

**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting  
held on 12 June 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village  
Hall**



Present.

Councillors W Scott, Vice-Chairman (Chairman for the meeting), S Chown, J Hailey, C McGarvey, R Bruges, M Carberry and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

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

There were four members of the public present.

**Clerk's Note.**

The current Clerk has confirmed that he is to retire from that position on 30 September after some twenty-two years' service.

Immediately prior to the commencement of the meeting a parishioner expressed his thanks to the retiring Clerk for his professionalism and assistance during his time as Clerk.

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. P Smith and C Wade.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

Cllr. Hailey declared an interest in Agenda item 9a – PL/2024/03927. There were no other interests declared.

**3a. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 15 May 2024.**

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

**3b. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 15 May 2024.**

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

**4. Wiltshire Council Report.**

Cllr. Seed gave a brief report on the following topics:

Car Parking at St George's School.

He explained that he had a very helpful and supportive meeting with the Headteacher and that he was encouraged by the willingness of the Headteacher and staff to seek an amicable solution to the problem of the parking of cars in Pound Lane close to the school during in-muster and out-muster times. He added that new Transport Plan was being developed which will address some of the contentious issue and that it was proposed to create a regular 'walking bus' for the children and to encourage vehicle drivers to temporarily park their vehicles in High Street or on the Village Hall forecourt – the latter to be subject to further discussion and agreement.

Bus Gate.

Installation of the APNR camera and associated signage is currently being undertaken with the system going 'live' on 28 June.

Football.

It is possible that a second set of goalposts will become available from Steeple Ashton and for them to be donated to Semington Football Club.

### Rights of Way Warden

David Brain has now been appointed the Wiltshire Council Rights of Way Warden and will be the main contact for the Semington Rights of Way Group and the person for discussing Rights of Way issues.

### Highways Matters raised at the Area Board meeting on 6 December 2023.

Cllr. Seed reported that he had had no response from Wiltshire Council officers to the matters raised by the Parish Council at the Area Board meeting that was held at the Village Hall on 6 December 2023.

Cllr. Scott commented that the issue regarding the Bus Gate camera project had now been superseded by events and that the Cycleway (SEMI9A/10 and HILP22/10 Byway) was currently being addressed, although in respect of the latter Wiltshire Council is continuing to refuse to release the original survey baseline data against which current usage needed to be judged. Cllr. Seed agreed to pursue Wiltshire Council for the release of this data.

Cllr. Seed emphasized that it was essential that all data on unauthorised usage of this Byway, which is now covered with an Experimental Road Traffic Order (ERTO) was recorded.

Cllr. Bruges explained the steps he had taken to obtain a revision to 'google maps' to show that this Byway was now not open to all motorised traffic. He encouraged councillors to take similar action and to lobby those organisations involved in providing 'mapping information' to other parties.

Cllr. Seed concluded his report by expressing his appreciation of the professional matter in which the retiring Clerk had undertaken his duties and for the support that he had always given to him and the Parish Council

## **5. Community and Communication.**

a. Cllr. Chown gave a report on the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2024. She stated that some fifty parishioners attended and there were twenty-six individual presentations, five of which were given by Parish Council Chairman and Parish Council Theme Leads. Councillors expressed the view that it was a very successful event and it succeeded in its main aims of advertising the myriad of diverse social and artistic opportunities available in Semington and the contribution that the Parish Council makes to the Village community life.

The Parish Council **resolved** to thank all those individuals who had contributed to that event. The consensus view was that a similar event should be arranged for next year 2025.

b. Cllr. Bruges gave a brief report on possible future developments of The Somerset Arms Public House.

c. The Council noted the forthcoming Induction and Installation of the Reverend Christopher Hunter as Rector of the Parish of Hilperton and Staverton and of the Parish of Semington and Cllr. MacGarvey stated that she would attend the ceremony and would represent the Parish Council.

d. Cllr. Chown invited all new and current Parish Council Theme Leads to examine their current description on the Semington website and to advise her of any necessary changes so that the website could be updated.

## **6. Recreation and Wellbeing.**

a. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had complied fully with the recent Freedom of Information (Fol) request and that all relevant data had been passed over to the requester.

b. In the absence of Cllr. Wade there was no report regarding the setting up of an Allotment Association.

c. The Chairman commented that Cllr. Wade had been in contact with Wiltshire Council regarding the relevant planning requirements for the erection of a Community Shed.

d. Cllr. Chown stated that as reported at the last meeting the transfer of the Wessex Close Play Area had stalled because Wiltshire Council has decided to embark upon a 'new' County-wide survey to determine interest in Parish Councils adopting Play Areas as 'asset transfers'.

