

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



Present.

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

There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. R Bruges, S. Chown and Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed.

2. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 18 October 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.

The Chairman commented that Cllr. Seed has now written formally to Wiltshire Cabinet members and officers regarding the current concerns relating to the planning approvals at Greenacres.

5. Community and Communication.

a. The Chairman reported that there had been no further information relating to the Post Office since the last Parish Council meeting.

b. In Cllr. Bruges absence, the Chairman reported that he recent Bonfire Celebration Event had been a huge success and that it had been enjoyed by very many parishioners of Semington. On behalf of the Parish Council and the many parishioners who attended he expressed thanks to Cllr. Bruges for his initiative regarding the event and to all the members of the organising committee and village organisations who had contributed to its success, with additional thanks to all at Outmarsh Farm and Farmhouse for providing the location. Cllr. Smith added that Cllr. Bruges had provided the Parish Council with a full written report on the event.

6. Recreation and Wellbeing.

a. The Chairman confirmed that all related legal documentation concerning the transfer of the allotment site from Newland Homes had now been signed by the Parish Council. Cllr. Wade added that there is to be a final site meeting with Newland Homes Ltd to resolve one or two remaining minor issues.

b. Cllr. Hailey and the Chairman each reported that there remained a few minor issues to be resolved with Wiltshire Council before the formal transfer of the Wessex Close Play Area can take place. The Chairman stated that he and Cllr. Hailey would identify and list these issues to enable the Clerk to write formally to Wiltshire Council.

c. Cllr. McGarvey stated that it is necessary to identify the Play Area Community Group members who would need to undergo the training and to confirm that on-line training is adequate and 'recognised by bodies such as RoSPA. Cllrs. McGarvey and Carberry stated that they both wished to partake in the training. Any specific training requirements also needed to be identified.

d. Cllr. Wade reported that the Christmas tree had been ordered and that it was intended to erect it on Saturday 25 November. He added that it would be necessary to invite volunteers to help and for a Working Party to be formed.

7. Environment and Streetscene.

Rights of Way.

a. Cllr. Scott stated that there was nothing further to report on the impending Safety Audit (SEMI9A/10 and HILP22/10).

b. Cllr. Carberry reported that he had undertaken a comprehensive survey of existing village litter bins and their respective location within the village although some final work was still required. He commented that in view of the new housing developments within the village there is an argument that suggests that additional bins are required and, possibly, some existing ones to be re-sited. Cllr. Carberry stated that when his survey is fully complete he would propose a possible distribution of bins (location and type) within the village and he would invite the public and councillors to offer their views.

c. Cllr. Hailey reported the trimming back of long grass and nettles on Path SEMI and cutting back of overhanging branches was necessary and a broken stile had been repaired. She also stated that Path SEMI38 had narrowed because of the overgrown vegetation. She commented that this path was the Canal towpath. She added that Path SEMI9 also needed attention and she was advised to pass this information to the Rights of Way Working Group. Additionally, she commented that Path SEMI6 was flooded.

Other Matters.

d. The Chairman confirmed that arrangements had been made for a Working Party to clear the vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the Pill Box on 18 November.

e. The Chairman commented that the new Parish Steward had recently undertaken a number of tasks in the village and that he was impressed with his standard of workmanship.

8. Transport and Traffic.

a. Information regarding the subject of the Bus Gate and APNR cameras is shown at Minute 8c.

b. The Council noted that the next Melksham Area Board meeting is to be held at Semington Village Hall on 6 December and, following a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would raise the following topics at that meeting.

- SEMI9A and HILP22/10 Byway (Cyclepath).
- Bus Gate/APNR Cameras
- Proposed A350 Bypass.
- WC Highways views regarding increased housing development within the village.
- Proposed Parking Restrictions at the Canal Bridge.

c. Cllr. Wade reported that he had attended the recent Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) Meeting and the subject of the Bus Gate/APNR Cameras was raised. He stated that prior to the LHFIG taking any action, the LHFIG required further information regarding the abuse of the prohibition sign and to provide this data a metrocount is to be deployed to assist in identifying the number of vehicles ignoring the prohibition. He added that Wiltshire Police confirmed that they are to take a more active role in issuing penalty notices to errant drivers.

