

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



Present.

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

There were initially two, then three, members of the public present.

1. Apologies.

There were no apologies. All councillors were present.

2. Co-option of a New Member.

The Parish Council **resolved** to co-opt a new councillor.

Mr Mark Carberry was co-opted as a new councillor. He signed the Declaration Form which was countersigned by the Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council. The Clerk advised Cllr. Carberry of his obligations in respect of registering interests.

3. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared.

4. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14 June 2023.

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

5. Wiltshire Council Report.

Cllr Seed reported that the Wiltshire Local Plan was the subject of a debate at Wiltshire Council Cabinet following which the draft document presented was agreed and an agreement reached to adopt the more rapid statutory consultation process under Regulation 19. He assured the Council that the Parish Council would have an opportunity to comment during the consultation period and that the timing of the submission of the subsequently agreed Local Plan to Government would prove beneficial in that it would result in a viable Housing Allocation plan for Wiltshire and a possible zero residual housing development requirement at Semington.

Cllr. Bruges enquired what the present situation was regarding the provision of the Bus Gate cameras. Cllr. Seed explained that the provision and installation of these camera had to be an agreed decision between Semington Parish Council and Melksham Without Parish Council and that he would encourage both Councils to discuss the matter and to agree a way forward.

Cllr. Bruges reaffirmed his concern, which was shared by many, regarding the safety of horse riders and pedestrians using the SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway'.

6. Community and Communication.

a. The Chairman confirmed that recent correspondence from Post Office Ltd failed to address some of the issues he had raised in his correspondence to them and the significantly reduced footfall relied upon by the PO to justify reducing hours, had been measured between April 2022 and April 2023. This is precisely the period when two years of very poor or failed service (for which Post Office Ltd is responsible) culminated in reduced

numbers using the outreach service. Notwithstanding this, he stated that he would continue to pursue the matter with Post Office Ltd.

b. The Clerk advised the Council of the Wiltshire Council PEAS Scheme (Winter Preparations), especially in respect of acquiring salt for use on icy surfaces. The Chairman agreed to investigate this scheme further before any decision is made.

c. Cllr. Wade confirmed that the new noticeboards have been delivered and that their installation is in hand.

Cllr. Bruges reported that arrangements for the Semington Fete on 22 July are progressing well. He stated that a donation of £100 that was given to the Fete Committee in a previous year for the purchase of a gazebo (which was not bought because it was subsequently gifted to the Fete Committee) remained unspent and he sought approval from the Parish Council that this sum be spent as follows: Hand Held Card Reader and Fete Programme printing – both items to be in support of the Fete Committee. The Council **resolved** to agree to this proposal.

Cllr. Scott thanked Cllr. Smith for attending the recent meeting of the Wilts and Berks Canal Group, in his absence. Cllr. Scott added that the Group faces significant financial challenges and that some of their proposals appear fanciful.

7. Recreation and Wellbeing.

a. The Clerk reported that the latest correspondence from Forrester Sylvester Mackett (Solicitors) confirmed that there is to be Right of Way from the allotments to the car parking area and that the obligation on the Parish Council to contribute a fair and reasonable proportion of maintaining the estate roads and service media pending adoption by the relevant authorities is not unreasonable under the circumstances. There ensued a brief discussion at the end of which the Parish Council **resolved** that there were no outstanding matters and that it would accept the transfer of the land as now agreed. The Clerk was asked to convey this decision to Forrester Sylvester Mackett (Solicitors).

b. There was no further progress reported in respect of the transfer of the Wessex Close Play Area Asset from Wiltshire Council to Semington Parish Council.

c. The Chairman reported that he had met with the Football Club Committee and a site visit had taken place. He explained that it was possible that a new, more secure, 'club house' – comprising two shipping containers – may be constructed to replace the existing vulnerable building but no decisions had yet been taken. He added that the Football Club Committee were currently preparing a Business Plan to address their future plans.

d. Cllr. Smith stated that the winding path at Jubilee Wood at Littlemarsh was currently maintained by the Football Field Groundsman and councillors observed that the path could be named after Steve Rimmer, a previous parish Councillor, whose idea and enthusiasm for all things green helped create more woodland in the village which we are all able to enjoy. The Chairman agreed to investigate this matter further.

8. Environment and Streetscene.

a. Rights of Way.

Cllr. Scott had reported that he has had an exchange of correspondence with Wiltshire Council in respect of the flawed SEMI9a/HILP22/10 'Cycleway' Safety Audit and associated Report and that his main questions remain unanswered. He confirmed that a new Safety Audit is to be undertaken but any results from it will be seriously skewed because fewer persons than previously are now using the track. This is because individual experiences mean that it is regarded as unsafe and pedestrians, horse riders and some cyclists who used to use it no longer do so. Therefore statistics relating to its earlier use – before its

safety became an issue (i.e. before it was resurfaced and designated a Cycleway) do not exist.

b. Cllr. Hailey stated that the overgrown brambles and other vegetation needed clearing on Path SEM10/10. Cllr. Scott replied stating that the new Brush Cutter to be provided under the s106 funds (St Georges Road) will soon be delivered and can be used for that purpose.

