

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 February 2009 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present.

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

There were two members 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 K Lockwood, S Rimmer and District Councillor V Fortescue.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 21 January 2009.

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

4. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned to give members of the public the opportunity to speak. The meeting then reconvened.

5. Neighbourhood Policing.

In the absence of a representative from the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) there was no report. Councillors had nothing to report to the NPT.

6. 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	Refusal.

08/03315	St Johns Care Trust	Care Village
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The Clerk reported that the West Wiltshire District Council (WWDC) Development Control website stated that this application had been withdrawn.

b. The Council noted the following new planning application received on 18 February 2009:

09/00407/FUL	Littleton Stables	Change of Use/Mobile Home/Day Room	NEW.
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Councillors commented that this site had received planning permission previously for stables and that this retrospective application for a dwelling, using a conversion of the stables as living quarters, was an abuse of the planning process. The Council noted from the planning application that these stables had been converted some time ago and had been used as a dwelling, without planning permission for the change of use. The Council expressed considerable concern that, once again, an applicant had ignored the planning laws in order to gain an advantage and was now seeking the support of the planning laws and outside bodies to regularise a deliberate flouting of the law. The Council resolved to seek information on the planning history of this site and resolved unanimously to object to this proposed development for the following reasons:

- It is a green field site and the only permitted development was for stables.

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- The stables were not intended for residential use.
- It is 'creeping development' and is outside the Village Policy Limits.
- If this were a new application (and not a retrospective one) it would be rejected forthwith.
- There is no Environmental Impact statement.
- Permission was neither sought, nor granted, for an installed Septic Tank.
- There are significant inaccuracies and errors in the Application Form. It is also incomplete.
- The claimed 'Existing Use' as a 'Private Romani Gypsy site with stables' is untrue.

The Clerk was asked to advise councillors of the planning history of the site and the conditions appertaining to any planning permission granted previously and to ensure that the objections from the Council properly reflected those conditions.

c. The Clerk stated that he had written to the Information Commissioner requesting that he investigate the manner in which WWDC handled the request for information in relation to Planning Application 07/03870.

The Clerk reported that he has contacted David Hubbard and Robert Taylor at WWDC Development Control and has asked when an Environmental Impact Statement and a Bio-Diversity Study are required to support a planning application. He added that he had not yet received a reply.

Cllr. Dobbyn stated that he had received a reply from Mr T Darsley in relation to his correspondence concerning the handling of Planning Application 07/03870. He added that some statements in that reply were blatantly untrue and these were now being challenged.

Cllr. Dobbyn observed that during the recent cold spell the travellers' site appeared to be unoccupied, although this was disputed by one or two councillors who had claimed to have seen signs of occupancy. The Clerk was asked to note this in the 'Site Log'.

7. Highways.

There was nothing significant to report.

The Chairman lamented the continuing failure of Wiltshire County Council (WCC) to install the 'Bus Clearway' marking on the road surface – even though the Parish Council had agreed to meet the cost of it.

8. 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. Vooght reported that the planned meeting with The Sports Foundation had been postponed because of the recent poor weather and a new date had yet to be arranged. He added that the provision of a sports' field – primarily for football – was looking very promising and that this facility had firm support from The Sports Foundation and West Wilts Crematorium (the owners of the land). Cllr. Smyth observed that appropriate security arrangements would need to be installed if a sports' field was created in order to prevent unwelcome trespassers.

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 a letter from St Georges CE Primary School seeking financial support for the purchase of capital equipment for the Breakfast and After Hours Club. The Clerk stated that he had sent a copy of this letter to all councillors prior to the meeting. This request

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was discussed at some length by the Council and the Council resolved, unanimously, to make a donation of £500 for the purchase of a computer.

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

The matter was deferred until the next meeting.

9. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 18 February 2009

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 31-Dec-08	£	548.52
Total:	£	548.52

Credits (1 January 2009 to 31 January 2009):

None	£	-
Total:	£	-

Debits (1 January 2009 to 31 January 2009):

STO	Clerk's Salary (December)	£	249.05
492	Clerk's Expenses (December)	£	24.79
493	Clerks Back Pay (December)	£	6.11
Total:		£	279.95

Balance at 31 December 2008:

£	268.57
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Credits (1 February 2009 to 18 February 2009)

04-Feb	Transfer from A/C 2149025	£	500.00
Total:		£	500.00

Debits (1 February 2009 to 18 February 2009):

01-Feb	Clerk's Salary (January)	£	249.05
494	Cloth Road Arts Week Donation	£	40.00
Total:		£	289.05

Balance at 18 February 2009:

£	479.52
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Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 31-Dec-09	£	32,831.14
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Credits

10-Jan	Interest	£	2.70
10-Feb	Interest	£	2.50
Total:		£	5.20

Debits

04-Feb	Transfer to A/C 2149025	£	500.00
Total:		£	500.00

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Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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Total:	£ 32,336.34
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Balance at 18 February 2009:	£ 32,336.34
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Total Balance in hand at 18 February 2009:	£ 32,815.86
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Payments to be authorised (18 February 2009).

Clerks Salary (February 2009)	£ 255.16
Clerks Expenses (January 2009)	£ 45.95
TOTAL:	£ 301.11

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (18 February 2009).

St George's PCC - Lawnmower Donation	£ 450.00
TOTAL:	£ 450.00

b. The Council resolved unanimously to make a donation of £450 to St Georges PCC towards the cost of the lawnmower. The Clerk added that the total cost of the lawnmower was £807.45 and that a copy of the receipt for this amount and a covering letter had been sent to the Parish Council.

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

d. The Council resolved unanimously to adopt the Standing Order for the Terms of Reference for the Internal Audit.

Cllr. Dobbyn suggested that it would be helpful for the Clerk to draft a 'Financial Regulation' that detailed the financial controls that exist within the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to draft such a regulation for approval by the Council.

10. Environment.

Clerk's Note.

Discussion on the Flood Risk Assessment being undertaken by Such-Salinger-Peters took place under Agenda item 6 'Planning' but is recorded here to accord with the Agenda.

a. Councillors considered the request for information relating to a Flood Risk Assessment being undertaken by Such-Salinger-Peters in support of Planning Application 08/003315 (St Johns Care Trust 'Care Village'). The Council reached the following conclusions in relation to the site proposed for the 'Care Village':

- The site is not prone to flooding although, in common with most fields in the area, during particularly wet weather some surface water is evident,
- The surface water from the site drains eastwards flowing into the stream running, and flowing, south to north, eventually discharging into the Semington Brook.
- Flooding of the area around Brook House (at the northern extremity of the village) and at Palmer Grove occurs fairly regularly during wet weather.
- Particular attention has to be paid to drainage of the site in order not to exacerbate the problems currently experienced at Brook House and at Palmer Grove. The site, at present, allows

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some water to soak into the ground. A developed site – such as the completed development of a ‘Care Village’ – would not permit this and would greatly exacerbate the problems at Brook House and Palmer Grove.

b. Cllr. Oglesby enquired what were the consequences for the current and proposed WWDC recycling policies in the light of the closure of the La Farge Cement Works. The Clerk stated that he would make enquiries of WWDC.

c. The Council voted unanimously not to enter the ‘Best Kept Village Competition 2009’.

d. The Clerk stated that he had received a supply of ‘Dog Fouling’ signs and handed them to Cllr. Vooght. He added that he had written to Wessex Water in relation to the flooding/sewage problem at Palmer Grove but had not yet received a reply.

The Clerk asked councillors to note the request for information regarding the ‘escaped’ horses that damaged the grounds of the West Wilts Crematorium and that if any councillors could provide information would they contact him or the Manager of the Crematorium, Mr Nick Pearce.

11. Tennis Court.

a. In the absence of Cllr. Lockwood no report on the condition of the Tennis Court was received.

b. The Council instructed the Clerk to obtain a sign to be affixed to the Tennis Court with the following wording:

THIS TENNIS COURT IS THE PROPERTY OF SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL AND IS FOR
THE USE OF SEMINGTON RESIDENTS.

PLEASE USE RESPONSIBLY

REPORT ANY MISUSE OR DAMAGE TO:
TEL NO 01380 870855 OR 01380 870665

BY ORDER OF SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

12. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

The following matters were reported by the Clerk:

- Wiltshire Council Roadshows. The Clerk stated that he would advise councillors of the location of the Trowbridge Roadshows.
- Wiltshire Council Information – Planning Area Boards etc. The Clerk agreed to place this information in a Circulation Pack.
- WCC – Handbook for Area Boards. The Clerk stated that he would advise councillors of the website address in order to access this document. He added that comments from Parish Councils are required by 10 April 2009 and that this would be an Agenda item at a subsequent meeting.
- Development Control Seminar at Trowbridge on 11 March 2009. Cllrs. Bowyer, Dobbyn, Oglesby and Robinson expressed an interest to attend.

Cllr. Smyth stated that the Council needs to consider who to invite to give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr. Dobbyn stated that he had written a paper containing a series of questions for candidates for the Wiltshire Unitary Authority. He asked the Clerk to send a copy of this paper to councillors for

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their consideration and for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Dobbyn asked the Clerk to table the paper at other Parish Council meetings with which he is associated.

13. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the dates of the next meeting:

- Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 18 March 2009 at 8.00 pm.
- The Council agreed that The annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 May 2009 at 8 pm.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

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