9. Planning and Development.

a. The Council examined the following planning applications and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown (in italics):

PL/2023/07362	53 Littlemarsh, Semington BA146JF	Ground Floor extensions to dwelling & Erection of garage.	New
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The Council has no objections to this proposed development.

PL/2023/09177	1 Pound Close Semington BA14 6JP	New extension and Entrance porch.	New
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The Council has no objections to this proposed development.

PL/2023/09344 Listed Building Consent	Wharf Cottage 553 Canal Bridge Semington BA14 6JT	Removal of modern porch structure, new door joinery, removal of asbestos roof on curtilage listed structures.	New
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The Council had no comment on this application and requested that it is forwarded to the Conservation Officer for comment.

PL/2023/08970	Wharf Cottage 553 Canal Bridge Semington BA14 6JT	Removal of modern porch structure, new door joinery, removal of asbestos roof on curtilage listed structures, new fencing and associated external works.	New
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The Council has no objections to this proposed development.

b. The Clerk confirmed that he had submitted the comments from the Parish Council in respect of the Local Plan to Wiltshire Council but Wiltshire Council had responded that additional information was required from the Parish Council before the comments could be placed before the Inspector. This information related to the legality and soundness of the Plan. The Parish Council addressed the remaining points identified by Wiltshire Council and requested the Clerk to forward this information to Wiltshire Council.

Clerk's Note.

This information plus a copy of the original comments was sent to Wiltshire Council on 17 November 2023.

10. Finance.

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

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 30 September 2023		£	29,568.97
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Total:	£	29,568.97
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Credits (1 October 2023 to 31 October 2023):

None		£	-
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Total:	£	-
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Debits (1 October 2023 to 31 October 2023):

Village Hall Hire (PC Meetings)	1156	£	600.00
Village Hall Hire (NP Meetings)	1157	£	202.00
Clerk's Salary (October)	1159	£	320.06
Clerk's Expenses (September)	1160	£	19.85
HMRC PAYE Month 7	1161	£	213.20
James Long (Memorial)	1162	£	864.00
C Wade (Noticeboard Misc.)	1163	£	34.66
Clerk (Noticeboard Screwdriver etc)	1164	£	14.99
St George's PCC	1165	£	650.00
HP953 Printer Cartridge	1166	£	23.71

Total:	£	2,942.47
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Balance at 31 October 2023 (A/C 2149025):

£	26,626.50
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Credits (1 November 2023 to 15 November 2023):

None		£	-
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Total:	£	-
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Debits (1 November 2023 to 15 November 2023):

Bobby Van Trust	1158	£	50.00
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Total:	£	50.00
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Balance at 15 November 2023 (A/C 2149025):

£	26,576.50
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Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 30-Sep-23		£	57,905.51
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1476

Credits

09-Oct-23	Interest	£	53.30
20-Oct-23	HMCTS	£	1.28
09-Nov-23	Interest (Approx)	£	45.00

Total:	£	99.58
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Debits

None	£	-
	£	-

Balance at 15 November 2023 (A/C 7754288):	£	58,005.09
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Total Balance in Hand at 15 November 2023:	£	84,581.59
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NOTE: HMRC VAT Refund Claim (1/9/22 to 30/9/23) totalling £2015.73 submitted 22/10/23.

This sum is NOT included in Balances shown above.

