

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held
on 19 October 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village
Hall**



Present.

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

There were two members of the public present initially.

1. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllrs. C Wade and M. Kasasian and apologies were received from Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed.

2. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 21 September 2022.

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 by Cllr. Seed was given. The Chairman reported that Cllr. Seed had informed him that he would make enquiries of Wiltshire Council relating to the Greenacres travellers' site.

Cllrs. Bodman and Scott proposed that Cllr. Seed should also enquire into the extent to which Wiltshire Council had met the rural housing needs for affordable homes for local people in the allocation of houses at the Newland Homes development.

5. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, expressed regret at learning of the resignation of Cllr. Bodman. He thanked Cllr. Bodman for her service as a councillor and complimented her for bringing a fresh and very welcome perspective to the Council during her time as councillor. He wished her well for the future. These sentiments were echoed by all those present.

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/2022/02656 Amended Plans	Littleton Mill, Littleton, Semington, BA14 6LQ	Proposed wooden hut to house and protect turbines	Pending

b. There were no planning applications received after 13 October 2022.

c. Cllr. Scott stated that following his enquiries with Wiltshire Council he had learned that planning application 19/02147/OUT (26 Residential Dwellings, Land North of St George's Road) had not progressed further than the 'Outline Permission' stage. He also commented that a statement from the Government today indicated that it was intending to abandon the 'top down' approach to determining local housing number requirements.

d. The Council noted the concerns expressed by parishioners about the number of static homes located at the Greenacres site and possible safety concern regarding the storage of gas cylinders. The Chairman stated that he would write to Cllr. Seed with these concerns.

7. Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman reported that the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan had provided a wealth of useful and informative data about the village and the aspirations of its inhabitants. He added that the following steps had now been taken:

- A consultant had been appointed to undertake a Landscape Assessment. A Report is expected end-November.
- Councillors (Cllrs. Scott, Bodman, Scott) had, with consultants from AECOM, examined the fourteen sites identified as SHLAA sites by Wiltshire Council regarding their suitability for development. An additional site – the (old) Motel Field, now owned by the Order of St Johns, was also examined.
- A Climate Change Survey has been undertaken and some fifty-five responses obtained.
- A List of businesses within the Civil Parish of Semington has been compiled – the aim is to seek views on how the Neighbourhood Development Plan might best support those businesses regarding possible development of those businesses.

The Chairman commented that it is intended also to undertake a 'Heritage Survey' of parish features that do not qualify for statutory designation (e.g. Listed Building status).

8. Finance.

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

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	66,108.00
31 August 2022		

Total:	£	66,108.00
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Credits (1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022):

Wiltshire Council (Precept - Part)	£	6,750.00
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Total:	£	6,750.00
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Debits (1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022):

D Muns (Website)	£	240.00
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Total:	£	240.00
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Balance at 30 September 2022:

£	72,618.00
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Credits (1 October 2022 to 19 October 2022):

None	£	-
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1397

Total: £ -

Debits (1 October 2022 to 19 October 2022):

Clerk's Salary (Sept)	£	266.99
Clerk's Expenses (August)	£	33.69
PKF Littlejohn (External Audit)	£	240.00
AM Print & Copy	£	42.00
HMRC PAYE Month 6	£	178.00
Total:	£	760.68

Balance at 19 October 2022:

£ 71,857.32

Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 31-Aug-22	£	7,722.53
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Credits

09-Sep-22	Interest	£	0.33
20-Sep-22	HMCTS	£	1.16
09-Oct-22	Interest (Approx)	£	0.33
Total:		£	1.82

Debits

None	£	-
	£	-

Balance at 19 October 2022:

£ 7,724.35

Total Balance in Hand at 19 October 2022:

£ 79,581.67

Payments to be authorised (19 October 2022)

Clerk's Salary (October) To be paid 31 October 2022	£	266.99
Clerk's HMRC PAYE (Month 7)	£	178.00
Clerk's Expenses (September)	£	9.14
Memorial Wreath	£	23.98
Neighbourhood Plan (Google Account - V Bodman)	£	55.20
	£	533.31

Prior to the next item, the Clerk left the meeting.

b. The Chairman announced the results of the Clerk's Pay Review thus:

- The Clerk salary is to lie within the Scale Range LC2 (24-28).
- The Clerk's salary is to be SCP26 (£16.10/hr based on National Salary Award 2021/22 backdated to 1 September 2022).
- The Clerk's salary is to progress to SCP27 (with effect from 1 April 2023) and to SCP28 (with effect from 1 April 2024).

