

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held
on 17 May 2023 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall**



Present.

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

There were four members of the public present.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Bruges and Scott and 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 19 April 2023.

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 was given.

Cllr. Wade stated that he had attended the Local Highways and Footpath Improvement (LHFIG) meeting which was chaired by Cllr. Seed and he would be seeking clarification regarding the views of the LHFIG regarding the existing Bus Gate and the request from the Parish Council for an APNR camera to be used for its enforcement.

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. The Chairman confirmed that Wiltshire Council had accepted the registration of the Somerset Arms Public House as an 'Asset of Community Value'.

b. Cllr. Chown explained possible ways of communicating the Council's policy on GDPR and the Council **resolved** that a shortened version should be adopted generally with a link to the Parish Council website to enable access to the full version. It was agreed to keep this subject under review especially in relation to any legislative changes.

c. The Chairman and councillors reported that the Post Office is now operating very successfully following its move to the car showroom/garage building. The Council **resolved** that a letter of appreciation be sent to the owner/occupier of the building. Cllr. Chown commented that it would be helpful if a 'formal' Post Office sign was displayed indicating its location in the village and that it may be advantageous to erect a ramp at the entrance to assist those less mobile customers. Cllr. Smith agreed to investigate obtaining a 'Post Office' sign and the need for an access ramp.

7. Recreation and Wellbeing.

a. The Clerk reported that he had not received any further correspondence regarding the transfer of the Allotment Site to the Parish Council from either Newland Homes Ltd or Forrester Sylvester Mackett (Solicitors) but understood that Newland Homes had passed documents to FSM Solicitors for consideration. He added that he would seek an update from FSM Solicitors.

b. Cllr. Chown stated that she had circulated the responses from Wiltshire Council to questions that had arisen following a very helpful and informative site meeting at Wessex Close Play Area. She expressed her gratitude to Craig Campbell and Fiona Waind of Wiltshire Council for their cooperation and assistance at the site meeting. Cllr. Chown confirmed that volunteers were in place to manage the Play Area and that Terms of Reference for the Working Group had been agreed. Cllr. Hailey enquired how the 'green space' was to be managed and whether the Parish Council would need to purchase additional equipment for the Group. The Chairman recommended that those details should be left to the Working Group and that the Parish Council would be willing to assist financially if required.

Cllr. Chown stated that the railings on the Canal Bridge were in a poor state and needed painting. She agreed to report this matter to Wiltshire Council on 'My Wilts'.

c. The Parish Council **resolved** to request that the Wessex Close Play Area (i.e. the area within the existing boundary fence) be transferred to the Parish Council under the 'Asset Transfer' scheme. Cllr. Chown stated that she would inform Wiltshire Council. The Clerk added that it may be necessary for the Parish Council's solicitors to review any papers received from Wiltshire Council relating to the transfer of ownership.

d. The Chairman and councillors stated that the celebrations for the King's Coronation on 7 May 2023 had been very successful and that it was heartening to witness such an obvious community spirit evident within the village. The Chairman added that Cllr. Bruges had provided a full written report on the day's events and that this report would be publicised within the village. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked the Organising Committee and all those parishioners who had made the day so memorable. Cllr. Wade requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Scouts for their superb assistance in organising and managing various events during the day.

8. Environment and Streetscene.

a. Rights of Way.

Cllr. Scott had reported that he was still awaiting a reply from Wiltshire in relation to his queries concerning the results of the SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway' Safety Audit and associated Report.

b. The Chairman stated that the planters needed refreshing and that this was in hand. The Chairman reported that Path SEMI9/10 (St Georges Court to Pound Lane) needed clearing and that he would request the Parish Steward to undertake this task. Cllr. Hailey commented that there were brambles hanging over Pound Lane from the field owned by the church. The Chairman added that he was aware that Cllr. Scott had informed the Churchwarden and has requested that they are cut back.

The Chairman explained that there were four sites identified as tree planting sites in support of the Queen's Green Canopy project and that only one of these was on land maintained by Wiltshire Council – two of the remaining sites were maintained by the parishioners and one was in Wessex Close and although on land owned by Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Council had agreed that an 'Ash Die Back' tree could be replaced at that site. The maintenance and tree planting on a further site at Highfield Close still needed to be agreed with Wiltshire

Council. It was agreed that confirmation of the order for new trees will be a subject at the next Parish Council meeting.

9. Transport and Traffic.

Cllr. Wade stated that the discussions and outcome of the LHFIG meeting held recently in relation to the Bus Gate and provision of the ANPR enforcement camera were unclear and that he needed to clarify matters with the Chairman of the meeting – Cllr. Seed. He added that a further complication was the fact that the Bus Gate is located in Melksham Without Parish Council.

