

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 June 2009 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present.

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

Wiltshire Councillor Jonathon Seed attend (Part-time)

There was one member of the public present (Part-time).

1. Declaration of Interests.

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

2. Apologies.

All councillors were present.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13 May 2009.

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

4. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13 May 2009.

The following amendments were agreed:

Page 442, Para 10c: Add 'and Bev and Jack Woodward' at the end of the third sentence.

Page 443, Para 14, Last sentence: Delete 'size'. Insert 'condition'.

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

5. Adjournment.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to give a short report.

Cllr. Seed introduced himself as the newly elected member for the Summerham and Seend Electoral Division. He stated that he had now been appointed to a number of Wiltshire Council committees, including the West Wiltshire Planning Committee, the Licensing Committee and had been appointed Chairman of the Melksham Area Board.

In response to questions from the Parish Council he confirmed that the Littleton Stables Planning Application (09/00407) had been refused and that an Enforcement Notice had been served or will be served very soon, on the occupiers of the site. He added that he was also aware of the controversy surrounding the planning application for the travellers' site near to the crematorium (Planning Application 07/03870). Following a discussion during which Cllr. Dobbyn explained the difficulties that had been experienced when dealing with officers from West Wiltshire District Council, Cllr. Seed agreed to review the planning file and to seek clarification from Wiltshire Council (WC) on a number of issues. Cllr. Dobbyn stated that he would pass the file and copies of relevant correspondence to Cllr. Seed. The Clerk also agreed to send Cllr. Seed copies of an exchange of correspondence between the Parish Council and WC relating to the provision of permanent Travellers' Sites in Wiltshire.

The Clerk advised Cllr. Seed of the lack of consultation with Parish Councils in respect of Certificates of Lawfulness when their effect, if granted, was the same as granting permission for developments detailed on planning applications. The Clerk stated that he had noticed an increase in the number of applications for Certificates of Lawfulness recently and that he was beginning to suspect that these applications were proving more attractive to applicants than applications for full planning permission because of their different approval route and lack of interference from consultees.

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Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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Cllr. Seed was alerted to the lack of consultation with the Parish Council in respect of any revised plans for the 'Care Village'. Councillors stated that there had been a very well attended public meeting and that many positive comments were made in respect of this proposed development by councillors and by members of the public. However, the Parish Council was keen that this development should promote some degree of integration with parishioners and with Semington village and comments made on the original plans reflected these views. However, no revised plans had yet been seen.

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

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

6. Neighbourhood Policing.

In the absence of a member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, no report was given.

7. Planning.

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

09/00407	Littleton Stables	Mobile Home/Day Room (Change of use – Retrospective)	Decision Pending 'Call-in' requested.
(Refer to Agenda item 5. Cllr. Seed confirmed that this application had been refused.)			
09/00814	Aidan's Field Farm	Car Boot Sales	PC Observations.
09/00826	Stourton Farm	Barn Extension	No PC Objections.
09/01004	St George's Church	Re-siting Storage Shed	REFUSAL.
09/01401	21 St George's Place	Conservatory	No PC Objections.

8. Highways.

a. Cllr. Dobbyn expressed his concern at the high speed of some vehicles in the village, especially when they have just entered the village from the A361. He commented that traffic calming was required. Cllr. Rimmer suggested that some form of gate could be installed at the entrance to the village and Cllr. Robinson stated that for traffic calming to be effective it must involve colour (e.g. road marking), shape (e.g. a change in the road layout) or some form of obstruction, such as a lane closure barrier. Cllr. Bowyer added that the Parish Council had attempted to obtain traffic calming previously but was unsuccessful. Cllr. Vooght observed that the High Street has to remain unobstructed in case of traffic diversion through the village because of the closure of the bypass.

Cllr. Bowyer reported that a recent traffic survey taken over a week indicated that some 187 cars had ignored the No Through Road sign in the village. Details of the figures obtained are attached to these minutes.

Councillors expressed surprise at the large number of vehicles involved and asked the Clerk to write to Wiltshire Police requesting them now to take effective enforcement action.

b. Councillors reported that the 'Bus Clearway' marking on the road surface in the High Street had now been implemented.

c. The Clerk reported that WC had advised there was to be a temporary closure of the A361, between the Seend Fork traffic lights and the turning for Poulshott, off the dual carriageway. He added that the closure was for four nights in July and he passed the formal notice to Cllr. Vooght with a request that it be displayed on the Village Hall noticeboard.

