

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held
on 17 August 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village
Hall**



Present.

Councillors P Smith (Chairman), S Chown, J Hailey, 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 for non-attendance were received and accepted from Parish Councillors V Bodman and R Bruges.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr. Hailey declared an interest in planning application PL/2022/05227.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 15 June 2022.

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

4. Wiltshire Council Report.

Cllr. Seed commented that there had been no progress in Wiltshire Council pursuing the alleged breach of planning permission at the Greenacres site and he agreed to discuss this matter with the Wiltshire Council officers concerned following receipt of information from the Parish Council regarding the present position.

Cllr. Wade stated that at the recent Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group meeting there had been discussions regarding the imposition of vehicle parking restrictions north of the canal bridge. He commented that this discussion involved Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council but not Semington Parish Council and it is the latter community that would be seriously affected by this proposal because vehicles would begin to be parked south of the Canal Bridge to avoid the restrictions thereby causing unwanted obstructions in Semington. Cllr. Wade requested Cllr. Seed to ensure that Semington Parish Council would be included in any further discussions especially before any legal instrument was agreed.

Cllr. Scott stated that he and Cllr. Smith had attended the Hilperton Area Action Group (HAAG) 'Open Evening' at Hilperton to learn about the proposal to build 2600 houses in the local area and noted that a proposed planning application included a disproportionate large access road to a very modest housing development near to the Trowbridge Rugby Club and that he suspected that this was a forerunner to a much larger housing development in the area. He requested Cllr. Seed to remain vigilant regarding this and future similar applications.

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
PL/2022/01830	52 Littlemarsh BA14 6JF	Proposed two storey side extension.	Approved
PL/2022/02656	Littleton Mill, Littleton, Semington, BA14 6LQ	Proposed wooden hut to house and protect turbines	Pending
PL/2022/03378 LBC	2 St Georges Court Semington BA14 6GA	Replacement Front Door and Window	Approved
PL/2022/03673	Land to west of 5A High Street Semington BA14 6JR	Erection of a three bedroom detached chalet bungalow	Approved
PL/2022/03696	5A High Street Semington BA14 6JR	Addition of a dormer window to extend bedroom and create WC	Approved
PL/2022/04926	Land South west of 41 Littleton Green, Semington BA14 6LE	Agricultural Building for storage of feed and machinery	Pending

b. Cllr Hailey withdrew from the meeting.

The Parish Council **resolved** to send the following comments to Wiltshire Council (shown in italics) in respect of the following planning application:

PL/2022/05227	19 Highfield Close Semington BA146JZ	To convert an existing detached garage into an annexe to the main house. This has been granted by planning approval PL/2022/00302. This application is to add a dormer roof extension to the roof.	New
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The Parish Council has no objections to this proposed development.

Cllr. Hailey returned to the meeting.

c. There were no planning applications received after 10 August 2022.

d. Following an enquiry from Cllr. Chown it was confirmed that there had been no news regarding applications for 'affordable homes' in relation to the Newland Homes development. The Chairman suggested that the request from Wiltshire Council for applications be published on the Semington Village Facebook page.

7. Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman confirmed that landowners had now been invited to offer land to be assessed within the proposed Neighbourhood Plan and that five have responded. He added that

parishioners had also been asked for comments regarding the use of 'vacant' land in and around Semington and this also had produced a good response – totalling, to date, twenty-three responses. He added that AECOM had been commissioned to produce a report on all SHLAA sites within the parish for the Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPG) and this report would be available around the end of the year and it would be available for public scrutiny and consultation.

8. Finance.

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

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	57,209.11
31 May 2022		
Total:	£	57,209.11

Credits (1 June 2022 to 30 June 2022):

None	£	-
Total:	£	-

Debits (1 June 2022 to 30 June 2022):

Clerk's Salary (May)	£	266.99
HMRC PAYE Month 2	£	178.00
Clerk's Expenses (April)	£	2.70
Clerk's Expenses (March)	£	6.30
Wilts Wildlife Trust	£	36.00
Place Studios	£	2,546.96
	£	56.50
Total:	£	3,093.45

Balance at 30 June 2022:

£ 54,115.66

Credits (1 July 2022 to 31 July 2022):

None	£	-
Total:	£	-

Debits (1 July 2022 to 31 July 2022):

Clerk's Salary (June)	£	266.99
HMRC PAYE Month 3	£	178.00
Village Hall Hire (NPSG)	£	143.00
S Stainer - Jubilee Flowers	£	250.00
P Smith - Plants	£	23.92
Jubilee Flyers	£	193.60
NSALG Ltd - Allotment Society	£	67.00

1384

Total: £ 1,122.51

Balance at 31 July 2022:

£ 52,993.15

Credits (1 August 2022 to 17 August 2022):

None

£ -

Total: £ -

Debits (1 August 2022 to 17 August 2022):

Clerk's Salary (July)

£ 266.99

HMRC PAYE Month 4

£ 178.00

Clerk's Expenses (April, May, June)

£ 31.38

L Callaghan - Plants

£ 28.80

Total: £ 505.17

Balance at 17 August 2022:

£ 52,487.98

NOTE: Clerk's Expenses April (£2.70) erroneously claimed twice. Clerk's Expenses July (£9.90) paid to Clerk to be reduced by £2.70 = £7.20.**Lloyds A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement

£ 7,718.76

30-Jun-22

Credits

05-Jul-22

HMCTS

£ 1.12

11-Jul-22

Interest

£ 0.07

19-Jul-22

HMCTS

£ 1.16

04-Aug-22

HMCTS (TBA - Approx)

£ 1.12

11-Aug-22

Interest (Approx)

£ 0.07

Total: £ 3.54

Debits

None

£ -

£ -

Balance at 17 August 2022:

£ 7,722.30

Total Balance in Hand at 17 August 2022:

£ 60,210.28

Payments to be authorised (17 August 2022)

Clerk's Salary (August) To be paid 31 August 2022

£ 266.99

Clerk's HMRC PAYE (Month 5)	£	178.00
Clerk's Expenses (July) (£9.90 - £2.70)	£	7.20
Information Commissioner Fee (Paid by Clerk via Personal Credit Card)	£	40.00
	£	492.19

c. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 8a including the following payment:

Victim Support £50.00

The Clerk confirmed that a new Bank Mandate had been completed and sent to Lloyds Bank to add Cllrs. Chown and Smith as authorised signatories for the Parish Council accounts.