Cllr. Wade explained that car parking problems on the (old) A350 road north of the Canal Bridge had resulted in a formal 'Parking Review' being undertaken in Melksham Without Parish Council, the results of which could have an adverse effect on Semington Parish Council, south of the Canal Bridge. He stressed that Semington now required its own formal 'Parking Review' to safeguard its own environment and that Wiltshire Council had undertaken to do this, though no date has yet been set.

10. Planning and Development.

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

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.	REFUSED
PL/2023/00579 LBC Steven Sims	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	Pending
PL/2023/00477 Plan. App. Steven Sims	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	Pending
PL/2023/02485 Plan. App. Jonathan Maidman	14 Highfield Close Semington BA14 6JZ	Construction of dormer to existing roof	Pending

The Chairman confirmed that he had heard, just prior to this Parish Council meeting, that Planning application PL/2022/09397 had been turned down by Wiltshire Council Development Management Team.

b. There were no planning applications received after 10 May 2023.

c. There was no further discussion in relation to the Greenacres site.

Councillors expressed their disappointment at the refusal of Wiltshire Council to recognize that newly built affordable homes in the village should be available to those individuals with a local connection. A recent case was cited and following intervention by the Parish Council, it was noted that Cllr. Seed had referred the matter to the Wiltshire Council Cabinet member for Housing.

Cllr. Hailey suggested that the 'local connection' issue should feature in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had sent a comprehensive response to Wiltshire Council in respect of its invitation to participate in a Peer Review and he thanked all councillors, especially Cllr. Scott, for their significant and valuable contributions.

11. 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 2023	£	76,555.82
Total:	£	76,555.82

Credits (1 April 2023 to 30 April 2023):

Wiltshire Council Precept (Part)	£	6,750.00
Total:	£	6,750.00

Debits (1 April 2023 to 30 April 2023):

Clerk's Salary (April)	£	426.66
Clerk's Expenses (March)	£	19.57
HMRC PAYE Month 1	£	106.60
Zurich Insurance	£	931.21
Pinnacle DM Ltd	£	54.00
Marquee	£	250.00
Coronation Band	£	250.00
Total:	£	2,038.04

Balance at 30 April 2023:

£	81,267.78
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Credits (1 May 2023 to 17 May 2023):

None	£	-
Total:	£	-

Debits (1 May 2023 to 17 May 2023):

S Stainer	£	300.00
Place Studios	£	4,125.00
SWAS Defibrillator Contract	£	2,160.00
Land Registry/Postage	£	8.65
Place Studios	£	107.37
Total:	£	6,701.02

Balance at 17 May 2023:

£	74,566.76
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Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement

£ 7,744.80

31-Mar-23

Credits

11-Apr-23

Interest

£ 4.90

19-Apr-23

HMCTS

£ 1.16

09-May-23

Interest (Approx)

£ 4.50

17-May-23

HMCTS (Approx)

£ 1.16

Total:

£	11.72
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Debits

None

£ -

£ -

Balance at 17 May 2023:

£	7,756.52
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Total Balance in Hand at 17 May 2023:

£	82,323.28
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Payments to be authorised (17 May 2023)

Clerk's Salary (May)

£ 426.66

Clerk's HMRC PAYE (Month 2)

£ 106.60

Clerk's Expenses (April)

£ 38.61

Litter Picking Eqt.

£ 102.60

Telephone Kiosk Paint

£ 60.60

Internal Audit Fee (R Simmons)

£ 120.00

Groundwork UK (refund)

£ 131.03

£	986.10
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b. The Community Development Fund Working Group (CDFWG) confirmed that one application for funding had been received and this was for the provision of Flotation Devices for the local Scout Group at a cost of £75 each – a total of five were requested.

The Council **resolved** to approve this request.

c. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 11a including payments of £47.80 (AM Print & Copy – Coronation Advertising) and £36.57 (Coronation Event Prizes).

d. Refer to c. above.

12. Neighbourhood Plan.

a. Cllr. Smith gave a full report on the Neighbourhood Plan Community Consultation event held on 22 April 2023 and added that it was encouraging and refreshing to hear the views from members of the public and added that their views will now help to shape the Neighbourhood Plan.

He added that there will be two further formal consultation events, followed by a Referendum and that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will continue to meet regularly.

The Parish Council, as the Qualifying Body for the Neighbourhood Plan **resolved** the following:

- That the Parish Council note and validate the main evidence bases (Sites and Landscape) and community consultation process as robust and sound.
- That the Neighbourhood Plan should propose designation of Local Green Spaces in accordance with evidence and feedback.
- That the Neighbourhood Plan should propose to allocate land for housing led development informed by and accordance with evidence and feedback from the community to date.
- That the Parish Council request that the steering group progress the preparation of draft housing allocation and green space designations to be included in a Reg 14 draft Neighbourhood Plan and that the draft be brought back to Parish Council for its validation prior to formal public consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- That the Parish Council pass any further comments back to the steering group.

13. Date of the next meeting.

a. Councillors noted that the Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on 31 May 2023.

b. The Council noted that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 14 June 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm.