

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2009 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present.

Councillor Robert Oglesby (Chairman) and Councillors P Bowyer, F Dobbyn, K Lockwood, R Robinson, B Smyth, P Vooght, and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

PC Emily Thomas attended (Part-time).

There was one member of the public present.

1. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests to declare in accordance with the Revised Model Code of Conduct.

2. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillors S Rimmer, C Wade and County Councillor E Clark.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10 December 2008.

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council planning Meeting held on 18 December 2008.

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

5. Adjournment.

There were no representations from members of the public and the meeting reconvened directly, without a break.

6. Neighbourhood Policing.

PC Emily Thomas of the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) stated that was nothing significant to report. She observed that there is an emphasis on parishioners and neighbourhoods becoming more alert to, and becoming aware of, terrorism threats from within the community. She urges everyone to become more vigilant.

Cllr. Vooght reported that eggs had been thrown at the Village Hall. He added that the likely perpetrator was known and PC Thomas offered to speak to the person concerned.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that there was to be Parish Councils' Liaison Group (PCLG) Meeting shortly at which the various NPT priorities will be discussed.

Cllr. Lockwood if PC Thomas knew why there were cameras on the Semington Bypass. PC Thomas replied that she did not know but would find out and would inform the Clerk.

Clerk's Note.

PC Thomas contacted the Clerk following the meeting and stated that they had been erected by a Wiltshire County Council contractor undertaking a traffic survey.

7. Planning.

a. The Clerk gave the following report on the status of extant planning applications:

08/03200	17 St Georges Place	Studio Room over garage	Permission.
08/03310	Woodhouse Farm	Replacement dwelling	PC Observations.

22 January 2009

Roger Coleman

Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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conditions are to be specifically noted.

- To identify land ownership within the village and to assess its vulnerability to unpermitted development.
- (At a later stage) To alert other Parish Councils to the possibility of planning abuses and to seek their support for a common county-wide, or 'Area Board' strategy.
- (At a later stage) To press WCC (and the Wiltshire Council) to identify possible traveller sites within the County.

Cllr. Dobbyn offered to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to define the problem and to outline a strategy for managing it. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Dobbyn and accepted his offer on behalf of the Parish Council.

8. Highways.

There was nothing to report.

9. Sports and Social Facilities in Semington – St George's Fund.

- a. The Chairman reported that the Council had not been advised of any other new projects.
- b. The Council reviewed the following projects:

Sports/Recreation Field.

Cllr. Lockwood reported that West Wiltshire Crematorium was prepared to let the adjoining land for a sports field, subject to certain conditions being met. He reported that, meanwhile, he has been consulting the Football Association regarding the availability of grants to contribute towards the cost of establishing a football pitch. The Chairman invited councillors to provide their views on whether they would be prepared to provide financial support towards the provision of a football pitch, possibly via the St George's Fund. There ensued a discussion on the merits of such a sporting facility and, following a proposal from the Chairman, the Council resolved unanimously that it supports in principle the establishment of the football pitch and that it would look favourably upon providing financial support in future towards its creation. Cllrs. Lockwood and Vooght withdrew from the meeting when the proposal was made by the Chairman and when the vote was taken. Neither councillor voted.

Village Hall Ceiling.

Cllr. Vooght stated that there was nothing to report.

St. George's School – Breakfast/After Hours Club.

The Clerk stated that he had received no further correspondence.

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

The matter was deferred until the next meeting.

10. Finance.

- a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position was as follows:

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 21 January 2009

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 28-Nov-09	£ 873.64
Total:	<u>£ 873.64</u>

Credits (1 December 2008 to 31 December 2008):

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None		£ -
	Total:	£ -

Debits (1 December 2008 to 31 December 2008):

STO	Clerk's Salary (November)	£ 249.05
490	Clerk's Expenses (December)	£ 27.19
491	Clerks Back Pay (1 April to 30 November)	£ 48.88
	Total:	£ 325.12

Balance at 31 December 2008: £ 548.52

Credits (1 January 2009 to 21 January 2009)

None		
	Total:	£ -

Debits (1 January 2009 to 21 January 2009):