Payments to be authorised (15 November 2023)

Clerk's Salary (November)	£	320.06
HMRC PAYE Month 8	£	213.20
Clerk's Expenses (October)	£	35.90
Winter Fete (R Bruges)	£	956.00
Place Studio Ltd (Invoice 6074)	£	2,475.00
	£	4,000.16

b. Cllr. Hailey, on behalf of the Community Development Fund Working Group (CDFWG) stated that no other qualifying applications for funding had been received.

c. The Parish Council **resolved** to adopt the FY2024/25 Budget as shown appended to these minutes. However, the final figure for the FY2024/25 Parish Council Precept (currently shown as £14500) would be decided at the December or January 2024 Parish Council meeting.

d. The Council **resolved** to make the payments shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above at Agenda item 10a.

e. The Council **resolved** to make the following additional payments:
 Cllr. Smith – 'Rimmer Ramble' street sign - £189.60, Bedding Plants - £24.90.
 L Callaghan – Plants (£21.44, Compost £3.50).
 Clerk (Office Expenses) – Printer Cartridge - £33.14.

11. Neighbourhood Plan.

a. Cllr. Scott stated that there had been a Neighbourhood Plan meeting the previous evening and he confirmed that AECOM was currently preparing the Sustainability and Environmental Assessment that would then enable Regulation 14 (Public Consultation) to be implemented.

12. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted that the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.

Clerk's Note.

The Parish Council previously decided to hold monthly meetings in 2024, each one around mid-month, and the agreed dates are as follows:

17 January, 7 February, 13 March, 17 April, 15 May (Annual PC and Ordinary PC Meetings), 12 June, 17 July, 14 August, 18 September, 16 October, 13 November, 18 December.

The meeting ended at 10.10pm.

Chairman, Semington Parish Council

13 December 2023

ITEM (Description)	Budget FY23/24	Actual 31-Oct	Estimated FY2023/24	AGREED Budget FY2024/25	Future Budgets
<u>Income:</u>					
Precept	13500	13500	13500	14500	
Grants					
NHP	4000	4465	??	0	
CIL	0	0	0	?	
Other (Approx)		7			
HMCTS	15		15	15	
Wiltshire Council W. Close)	0	0	1000	0	
Lloyds A/C 7754288 (Interest)	2	207	400	350	
Lloyds A/C 2149025	0	0	0	0	
FSM Refund	0	0	500	0	
VAT Reclaim	450	0	2016	500	
Total Income	17967	18179	17431	15365	
<u>Expenditure:</u>					
Clerk Salary	6337	3733	6719	7108	
Expenses	150	238	400	400	
Office Allowance	250	0	250	250	
Chairman	0	0	0	0	
Hire Hall	700	600	600	750	
Audit	375	438	438	475	
Subscriptions	175	75	75	100	
Insurance	900	960	1100	1250	
Community (Section 137) (inc. Litter Bins, Parish Mag, CY)	2000	2034	3500	2500	
Website	300	184	300	300	
Training	150	0	0	0	
Elections	0	0	0	0	
Planning & Development					
Neighbourhood Plan	6500	5443	7900	3500	
Environment/Streetscene					
Kissing gates	1500	0	500	0	
Trees Bulbs	1500	57	150	250	
Transport & Traffic					
SLOW markings	0	0	250	0	
Recreation & Wellbeing					
Tennis Court	1000	0	0	0	8500
Wessex Close play area	6000	0	500	5000	10000
Allotments	7500	67	1000	2500	5000
Summer & Winter Fetes	0	1600	1600	2000	
Community & Communication					
Notice boards	0	598	598	0	
War Memorial	0	864	864	0	
Defibrillator	0	2160	2160	0	

Future Projects (CDF)	5000	0	0	0	
Future Projects (CIL)	5000	0	0	0	
Future Village Projects (CIL)				2000	29000
	45337	19051	28904	28383	52500
Net Income	17967	18179	17431	15365	
Net Expenditure	45337	19051	28904	28383	
Surplus	-27370	-872	-11473	-13018	

Balance C/F at 31 March 2023 =	£84,000
Anticipated C/F at 31 March 2024 =	£72,527
Anticipated C/F at 31 March 2025 =	£59,509

NOTES:

1. NH Plan: Spend to Date £19536. Groundwork UK Grant: £18126
2. CIL: Received to Date £40463 (Rounded up to £40,500 for Budget purposes)
3. The Draft Budget allocates £40,500 of the CIL Receipts.