She commented that Wiltshire Council appear to be offering the following options:

- i. for Wiltshire Council to develop the existing Play Area and then hand it over to the Parish Council for any future development and maintenance and donating £1000 to the Parish Council.
- ii. to share a grant of some £603,000 between the twenty-five eligible Councils each with a Play Area. This would result in £28137.54 for Semington which would then take over full responsibility for the Play Area as it currently exists.

Councillors expressed views in favour of the latter option as Semington Parish Council would then be able to shape the development. A final decision will be made following further discussions with Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Chown agreed to report this to Wiltshire Council..

e. Cllr. Hailey stated that the Russian Vine at the tennis court was particularly invasive and needs clearing. She added that a small Working Party would be necessary to clear it.

## 7. Environment and Streetscene.

a. Cllr. Carberry gave a full report on his survey regarding the location and availability of Litter Bins in the village was given. Following a detailed discussion it was agreed that with the addition of a new waste bin at the proposed GreenSquare development site there was adequate provision of litter bins within the village. Councillors urged local residents to contact Wiltshire Council via the MyWilts app if discarded litter became an eyesore in the village and to request an additional litter bin at the location.

b. The Chairman reported that a concerned parishioner had strimmed overgrown vegetation from the Pill Box. Councillors expressed their thanks to the parishioner.

Cllr. Carberry commented that he was awaiting the appointment in August of a new RSM before progressing the fabrication of the Pill Box metal gates.

c. Councillors expressed their thanks and appreciation to 'Yarn Bomber' for making and placing the 'Topper' on the Post Box.

## Rights of Way.

a. Cllr. Hailey gave the following report (shown in italics) which was sent to all councillors prior to the Parish Council meeting:

*In summary, individuals or pairs have cleared the following:*

- *SEMI6 - Landowner contacted and RoW diagonally across planted field reinstated*
- *SEMI16 - from High street to the Church path widened and nettles, brambles and blackthorn cut back*
- *SEMI39 - from A361 to GHIN4 (heading towards Hag Hill) has been cleared of very tall vegetation*
- *SEMI1 - partially cleared from High Street to Pound Lane swing bridge (one field in the central section is still to clear)*
- *SEMI26 - from High Street towards the brook, the nettles have been strimmed*
- *SEMI9 - from St George's Road to Pound Lane, encroaching brambles have been cut back to the hedgeline*
- *SEMI37 - from the brook towards The Lamb on the Strand has been cleared of very tall vegetation by the Ramblers*
- *SEMI45 - damaged / unstable stile repaired*

*There are a couple of RoW still to clear, so it would be good to set-up a small working party or two to tackle these:*

- SEMI10 - between the by-way (SEMI9A) and the A361 needs clearing of very tall vegetation close to the A361
- SEMI12 - needs the slope down to the stile by the A361 clearing of long grass (it makes sense to do this when clearing SEMI10)
- SEMI1 - the middle field needs a path clearing through very long grass at the field edge next to the canal

Cllr. Hailey added that a bench seat had been placed in the stone circle at Rimmer's Ramble Wood.

b. The Chairman commented that the Parish Council had purchased a Stihl Brush Cutter/Strimmer for use in Rights of Way clearance. Cllr. Hayler commented that it should be recorded on the Asset Register and addressed in the Risk Register as a Risk with related Mitigation features.

#### 8. Transport and Traffic.

- a. See Agenda item 4. The APNR system will be going 'live' on 28 June.
- b. The Chairman reported that Cllr. Wade is to have an 'on-site' meeting with Wiltshire Council to review the proposed parking restrictions intended for the vicinity of the Canal Bridge.

#### 9. Planning and Development.

- a. The Parish Council examined the following Planning Applications and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown (in italics):

#### Cllr. Hailey withdrew from the meeting.

PL/2024/03927	19 Highfield Close Semington BA14 6JZ	Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission PL2022/05227 to allow upvc porch to west elevation.	New
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*The Parish Council has no comments.*

#### Cllr. Hailey rejoined the meeting.

PL/2023/10561	Land North of St George's Road, Semington BA14 6JN	Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, layout, scale and landscaping) following outline consent (19/02147/OUT) for the residential development comprising 26no. units with associated car parking, access, internal roads, public open space (including retention of the existing WWII Pill Box), landscaping, drainage and other associated infrastructure.	New
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#### Comments by Semington Parish Council – 12 June 2024

*Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this revised reserved matters application:*

1. We note the changes that have been made since the last time the Parish Council considered this proposal – particularly those made in response to points that we, and individual villagers, made. These include the change of materials mix, the incorporation of the rectangle of unused land on the eastern edge of the site into the whole plot (with foot access enabled), the positive biodiversity measures, the community orchard, and the closing of unwanted foot access onto the byway.

