

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held
on 14 June 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village
Hall**



Present.

Councillors W.Scott (Chairman – See Agenda item 2), R. Bruges, S. Chown, J. Hailey, M. Kasasian, C. McGarvey, C. Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

There were three members of the public present initially.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. P Smith and from Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed.

2. Election of Chairman.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Parish Council (Cllr. P Smith), Cllr. Scott was unanimously elected as Chairman for the meeting.

3. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared.

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 17 May 2023.

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

5. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 17 May 2023.

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

6. Annual Parish Meeting (APM) – 31 May 2023.

a. The Council noted that the two items raised by electors at this meeting namely the Street Light at Pound Land/Highfield Close and the security arrangements at the Football Club were addressed at subsequent Agenda items – Agenda items 8b and 9c resp.

b. The Council agreed to appoint a small working group of councillors to review the 2023 APM, and to propose a date, time, content and format for the 2024 APM. Cllrs. Smith, Chown and Bruges were appointed as Working Group members.

7. Wiltshire Council Report.

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

Cllr. Scott reported that he had written to Cllr. Seed in respect of recent statements associated with the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Communities and Housing (Michael Gove) and Michelle Donnelan MP relating to Local Plans and Housing Supply/Numbers and seeking clarification of the current position.

8. Community and Communication.

a. Councillors reported that the Post Office continues to operate successfully.

b. Cllr. Wade stated that the request for improved lighting on the path in the vicinity of Pound Lane/Highfield Close could, if necessary, be raised at the Wiltshire Council Local

Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) meeting. Meanwhile, Cllrs. Scott and Hailey agreed to investigate the reported problem further.

c. Cllr. Chown reported that she had reported the concern regarding the railings on the canal bridge via the Wiltshire Council 'My Wilts' app and had been informed by Wiltshire Council that their current state needed no further attention and if the Parish Council continues to be concerned the issue should be reported to the Canal and River Trust.

Clerk's Note.

Mr Paul Chown gave a full and detailed report on the work that he had undertaken in respect of the Semington Website during the Public Participation immediately prior to the Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman invited the Parish Council to consider making a donation to Mr Paul Chown for his significant and time-consuming work updating and reconfiguring the Semington Website.

Cllr. S Chown declared an interest in this matter and left the meeting.

The Council **resolved** to give a £100 Wine Voucher to Paul Chown and further **resolved** that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Chown.

Cllr. S Chown rejoined the meeting.

The Parish Council **resolved** to allocate a Budget of £200 for the acquisition of essential software to support the updating and reconfiguration of the Semington Website.

9. 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) and he had been recently assured by FSM (Solicitors) that they were seeking a response from Newland Homes Ltd to the queries raised by the Parish Council in the letter from the Parish Council to Newland Homes Ltd and Appendix dated 17 May 2023.

b. Cllr. Chown stated that there has been evidence that Wiltshire Council is preparing the Wessex Close Play Area to ensure that it is in a satisfactory condition to hand it over to the Parish Council as an Asset Transfer. She confirmed that Wiltshire Council had received the necessary authorisation from the Parish Council for the transfer to take place and that the transfer documentation is with the Wiltshire Council Legal Team.

c. The 'on-site' meeting to examine and to review the security arrangements at the Football Club/Football Field is to take place over the next couple of weeks.

10. Environment and Streetscene.

a. Rights of Way.

Cllr. Scott reported that there had been a number of exchanges of correspondence with Wiltshire Council regarding the conduct and results of the SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway' Safety Audit and associated Report and that there remained outstanding issues for Wiltshire Council to address. He added that Cllr. Seed had also written to Wiltshire Council (Director, Highways) Parvis Khansari expressing his view that the audit was seriously flawed and should now be undertaken again.

Cllr. Scott commented that the Wiltshire Councillor for Hilperton (Cllr. E Clark), who has also been very critical of the Safety Audit, suggested that the Cycleway could be subject to a six-month Traffic Restriction Order whilst the significant safety issues are addressed. Cllr. Clark had commented that changing the status of this Cycleway to a Restricted Byway could be

very costly and lengthy and would involve a number of legal processes and there would be little support for this course of action from Wiltshire Council.

b. Cllr. Scott stated that there had been significant activity by parishioners, the Parish Steward and the Ramblers Association in clearing local Rights of Way.

Cllr. Scott reported that the £3800 resulting from the s106 Agreement (St Georges Road) is to be spent locally and following a meeting involving the Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way team it was agreed to install three kissing gates and to improve the condition of a number of footpaths. It was also agreed that a Brash Cutter Strimmer would also be purchased for use by the Semington Parish Rights of Way Group.

Cllr. Bruges expressed his support for increasing the 'wilding' of areas – especially grass verges – in Semington and proposed that a formal schedule and programme be developed by the Parish Council to put this into effect.

