formal application to the Parish Council for it to consider.

13. Community and Communication.

Cllr. Chown and councillors confirmed that the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in the village were a huge success and that the degree of involvement by parishioners was a testament to the community spirit that exists within the village.

The Parish Council **resolved** to wholeheartedly thank everyone involved – organisers, participants and visitors.

14. Date of the next meeting.

a. **The Council noted there is to be no meeting in July and the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting is to be 17 August 2022.**

b. **The Council noted the proposed date for the September Parish Council meeting has been changed to 21 September 2022 (subject to the Village Hall being available). There is no meeting to be held on 14 September 2022.**

All meetings commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm