

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present.

Councillor P Bowyer (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors R Robinson, K Lockwood, S Rimmer, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

There were no 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 the Chairman, R Oglesby and Parish Councillors F Dobbyn, B Smyth, P Vooght and District Councillor V Fortescue.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 18 February 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. There were no members of the public present and the meeting immediately reconvened.

5. Neighbourhood Policing.

PCSO Ciera McVeigh of the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) stated that she had written to the two persons responsible for the recent bottle-smashing incident following their refusal to meet up with her to discuss the incident. She advised councillors to make a formal report in future if there is a repeat of that behaviour. PCSO Mc Veigh added that there were changes planned for the NPT locally and that she is likely to be transferred to a different NPT, although PC Emily Thomas would remain the Beat Manager for this area. She concluded her report by stating that a recent 'ball kicking' incident at the Independent Living Centre had been resolved amicably.

Cllr. Bowyer reported that there had been a 'leaflet drop' inviting parishioners to dispose of unwanted clothes to an organisation appearing to be a charity. PCSO McVeigh observed that this organisation was not a charity and although it could be argued that there was an element of misrepresentation, no law was being broken and little action could be taken. She advised councillors to note the registration number of any vehicle being used by that organisation and to report it to her.

6. Planning.

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

09/00407/FUL Littleton Stables Change of Use/Mobile Home/Day Room **PC Objections.**

The Clerk stated that recent correspondence from District Cllr. Fortescue indicated that the planning officers had noticed that 'some irregular development was taking place' and that this planning application was to be considered by the Planning Committee and was likely to be refused.

08/03315 St Johns Care Trust Care Village

The Clerk confirmed that this application had been withdrawn, although it was to be resubmitted when various matters had been addressed by the St John Care Trust and included in a set of revised plans.

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- b. There were no new planning applications received after 11 March 2009:
- c. The review of the progress made in implementing the Parish Council Planning Strategy to prevent further planning abuses was deferred until the next meeting.
- d. The Clerk stated that in respect of Planning Application 08/03870, the Information Commissioner's Office had confirmed that it would conduct an investigation into the manner in which WWDC had handled a request for information from the Parish Council.

7. Highways.

There was nothing significant to report.

Councillors, once again, queried why Wiltshire County Council (WCC) had still not installed the 'Bus Clearway' marking on the road surface in the High Street.

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. Lockwood stated that he had a meeting recently with the Wiltshire Football Association and four matters had been identified as key to the project – lease of the land, change of use application, soil testing and drainage. He added that a meeting with West Wiltshire Crematorium officials was also planned. In response to a question from Cllr. Rimmer, Cllr. Lockwood confirmed that West Wiltshire Crematorium had offered to provide an access road and car parking for up to forty cars if the Sports/Recreation Field project proceeds.

Village Hall Ceiling.

In the absence of Cllr. Vooght there was nothing to report.

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

Cllr. Rimmer stated that he could recall that when his children were young, the school field was made available for use as a play area out of school hours and it would be an ideal facility to be used these days. Councillors commented that various legislation and insurance issues now prevented the use of the school field. Cllr. Rimmer stated that notwithstanding this, he was keen to see new equipment provided for youngsters to use and for it to be installed at Wessex Close if that was now the preferred location. Cllr. Lockwood observed that a piece of equipment previously at Wessex Close had been removed and nothing had been put in its place. The Clerk was asked to write to WWDC – the owners of this Play Area and play equipment – to request that a new replacement piece of play equipment be installed. He commented that there are many examples locally of suitable play equipment and cited Steeple Ashton and Bowerhill where imaginative play areas and play equipment could be seen. Cllr. Rimmer suggested that the age group targeted should be pre-school and up to around eleven years of age and that the Parish Council may wish to consider purchasing additional equipment using money from the St George's Fund.

9. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 18 March 2009

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 31-Jan-09	£ 268.57
Total:	<u>£ 268.57</u>

19 March 2009

Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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Credits (1 February 2009 to 28 February 2009):

04-Feb	Transfer from A/C 7754288	£	500.00
24-Feb	Transfer from A/C 7754288	£	1,000.00
			£ 1,500.00

Total: **£ 1,500.00**

Debits (1 February 2009 to 28 February 2009):

494	Cloth Road Arts Donation	£	40.00
STO	Clerk's Salary (January)	£	249.05
495	Clerk's Expenses (January)	£	45.95
			£ 335.00

Total: **£ 335.00**

Balance at 28 February 2009:

£ 1,433.57

Credits (1 March 2009 to 18 March 2009)

None £ -

Total: **£ -**

Debits (1 March 2009 to 18 March 2009):

01-Mar	Clerk's Salary (February)	£	249.05
496	St Georges PCC Donation	£	450.00
497	St Georges School Donation	£	500.00
			£ 1,199.05

Total: **£ 1,199.05**

Balance at 18 March 2009:

£ 234.52

Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement £ 32,831.14
31-Dec-09

Credits

10-Jan	Interest	£	2.70
10-Feb	Interest	£	2.50
10-Mar	Interest	£	1.50
			£ 6.70

Debits

04-Feb	Transfer to A/C 2149025	£	500.00
24-Feb	Transfer to A/C 2149025	£	1,000.00
			£ 1,500.00

Total: **£ 31,337.84**

Balance at 18 March 2009:

£ 31,337.84

Total Balance in hand at 18 March 2009:

£ 31,572.36

Payments to be authorised (18 March 2009).

Clerks Salary (March 2009)	£	255.16
Clerks Expenses (February 2009)	£	24.07
Clerk Back Pay (January & February)	£	12.22

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TOTAL:	£ 291.45
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Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (18 March 2009).

None

£ -

TOTAL:	£ -
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The Clerk stated that St Georges PCC had written a letter of thanks to the Council for its donation of £450 towards the cost of the lawnmower and that St George's School had similarly written thanking the Council for its donation of £500 for a new computer.

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

10. Environment.

a. The Clerk read out the letter from Wessex Water in response to the correspondence from the Parish Council requesting that an investigation is undertaken to establish the cause of flooding at Palmer Grove and, if necessary, to take remedial action. He observed that the letter confirmed that action was being taken and Cllr. Lockwood stated that he would give the residents of Palmer Grove a copy of the Wessex Water letter.

b. The Clerk read out a letter that he had written to WWDC requesting information and literature on the provision of allotment gardens by local authorities, such as a Parish Council.

11. Tennis Court.

a. Cllr. Lockwood reported that Tennis Court was in good order. The Clerk confirmed that the Tennis Court sign had been ordered.

12. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

The Clerk read out a letter from a parishioner relating to the level of the Parish Council precept and enquiring why money that had been raised in anticipation of a Parish Council election that, subsequently, was not held was not returned to the parishioners in the form of a reduced precept for FY2009/10. Councillors and the Clerk observed that the Parish Council financial reserves had been reduced to a low level that should an election be required then there could be insufficient funds to support one – a state of affairs that was clearly unacceptable. Councillors commented that the precept had been maintained at a constant level for some years to ease the financial burden on parishioners despite increasing costs and additional expenditure that had suggested, in hindsight, that a year on year increase in the precept would have been a preferable option. The Clerk was asked to write to the parishioner to explain the situation.

Cllr. Wade stated that stray dogs from the travellers' site were causing a danger to motorists using the main roads and that an accident was recently very narrowly averted when one of the dogs ran out in front of a car causing the car to make an emergency stop. He added that such occurrences were now common.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that he had recently attended an Area Board Seminar with Cllr. Smyth and he gave a brief resumé of that meeting. He added that he had also attended the Development Control Seminar that same evening with Cllr. Oglesby and would give a full report at the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Lockwood asked the Council to note that the residents of Littlemarsh had recently cleared the litter in their area – especially that from the lay-by.

Cllr. Rimmer reported that a parishioner had complained to him that trees, owned by WWDC or

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WCC, near to her property caused a nuisance when shedding their leaves on to her garden.

13. Date of the next meeting.

- a. The Council noted the dates of the next meeting:
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 15 April 2009 at 8.00 pm.

- b. The Council stated that it was hopeful that a speaker on 'Allotment Gardens' would be available to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 6 May 2009 at 8 pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.45 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

15 April 2009