9. Transport and Traffic.

The Chairman reiterated the earlier comments by Cllr. Seed (See Agenda item 5) in respect of seeking agreement with Melksham Without Parish Council regarding the Bus Gate cameras. Cllr. Scott stated that he would discuss this matter further with Cllr. Seed and with Melksham Without Parish Council and he stated that this subject would be a key Agenda item at the September Parish Council meeting.

10. Planning and Development.

a. There were no planning applications received after 12 July 2023.

b. The Parish Council noted the Draft Wiltshire Design Guide Document produced by Wiltshire Council and welcomed its publication. The Parish Council had no further comment to make.

c. The Council also noted that the Draft Wiltshire Council Local Plan had been approved by Wiltshire Council Cabinet on 18 July and that there is to be a full consultation period during which the Parish Council will have the opportunity to comment on it. Councillors confirmed that the Parish Council would wish to comment on the Plan – See also Agenda item 5.

Clerk's Note.

Midway during the Parish Council meeting the Chairman adjourned the Parish Council meeting for the team from Green Square Development (Richard Stephens, Andrea Andrews, Corina Johnson) and Black Box Planning Ltd (Luke Challenger) to present their plans for the development of the Land North of St George's Road (Planning application 20/01306/OUT.) The Chairman reconvened the Parish Council meeting directly thereafter.

11. Finance.

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

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	73,734.69
31 May 2023		

Total:	£	73,734.69
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Credits (1 June 2023 to 30 June 2023):

None	£	-
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Total:	£	-
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Debits (1 June 2023 to 30 June 2023):

Transfer to A/C07754288 (7 June 2023)	£	50,000.00
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Groundwork UK - 1127	£	131.03
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Parish Noticeboard Co. Ltd. - 1131	£	549.00
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Clerk's Salary (June) - 1133	£	426.66
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1454

HMRC PAYE Month 3 - 1134	£	106.60
Clerk's Expenses (May) - 1135	£	20.32
Krystal (Web Domain) - 1136	£	84.00
Website Maintenance - 1137	£	100.00

Total: £ 51,417.61

Balance at 30 June 2023 (A/C 2149025): £ 22,317.08

Credits (1 July 2023 to 19 July 2023):

None	£	-
Total:	£	-

Debits (1 July 2023 to 19 July 2023):

Place Studios - 1120	£	107.37
Wilts Wildlife Trust - 1129	£	36.00

Total: £ 143.37

Balance at 19 July 2023 (A/C 2149025): £ 22,173.71

Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 31-May-23	£	7,756.43
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Credits

07-Jun-23	Transfer from A/C2149025	£	50,000.00
09-Jun-23	Interest	£	8.02
15-Jun-23	HMCTS	£	1.16
09-Jul-23	Interest (Approx)	£	28.00
17-Jul-23	HMCTS (Approx)	£	1.16

Total: £ 50,038.34

Debits

None	£	-
	£	-

Balance at 19 July 2023 (A/C 7754288): £ 57,756.43

Total Balance in Hand at 19 July 2023: £ 79,930.14

Payments to be authorised (19 July 2023)

Clerk's Salary (July)	£	426.46
Clerk's Salary (August)	£	426.66
Clerk's HMRC PAYE (Month 4)	£	106.80
Clerk's HMRC PAYE (Month 5)	£	106.60
Clerk's Expenses (June)	£	51.97
Data Protection Fee	£	40.00
Start Traffic Ltd (R Bruges)	£	76.98
Equinox Explorer Scout Unit (Peak UK Kayaking Co. Ltd) - Bouyancy Aids	£	450.00
L Callaghan (Plants/Compost) - Planter Tubs	£	32.00
P Smith (Bedding Plants) - Planter Tubs	£	26.91
Fete Committee - Sumup Air Electronic Payment Terminal (Agenda item 6c)	£	50.00
Fete Programme Printing (Agenda item 6c)	£	50.00
	£	1,844.38

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

The Council **resolved** that the Clerk is to be delegated responsibility and authority to decide whether a successful application for funding should be allocated to 'CIL' or 's137' in the Account Ledger. Additionally, the Council **resolved** that the Clerk is to be delegated responsibility and authority to allocate appropriate expenditure to the s137 column of the Account Ledger without the need for a separate vote and resolution in respect of each item already approved by the CDFWG.

c. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 11a including a payment of £66.00 for the National Allotment Society Annual Fee.

d. Refer to c. above.

12. Neighbourhood Plan.

a. The Council **resolved** that this item be the subject of a confidential discussion as per Schedule 12 of the Local Gov Act 1972 because the nature of the discussion could prejudice the public interest by reason of the disparate issues to be addressed.

b. The Council **resolved** to invoke the confidentiality requirement.

c. The Council **resolved** to agree the contents of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Draft Documentv4.b dated July 2023 to be promulgated under the forthcoming Regulation 14 Public Consultation.

- d. The Chairman reconvened the public meeting of the Parish Council.

13. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 20 September 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 10.40pm.

Chairman, Semington Parish Council

20 September 2023