

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held  
on 15 February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village  
Hall**



Present.

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

Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time).

There were no members of the public present.

**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 18 January 2023.**

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

**4. Wiltshire Council Report.**

Cllr Seed gave the following report:

Wessex Close Play Area.

Cllr. Seed offered his assistance in the acquisition of this asset by the Parish Council if that was the intended action by the Council and he reminded councillors to consider whether to apply for an Area Board grant to assist in funding this project.

SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway' Safety Audit.

Cllr Seed expressed his dissatisfaction with the recently received Safety Audit Report in that the identified concerns of the Parish Council and parishioners had been totally ignored and that the Audit had been undertaken with little or no reference to the safety issues previously identified. He added that he had written to the Cabinet member concerned to express his gross dissatisfaction and was awaiting a reply.

Planning application PL/2022/01367.

This application was on the Agenda of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting to be held on 22 February 2023. He confirmed that he would discuss the strategy to be adopted with the Parish Council when presenting the arguments for the refusal of this application at that meeting. Cllr. Scott confirmed that he would be attending the meeting and that he would be representing the Parish Council.

The following matters were brought to the attention of Cllr. Seed by Parish Councillors:

Cllr. Wade – A request that Wiltshire Council turn off the lights at night at the now defunct Salt Tip.

Cllr. Bruges – The recent report by the Police & Crime Commissioner was particularly uninformative. Cllr. Seed commented that the new policing model represented, in his view, 'Rural Abandonment'.

Cllr. Smith – The concerns raised by parishioners and the parish council, regarding the extent to which static vans on the Greenacres site exceed the number permitted under planning permissions, continue to be ignored by Wiltshire Council and an update from that council as to why nothing is being done is long overdue.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Seed for his contributions to the meeting.

## **5. Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman stated that there were no additional matters to report that were not covered by the Agenda.

## **6. Community and Communication.**

a. Cllr. Chown stated that Paul Chown had already introduced significant changes to the website to improve its utility but further changes were necessary to achieve the improvements required by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would provide Mr Chown with a specification defining the Council's requirements. Meanwhile, the Council **resolved** to ask Mr Chown to seek an alternative provider/web host and that he is allocated a sum of £150 to cover expected expenditure over the next three months.

b. The Council **resolved** to digitise the '*Semington Past & Present*' book as a community resource subject to the original contributors raising no objections.

c. The Council noted that Cllr. Scott had written to the Police & Crime Commissioner regarding the concerns relating to community policing but had not yet received a reply, although it was noted in a response from the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner that the Commissioner had passed the letter on to another Department to provide a response. Notwithstanding this, and in the meantime, a widely-circulated report was received from Sgt. Twyford (Melksham Police Headquarters) that failed to address the main concerns of the Parish Council. A response from the Police & Crime Commissioner was still awaited.

d. The Clerk reminded councillors that the existing South West Ambulance Service (SWAS) Contract for the Defibrillator ends in May/June and that a new contract will be required. He added that he had contacted SWAS and that he has put them on notice.

## **7. Recreation and Wellbeing.**

a. The Clerk confirmed that Forrester Sylvester Mackett (Solicitors) had been instructed to represent the Parish Council regarding the transfer of the allotment site and that the Parish Council had had an exchange of correspondence with Newland Homes and Forrester Sylvester Mackett (FSM) including a payment of £500 to FSM on account. The Clerk added that a response from Newland Homes to a number of points raised by the Parish Council was awaited.

b. Following a detailed discussion, the Parish Council **resolved** not to engage a Surveyor as proposed by Forrester Sylvester Mackett commenting that the drawings provided by Newland Homes were sufficiently detailed to permit the Council to undertake its own assessment regarding compliance. Details of the water supply were identified as a key issue to be addressed with Newland Homes. Cllr. Wade agreed to draft a specification describing the layout and structure of the land to be transferred from Newland Homes to the PC

c. Cllr. Wade explained that work is continuing to identify a possible 'allotment management structure'.

d. The Chairman reiterated that a key element of any possible future management/ownership of the Wessex Close Play Area was that the local community and not the Parish Council must be responsible for this project. Cllr. Chown explained that she had taken the initiative and had contacted parishioners to garner interest and some sixteen individuals had expressed interest in the project. She added that she had arranged an online (Zoom) meeting for Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm for all interested parties to participate and for the project to be taken forward. She added that she had also explored necessary training requirements and costs for the regular safety inspections that would be necessary if a community group were to manage the play area – a cost that would be met by the Parish Council.

e. The Chairman stated that the King's Coronation on 6 May 2023 may be an opportunity for community events to take place in the village over that weekend. Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that parishioners would be encouraged to undertake their own 'personal' celebration events on the Sunday and that a scheme of undertaking local jobs requested by parishioners – similar to the Scouts' 'Bob a Job' scheme – would take place on the Monday. Cllr. Chown added that she is willing to co-ordinate this activity. Cllr. Bruges offered to consult with The Somerset Arms and Cllr. Hailey with St George's School to establish if they each had any plans for celebration events for that weekend.

## **8. Environment and Streetscene.**

### **a. Rights of Way.**

The Chairman reported that the Wiltshire Council SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway' Safety Audit Report was woefully inadequate – see also Minute at Para 4 above - and that the concerns of the Parish Council and parishioners had been ignored in a report that had been written in a most perfunctory manner. Cllr. Scott stated that, as a parishioner, he had written to Wiltshire Council raising a number of issues about the inadequacy of the report and posing questions for Wiltshire Council to answer.