The Parish Council **resolved** to endorse the results.

The Clerk re-joined the meeting and was informed of the decision.

The Clerk thanked the Council for undertaking the Pay Review and for the decisions arising therefrom and he expressed his appreciation for the review being undertaken in such a thorough and conscientious manner and in accordance with latest guidance from the Society of Local Council Clerks and the National Association of Local Councils.

c. Cllr. Scott explained that he would send an updated report on the Community Development Fund Working Group for comment to councillors and the Clerk which would also contain proposals for establishing the Group and for seeking and assessing possible community projects. He added that he envisaged that the Group would comprise three councillors and two parishioners but the approval of any project would be subject to approval by the Parish Council. Cllr. Scott commented that some possible projects are likely to emerge from the development of the Neighbourhood Plan development. It was agreed that money had to be available for the funding of policies and projects resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan, and that the bulk of the CIL monies should be reserved for Neighbourhood Plan initiatives. The Clerk confirmed that he would scrutinize any proposed projects to ensure that they met any constraints imposed by the Community Infrastructure Levy and LGA1972 – especially s137 if applicable.

d. The Council **resolved** to approve a budget of £275 for the purchase of the village Christmas tree.

e. The Council **resolved** to make a donation of £600 to St George's PCC (Village Newsletter & Grass Cutting).

f. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 8a.

9. Environment and Streetscene.

a. Rights of Way.

The Council noted the continuing safety concerns regarding Paths SEMI9A/10 and HILP22/10 as a 'cycleway' and that members of the public had expressed their concerns during the Public Participation prior to the Parish Council meeting. The Council reaffirmed that it was awaiting the results of the safety audit to be undertaken by Wiltshire Council and that would determine whether additional safety measures were necessary.

b. Councillors commented that gates on Path SEMI8/10 were regularly closed when there was no livestock to protect and in the absence of any livestock, there should be unfettered access along that path. Cllr. Scott stated that he would make enquiries.

Cllr. Scott reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Wilts and Berks Canal Liaison Group which included representatives from Wiltshire Council. He added that Wiltshire Council was supportive of the canal project but would not support additional house building in the area to provide the funding for it.

Cllr. Hailey expressed her thanks, endorsed by other councillors, to the Parish Steward for cleaning the gutters and drains in the High Street. The Chairman stated that he would contact the Parish Steward to pass on these thanks.

The Chairman noted that there were a number of tasks needing to be addressed such as a Litter Pick, Planting bulbs, a Leaf Sweep and he stated that he would send the list to councillors for their views.

Other Matters.

- c. In the absence of Cllr. Wade, agreement on the design/type of the new Parish Council Noticeboard/s was deferred until the next meeting.
- d. The decision on the number and species of trees to be purchased for the Queen's Canopy project was pending final consent from Wiltshire Council regarding the various proposed locations.
- e. This item was covered under Agenda item d above.
- f. There were no other matters raised.

10. Transport and Traffic.

There were no matters raised.

11. Recreation and Wellbeing.

- a. In the absence of Cllr. Wade, no report was given regarding the allotments.
- b. The Council noted that the defective Ludus Spinning Top had now been removed by Wiltshire Council and the ground reinstated.
- c. The Council acknowledged the reply from Wiltshire Council regarding a possible Asset Transfer and the contractual difficulties relating to this particular site. The Council discussed a number of possible arrangements for the Parish Council to be involved in the management of the Wessex Close Play Area and it was agreed to present these proposals to Wiltshire Council for comment. The Chairman agreed to draft a suitable note for the Clerk to send to Wiltshire Council.
- d. There was nothing further reported in respect of whether the future management of the Play Area will be undertaken by a Community Group.
- e. There were no other matters raised.

12. Community and Communication.

Cllr. Bodman stated that for the time being she would continue to manage the website and she would remain a member of the Neighbourhood Planning team. The Chairman thanked her for her continued support.

13. Date of the next meeting.

- a. The Council noted the dates for the November and December Parish Council meetings - 16 November, 21 December. All meetings were to commence at 7.30pm.
- b. The Clerk was requested to propose dates for the Ordinary Parish Council meetings to be held in 2023 and to investigate the availability of the Village Hall.