2. We note that the unused land on the eastern edge of the site is now classed as 'retained grassland'. Ideally, from our perspective, this would be a community orchard and a continuation of

*the small orchard at the south-east corner of the site, all with wild flower planting authentic to Wiltshire.*

*3. It seems clear to us that the developer has 'retained' the grassland in order to make a planning application at some future point to build houses on the grassland. We would ask them to note that the parish has already exceeded its housing allocation up to 2038.*

*4. Concern was raised by members of the public about storm water drainage causing additional problems with the (already compromised) culvert under Pound Lane along with the risk to the nationally-rare vertical rail anti-tank device which lies adjacent to it. We note the assurances in the current submission but would reiterate that we want this to be addressed with clear mitigating measures that are sensitive to the integrity of our important heritage asset.*

*5. The Parish Council would like the provision of a general waste refuse bin to be located within Green Square Accord land near the entrance to the development.*

b. There were no planning applications received after 5 June 2024 for consideration by the Parish Council.

c. The Chairman drew the attention of councillors to the Town and Parish Council Planning Forum at County Hall at 6.15pm on 25 June. He stated that he would be attending and invited other councillors to join him. Cllr Hailey agreed to do this.

## 10. Finance.

a. The Clerk's report on the current financial position was received as shown below:

The Clerk confirmed that the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) FY2023/24 and associated documentation had been sent to the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP and the Community Infrastructure Level Report for FY2023/4 had been sent to Wiltshire Council. Both organisations had confirmed receipt of the documents.

### Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	12,311.63
30 April 2024		

Total:	£	<b>12,311.63</b>
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### **Credits (1 May 2024 to 31 May 2024):**

HMRC VAT Refund	£	1,081.50
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Total:	£	<b>1,081.50</b>
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### **Debits (1 May 2024 to 31 May 2024):**

Clerk's Salary (May)	£	<b>347.05</b>
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HMRC PAYE Month 2	£	<b>230.80</b>
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Clerk's Expenses (April)	£	<b>14.35</b>
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Internal Audit Fee	£	<b>120.00</b>
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Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	£	<b>36.00</b>
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£	<b>748.20</b>
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<b>Balance at 31 May 2024</b>	£	<b>12,644.93</b>
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**Credits (1 June 2024 to 12 June 2024):**

None

	£	-
Total:	£	-

**Debits (1 June 2024 to 12 June 2024):**

P Smith (Bedding Plants)

£ 22.56

Krystal Domain Fee

£ 84.00

Total:	£	<b>84.00</b>
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**Balance at 12 June 2024 (A/C 2149025):**

£	<b>12,560.93</b>
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**Lloyds A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement

£ 70,362.40

30-Apr-24

**Credits (1 May 2024 to 31 May 2024)**

09-May-24

Interest

£ 75.18

Total:	£	<b>75.18</b>
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**Debits**

None

£	-
£	-

**Balance at 12 June 2024 (A/C 7754288):**

£	<b>70,437.58</b>
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**Total Balance in Hand at 12 June 2024:**

£	<b>82,998.51</b>
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**Payments to be authorised (12 June 2024)**

Clerk's Salary (June) Net

£ 347.05

HMRC PAYE Month 3

£ 230.80

Clerk's Expenses (May)

£ 66.52

Brush Cutter/Batteries/Safety Visor

£ 768.10

Flower Tub Plants

£ 29.89

Village Hall Social Club Refreshments (Annual Parish Meeting)

£ 179.50

£	<b>1,621.86</b>
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b. Cllr. Hailey reported that there had not been any formal requests for Community Development Funding.

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

d. The Council **resolved** to make a payment of £66.00 to the National Allotment Society for the Annual Subscription.

**11. Clerk Appointment.**

The Chairman reported that the advert for the position of Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer had been published and that applications were invited to be submitted by 28 June. He added that it was intended to form an Interview Panel comprising the Chairman, Vice-Chairman plus one other. He asked for a volunteer to join the Panel. Cllr ??? agreed to join the Panel.

**12. Neighbourhood Plan.**

a. The Chairman reported there was nothing significant to report in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan and added that it was intended that it would be presented to the Parish Council for endorsement at the July Parish Council meeting.

b. There were no further actions.

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

a. The Council resolved not to hold a Parish Council meeting in August.

b. The Parish Council noted the date and time of the subsequent Parish Council meetings:

17 July 2024, 18 September 2024, 16 October 2024, 13 November 2024, 18 December 2024.

All meetings commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Chairman, Semington Parish Council

17 July 2024