The Parish Council had been a copy addressee to Cllr. Scott's letter and had noted the content of his letter and the Parish Council **resolved** that it be copied into the response from Wiltshire Council to Cllr. Scott's original letter. The Clerk was asked to contact Wiltshire Council accordingly.

b. The Parish Council agreed to hold a Litter Pick on Saturday 11 March 2023, commencing at 10am at the Village Hall.

c. There were no other issues raised.

### **Other Matters.**

d. Cllr Wade reported that two designs of Noticeboards have been agreed at a total cost of £915 plus VAT. The Council **resolved** that the order be placed.

e. Cllr. Wade stated that at the Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group meeting it was acknowledged that the proposed Parking Audit would include both sides of the Canal Bridge.

## **9. Transport and Traffic.**

There were no current issues to note.

## **10. 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
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PL/2022/09397  Outline planning permission: All matters reserved	Land south of Pound Lane, Semington, BA14 6JP	Residential development of up to 30 dwellings (of which 30% will be affordable) with associated car parking, access, internal roads, public open space, landscaping, drainage and other associated infrastructure.	Pending
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The Council examined the following planning applications and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown (in italics):

PL/2023/00579  LBC	Church Farm, Church Street, Semington, BA14 6JS	Rebuilding of existing barn to form the double garage previously approved under Listed Building ref: PL/2021/09522	New
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*This application is to be referred to the Conservation Officer*

PL/2023/00477  Plan. App.	Church Farm, Church Street, Semington, BA14 6JS	Rebuilding of existing barn to form the double garage previously approved under Planning App. ref: PL/2021/09152	New
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*The Parish Council has no objections to this proposed development.*

- b. There were no planning applications received after 8 February 2023.
- c. It was noted that this Planning application PL/2022/01367 was on the Agenda of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting to be held on 22 February 2023 and that Cllr. Scott would be representing the Parish Council.
- d. There was no further discussion in relation to the Greenacres site.

## 11. Finance.

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

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

Bank Statement

£ 65,959.33

31  
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r 2022

Total:	£	<b>65,959.33</b>
<b>Credits (1 January 2023 to 31 January 2023):</b>		
None	£	-
Total:	£	-

**Debits (1 January 2023 to 31 January 2023):**

Clerk's Salary (January)	£	311.16
Clerk's Expenses (November)	£	17.15
Clerk's Expenses (December)	£	6.60
HMRC PAYE Month 10	£	207.60
Southview Nurseries	£	200.00
F Sharman (Landscape Assessment)	£	3,400.00
Rotary Club (Stop Polio)	£	100.00
Clerk's Office Allowance	£	200.00
L Callaghan (Planter)	£	19.94
Total:	£	<b>4,462.45</b>

**Balance at 31 January 2023:** £ **61,496.88**

**Credits (1 February 2023 to 15 February 2023):**

WC CIL (19/07938)	£	14,162.21
Total:	£	<b>14,162.21</b>

**Debits (1 February 2023 to 15 February 2023):**

None	£	-
Total:	£	-

**Balance at 15 February 2023:** £ **75,659.09**

**Lloyds A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement 31-Dec- 22	£	7,730.43
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**Credits**

09-Jan- 23	Interest (Approx)	£	1.80
17-Jan- 23	HMCTS (Approx)	£	1.16
09-Feb- 23	Interest (Approx)	£	1.80
Total:		£	<b>4.76</b>

**Debits**

None	£	-
	£	-

**Balance at 15 February 2023:** £ **7,735.19**

<b>Total Balance in Hand at 15 February 2023:</b>	<b>£ 83,394.28</b>
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**Payments to be authorised (15 February 2023)**

Clerk's Salary (February)	£	311.16
Clerk's HMRC PAYE (Month 11)	£	207.60
Clerk's Expenses (January)	£	18.21
V Bodman (email)	£	18.40
SLCC Member 2023	£	139.00
CPRE	£	36.00
FSM Payment on Account	£	500.00
	<b>£</b>	<b>1,230.37</b>

The Clerk stated that the final CIL Payment of £14,162.21 in relation to Planning application 19/07938 had been received by the Parish Council and that a further grant of £3663 had been allocated by Groundwork UK in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan Project.

b. The Community Development Fund Working Group (CDFWG) indicated that there may be an application from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for a grant towards the cost of new toilets at St George's Church. Cllr. Scott commented that whilst the restrictions of a Parish Council making donations to a church – as defined in the 1894 Act – may only apply to the Precept money it would be wise to invite the PCC and/or the Salisbury Diocese to comment on the applicability of this Act to the Parish Council providing any grant funding. It was agreed that the CDFWG would write to the PCC for guidance.

c. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 11a.

**12. Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr. Smith reported the following in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NHPSG):

The next Village Consultation is to be held on 22 April 2023 at the Village Hall and the primary themes are the issues facing the allocation of land for housing, identification and protection of 'green spaces' and the identification and protection of 'heritage assets'. He added that a possible 'green space' is located contiguously with the existing West Wiltshire Cremation land.

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

a. The Council noted that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 22 March 2023.

b. It was noted that the subsequent meetings would be held thus: 19 April, 17 May (also the date for the Annual Parish Council meeting), 14 June, 19 July – All meetings to commence at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.42pm.