01-Jan	Clerk's Salary (December)	£ 249.05
	Total:	£ 249.05

Balance at 21 January 2009: £ 299.47

Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 30-Sep-08	£ 32,685.94
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Credits

10-Oct	Interest	£ 68.47
10-Nov	Interest	£ 63.04
10-Dec	Interest	£ 13.69
		£ 145.20

Debits

06-Nov	Transfer to A/C 2149025	£ 1,000.00
		£ 1,000.00

Total: £ 31,831.14

Balance at 21 January 2009: £ 31,831.14

Total Balance in hand at 21 January 2009: £ 32,130.61

Payments to be authorised (21 January 2009).

Clerks Salary (January 2009)	£ 255.16
Clerks Back Pay (December 2008)	£ 6.11
Clerks Expenses (December 2008)	£ 24.79

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TOTAL:	£ 286.06
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Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (21 January 2009).

None

TOTAL:	£ -
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b. The Council resolved unanimously to adopt the Proposed Budget for FY2009/10 Issue A. A copy of the Agreed Budget is appended to these minutes. The Clerk also explained the current financial position with respect to the Tennis Court Maintenance Fund and the St George's Fund. A Financial Statement in respect of these two funds is attached to these minutes.

c. The Council voted unanimously to request a Precept for FY2009/10 of £7500.

d. The Council deferred discussion on a possible donation towards a BWB K&A Canal information Board until the next meeting.

e. The Council voted to make a donation of £40 to Cloth Road Arts Week.

f. The Council resolved unanimously to make the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above.

The Clerk stated that the new Alliance & Leicester accounts were now open but with the turbulent nature of the financial markets, especially with the regularly changing interest rates, he had decided not to take any precipitate action in transferring the existing funds from the Lloyds TSB accounts. The Council endorsed this decision by the Clerk and decided to wait for a more stable time before transferring these funds. The Clerk added that it was currently very difficult to be certain of which institution – Alliance & Leicester or Lloyds TSB – offered the best interest rates for an investment.

11. Environment.

Cllr. Vooght reported that dog fouling was a curse in the village and that it appeared to be on the increase. The Clerk was asked to contact the Dog Warden and to request that additional public signs warning of the penalties be erected.

Cllr. Robinson asked the Clerk to report an apparent oil spillage/leakage behind the garages. The Clerk stated that he had reported a similar incident some time ago but would make a fresh report.

12. Tennis Court.

The matters relating to the report on the Tennis Club and possible new signs were deferred until the next meeting.

13. Model Publication Scheme.

The Council voted unanimously to adopt the Model Publication Scheme.

14. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

The following matters were reported:

- Jonathon Seed, prospective conservative candidate for Summerham and Seend Electoral Division had expressed his intention to attend forthcoming Parish Council meetings as a member of the public.
- WC – Wiltshire Council Planning Policy

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- Wiltshire Area Boards – Consultation on Boundaries.
- Communities & Local Government – Local Authority Publicity (Consultation).
- Rural Services Community - The Rural Services Network.
- WWDC – Licensing Act (Consultation on Statement of Licensing Policy for Wiltshire Council).
- WWDC – Licensing of Sex Establishments.
- WWDC – Gambling Act, Consultation on Statement of Principles.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he had approached by parishioners regarding the availability, locally, of allotment gardens.

Clerk's Note.

In 'Local Council Administration, Sixth Edition' by Charles Arnold-Baker (Chapter 29, Page 287) it is stated 'A local council must formally consider any written request by six or more electors to operate the Allotments Acts (Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, s 23(2)) and, in addition, if it is of the opinion that there is a demand it is bound to provide allotments (SH&AA 1908, s23(1)) but the duty is restricted to the provision of allotment gardens (SH&AA 1908, s9). It would be difficult to be of any other opinion in the face of a resolution from a well-attended electors' (i.e Annual Parish) meeting. As long as the allotments, provided to satisfy the obligation, are reasonably accessible to users, it is not essential that they should be within the locality (SH&AA 1908, s25(1)). Land is acquired through appropriation, purchase or compulsory purchase.

15. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the dates of the next meeting:

- Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 18 February 2009 at 8.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 10.10 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

18 February 2009

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Semington Parish Council.

Strategy to prevent the proliferation of Travellers' sites in the environs of Semington.

Objectives:

1. To prevent the expansion of the latest site and to ensure that it is only there for three years. To ensure that planning conditions are complied with in respect of the site.
2. To prevent the use of retrospective planning permission to legitimate unauthorised sites purchased by Travellers in the local countryside.
3. To obtain the commitment of the community and promote the active participation of the people of Semington.
4. To establish contact and develop joint approaches with communities with similar difficulties.
5. To align the existing local authority and the future unitary authority with these objectives.

Plan of Action

A. Existing Site.

1. Establish a monitoring committee that will monitor the site, identify breaches of planning conditions and notify the Parish Council. The Parish Council will organise the correspondence with the local authority. Membership of the monitoring committee will be rotated to lighten the task. The Chairman will be from the PC but the members can be drawn from the community.
2. The PC will regularly ask the Local Authority for a progress report on the identification and development of alternative sites. After two years, in the absence of progress consider legal sanctions to force the authority to comply with the requirements.

B. Other sites.

1. Establish an inventory of relevant parcels of land that may be at risk, including location, areas, ownership, covenants and planning status held on a database.
2. Establish a risk methodology identifying the impact and probability of Traveller occupation and rank the sites in the database accordingly.
3. For the high risk sites, establish the optimum planning status and all possible changes in ownership that would reduce the risk and develop a joint plan with the local authority.
4. Maintain pressure on the local authority to ensure they carry out an inventory of unused and underused local authority sites and go through a structured process to meet their obligations to provide traveller sites. This means regular monitoring and correspondence.

Engaging the community, others with similar problems and the local authority

5. Prepare a memorandum of understanding on the subject of traveller sites that sets out the basic principles of the rule of law, fairness and equality of treatment and preservation of the environment in the interests of the wider community. It will also include a commitment to the orderly and structured provision of appropriate sites for Travellers. Ask all sitting councillors and prospective candidates to sign up to the MOU. Make sure there is maximum publicity for those who will not and revenge in the ballot box for those who sacrifice their communities.
6. Establish a county committee of Parish Councils who have this problem or are threatened by it. Co-ordinate a county wide approach based on respect for the rule of law and fairness and offering mutual support in the face of the breach of planning law by unauthorised

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occupation of owned sites or trespass. The sharing of information would be facilitated by the use of databases as described above. The PC will need an external affairs member to organise this approach with other parish councils. A fighting fund would be established. Later, national initiatives might be appropriate.

7. Create an intelligence system using all contacts to give early warning of issues and facilitate maximum pressure at the earliest possible moment.

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Agreed Budget FY2009/10

ITEM (Description)	Budget FY08/09 Agreed	Actuals FY08/09 31-Oct-08	Estimated FY08/09 31-Mar-09	Agreed Budget FY 2009/10
<u>Income:</u>				
C/F from Lloyds TSB Bank				
A/Cs:	2513	2513	2513	4132
Precept	7500	7500	7500	7500
Lloyds A/C 7754288	5	50	50	20
Lloyds A/C 2149025	0	0	0	0
Tennis Court Insurance	80	0	0	0
VAT Reclaim	90	0	25	50
Total Income	10188	10063	10088	11702
<u>Expenditure:</u>				
Clerk Salary	3060	1493	3060	3121
Expenses	400	201	400	425
Office Allowance	125	125	125	125
<i>Tennis Court Insurance</i>	0	0	0	100
Solicitors Fees	0	0	0	0
Chairman	0	0	0	0
Hire Hall	450	400	400	500
Audit	275	241	241	275
Subscriptions	75	70	70	100
Insurance	550	545	545	600
Community (Section 137)	2500	475	1045	2500
<i>Elections</i>	1000	0	0	2500
Training	0	0	0	0
Misc.	0	70	70	100
	8435	3620	5956	10346
Net Income	10188	10063	10088	11702
Net Expenditure	8435	3620	5956	10346
Surplus	1753	6443	4132	1356

(at 31 March 2009) (at 31 March 2010)