9. Environment and Streetscene.

a. Rights of Way.

Councillors noted that Paths SEMI9A/10 and HILP22/10 – known locally as Gypsy Lane and recently designated a 'cycleway' by Wiltshire Council – was to have its final top-dressing treatment (6mm to 10mm aggregate) applied on 5 September and this would take three days to complete with the cycleway closed during that period. It was confirmed that Wiltshire Council/W S Atkins are to examine the possible safety issues where the cycleway ends at St George's Place and that a full independent safety audit of the whole route is to be undertaken when the work has been completed and its typical use established.

Other Matters.

b. Cllr. Wade confirmed that he had examined possible designs and costs for the two new noticeboards and that following confirmation of the exact dimensions 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.

c. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Hailey for the work she had undertaken to identify possible tree planting areas in the village, including possible species of trees, costs and availability (including contacting The Woodland Trust) – details of which she had sent to all councillors. She commented that the cost will be in the order of £800 to £1000 for the proposed twenty-three (approx.) trees plus the cost of compost/stakes etc. A budget figure of £1500 was agreed by the Parish Council. The Council invited her to obtain a formal quotation and meanwhile to ensure that the parishioners likely to be affected by the tree planting (including Wiltshire Council) are consulted for their views. The Chairman stated that a decision whether to proceed with this project would be made at the next Parish Council meeting. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether this project could be funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) recently received from Wiltshire Council. He was also requested to enquire more generally regarding the disbursement of a CIL.

d. The Council resolved that no action be taken in respect of identifying and/or planting wildflower meadows in the village.

e. The Council resolved that no action be taken in respect of requesting Wiltshire Council to reduce/amend the hours when streetlights are on.

f. Cllr. Wade stated that he had attended the Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group and added that the Littlemarsh road markings are to be implemented

soon. He also commented on the proposed vehicle parking restrictions north of the Canal Bridge – refer to Minute 4 above..

10. Transport and Traffic.

Cllr. Hailey commented that she had witnessed more vehicles using the cycleway between Semington and Hilperton and that the danger of these vehicles had persuaded her that it was an unsafe path for pedestrians to use – the antithesis of the purpose of the path as an 'environmentally friendly' route.

11. Recreation and Wellbeing.

a. Cllr. Wade gave a full report of his research into the establishment of an Allotment Society, or equivalent, to manage the allotments at the Newland Homes site. Management of these allotments could be relatively simple if the Parish Council were to retain the management/control of them but potentially costly and time consuming with significant legal costs if an 'independent' body were to manage/control them. Either way he asserted that the Parish Council would still retain responsibility/legal liability for the allotments – something that the Parish Council had hoped to transfer to another body. He confirmed that Semington Parish Council was now a member of the National Association of Allotment Growers.

Cllr. Wade stated that he was keen to engage the possible users of the allotments and added that he was intending to hold a meeting or meetings to gauge interest in acquiring allotment plots. The Parish Council **resolved** that he be given a budget of £150 for these meetings.

b. The Council noted the report of the defective play equipment (the Lupus Spinning Disc) at the Wessex Close Play Area and councillors confirmed that it was not operating properly although it was considered safe and not a safety hazard - a fact also confirmed by Idverde (the contractor for Wiltshire Council). The Clerk was asked to contact Wiltshire Council and to report this matter and commenting that the Parish Council had paid Idverde via Wiltshire Council some £600 for a repair to this equipment a year or so ago following a report of a similar defect.

c. The Council **resolved** that the conditions of the s106 Agreement that came into being when the St George's development took place and provided Semington Village with the Tennis Court required it to be used for the 'Sports and Social' benefit of the community of Semington and thereby its use could not be extended to non-residents/parishioners of Semington. The Chairman agreed to contact the person requesting its use along those lines.

d. The subject of whether to contact Wiltshire Council to investigate the process and obligations in a Community Asset Transfer of Wessex Close Play Area was deferred until the next meeting.

e. Cllr. Chown reported that the Village Fete had been a very enjoyable day and that some £2500 had been raised. The Council **resolved** to thank all those involved – the organisers and the participants.

Cllr. Chown stated that she had been investigating possible additional uses for the Village Hall – especially in relation to increasing community participation.

12. Community and Communication.

The Council noted its previous support in principle for making a contribution to St Georges Parochial Church Council in respect of the refurbishment but before doing so wished to have more information regarding the proposed project – especially how the project currently estimated to be well over £100,000 is to be funded and whether the project is certain to proceed. The Chairman agreed to contact the PCC and to ask a representative to give a short presentation at the next Parish Council meeting.

13. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting – 21 September 2022 and the Clerk agreed the following date for the subsequent meeting (subject to confirmation): 19 October 2022. Subsequent dates for the November and December meetings are to be discussed and agreed with the Village Hall Management Committee.

All meetings are to commence at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 10.15pm

Chairman Semington Parish Council