11. Transport and Traffic.

The Council noted the public concern regarding the location and operation of the Bus Gate expressed during the Public Participation and, in particular, the current location of the Bus Gate and the possible use of APNR Camera enforcement. The Council acknowledged that the Bus Gate continued to give rise to mixed feelings within the Parish but its existence has improved the quality of life beyond measure for the vast majority of parishioners owing to the much reduced through traffic and that its continued existence was supported by the majority of parishioners. Cllr. Wade explained the legal issues associated with the existence and use of the Bus Gate and that any change to the current arrangement would be prohibitively expensive in terms of construction and legal costs.

The Parish Council **resolved** that it supported the presence of the Bus Gate.

12. Planning and Development.

a. The council noted that there was no change from the previous Parish Council meeting in respect of the status of extant planning applications.

b. There were no planning applications received after 8 June 2023.

c. The Council noted Briefing Note No. 23-15 – Five Year Housing Supply.

13. Finance.

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

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 28 April 2023	£	81,267.78
Total:	£	81,267.78

Credits (1 May 2023 to 31 May 2023):

None	£	-
Total:	£	-

Debits (1 May 2023 to 31 May 2023):

Clerk's Salary (April)	£	426.66
Clerk's Expenses (April)	£	38.61

1448

HMRC PAYE Month 2	£	106.60
S Stainer (Flowers)	£	300.00
Place Studios	£	4,125.00
Litter Picking Equipment	£	163.20
SWAS Defibrillator	£	2,160.00
Land Registry	£	8.65
Internal Audit Fee	£	120.00
AM Print & Copy	£	47.80
Coronation Prizes	£	36.57
Total:	£	7,533.09

Balance at 31 May 2023:**£ 73,734.69****Credits (1 June 2023 to 14 June 2023):**

None

£ -

Total: £ -**Debits (1 June 2023 to 14 June 2023):**

Place Studios	£	107.37
Groundwork UK	£	131.03
Parish Noticeboard Co. Ltd.	£	549.00

Total: £ 787.40**7 June 2023 - £50, 000 transferred to A/C 7754288****Balance at 14 June 2023****£ 22,947.29****Balance at 14 June 2023 (A/C 2149025):****£ 22,947.29****Lloyds A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement 28-Apr-23	£	7,750.86
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Credits

09-May-23	Interest	£	4.41
17-May-23	HMCTS	£	1.16

Total: £ 5.57**Debits**

1449

None	£	-
	£	-

7 June 2023 - £50, 000 transferred from A/C 2149025 to A/C 7754288

Balance at 14 June 2023	£	57,756.43
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Balance at 14 June 2023 (A/C 7754288):	£	57,756.43
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Total Balance in Hand at 14 June 2023:	£	80,703.72
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Payments to be authorised (17 May 2023)

Clerk's Salary (June)	£	426.66
Clerk's HMRC PAYE (Month 3)	£	106.60
Clerk's Expenses (May)	£	20.32
Wilts Wildlife Trust	£	36.00
	£	589.58

b. The Community Development Fund Working Group (CDFWG) confirmed that no further applications for funding had been received.

c. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 13a including a payment of £100.00 (Wine Voucher) to Paul Chown.

d. Refer to c. above.

14. Neighbourhood Plan.

a. Cllr. Scott stated that good progress is being made with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and gave the following Report:

The neighbourhood plan steering group is now preparing for what is termed the 'Regulation 14' public consultation. The next steering group meeting will consider the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and then ask the Parish Council to agree it at its July meeting.

Regulation 14 is the first *formal* consultation with parishioners about the draft Plan. The steering group will carry this out on behalf of the Parish Council. It is scheduled to last for 6 weeks, beginning on September 1st. The draft plan will comprise vision, objectives, policies, and the evidence base on which these have been determined.

Parishioners will be asked to comment on the draft plan in writing. This feedback will then be used to take the draft plan to the next stage of development.

The steering group has prepared documentation for a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) screening by Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council will determine whether it needs a full SEA to determine the draft plan's impacts on biodiversity, heritage, design, etc, or whether a short form of assessment will suffice. If a longer form of assessment is needed, then the Regulation 14 consultation will be delayed.

A draft developer engagement protocol was agreed and forwarded to the Parish Council Clerk with a request that it be placed on the June Parish Council agenda with a view to the Council adopting the protocol – see Agenda item 14b below.

b. The Council **resolved** to approve the Community Pre-application Protocol dated June 2023 that had been sent to all councillors prior to the meeting.

15. Date of the next meeting.

a. The Council noted that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 19 July 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.55pm.

Chairman, Semington Parish Council

19 July 2023