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

a. In respect of new projects, Cllr. Bowyer asked the Council to consider placing a Bench Seat on the Ragged Smock. The Council decided that this would benefit the community and agreed to

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purchase a seat. The Chairman suggested that a plaque could be affixed to it with an inscription in memory of Doug Firmager. The Clerk was asked to obtain brochures for such seats and to circulate these to all councillors for a decision on the type of seat and price could be agreed at the next meeting.

b. The Council reviewed the following projects:

Sports/Recreation Field.

Cllr. Lockwood stated this project is progressing well and that some twenty tonnes of top soil had been deposited on the site and some levelling has taken place. He added that the area continues to be mowed and that consideration is now being given to the acquisition of changing rooms, although that cost is likely to be in the order of £10,000. He commented that the planning application from West Wiltshire Crematorium for a change of use had not been submitted yet.

Village Hall Ceiling.

Cllr. Vooght reported that a quotation for the work is still awaited.

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

The Clerk stated that he was awaiting a response from WC when it has finished its 'Play Areas' Survey.

10. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 17 June 2009

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

	Bank Statement 30-Apr-09		£	892.75
		Total:	£	892.75
	Credits (1 May 2009 to 31 May 2009):			
01-May	Wiltshire Council Precept (FY2009/10)		£	7,500.00
11-May	HMRC VAT Refund		£	21.00
28-May	ROMAT Donation		£	210.00
		Total:	£	7,731.00
	Debits (1 May 2009 to 31 May 2009):			
STO	Clerk's Salary (April)		£	255.16
504	Office Expenses (April)		£	52.74
506	Wilts Wildlife Trust		£	36.00
507	Clerk Office Allowance		£	125.00
508	Internal Auditor Fee		£	100.00
		Total:	£	568.90
	Balance at 31 May 2009:		£	8,054.85
	Credits (1 June 2009 to 17 June 2009)			
	None		£	-
		Total:	£	-

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Debits (1 June 2009 to 17 June 2009):

01-Jun	Clerk's Salary (May)	£	255.16
505	Community First Subscription (Late Presented Cheque)	£	36.00
10-Jun	Transfer to A/C7754288	£	6,500.00
	Total:	£	6,791.16

Balance at 17 June 2009:

£	1,263.69
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Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 30-Apr-09	£	28,341.45
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Credits

10-May	Interest	£	2.25
10-Jun	Interest	£	2.25
10-Jun	Transfer from A/C2149025	£	6,500.00
		£	6,504.50

Debits

None	£	-
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£	-
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Total:	£	34,845.95
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Balance at 17 June 2009:

£	34,845.95
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Total Balance in hand at 17 June 2009:

£	36,109.64
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Payments to be authorised (17 June 2009).

Clerks Salary (June 2009)	£	255.16
Office Expenses (May 2009)	£	31.33
TOTAL:	£	286.49

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (17 June 2009).

SPLASH Donation	£	-
TOTAL:	£	-

- b. The Council resolved to make a donation of £150 to SPLASH.
 c. The Council noted the ROMAT Donation to Semington PC of £210.
 d. The council noted the transfer of £771.26 to St George's Fund. The Clerk reminded councillors that this transaction was agreed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13 May 2009.
 e. The Council resolved unanimously to make the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above.

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Roger Coleman
 Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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11. Environment.

- a. There were no new matters reported by councillors
- b. The Clerk stated that he had written to Salisbury Diocese, St George's PCC, Fairfield Farm and Wiltshire Council seeking land for allotment use and had not yet received any positive replies. Cllr. Oglesby, with the support of councillors, asked the Clerk to write to WC seeking the use of the area of land at Littlemarsh that was often invaded by travellers. Cllr. Smyth observed that there may be some 'spare' 'Care Village' land that could be used for allotments.
- c. The Council noted the proposed permanent closure of the path at Shails Lane and decided to raise no objection.
- d. The Council noted the letter from Wessex Water stating that drain clearance had been undertaken to prevent flooding at Palmer Grove and that the letter indicated that some of the original blockage was due to the build-up of fat deposits in the pipes from The Somerset Arms. Councillors observed that The Somerset Arms was reopening soon and to prevent a similar problem reoccurring the Clerk was asked to write to Wessex Water to advise them of the reopening and to request details of their maintenance programme for this particular pipe/discharge.

12. Community Area/Area Boards.

- a. It was noted that despite protestations, Semington appeared to be remaining in the Melksham Community Area. The Clerk was asked to write to WC stating that it still believes that it should be in the Trowbridge Community Area but notwithstanding this and pending a promised review it would accept the currently imposed position. The Council resolved that when a review of the Area Boards takes place in around a year's time – as proposed by Steeple Ashton – Semington will wish to make its views known and would expect to be heard.
- b. The Chairman reported that he had attended the Melksham Area Board meeting held on 16 June 2009 and was pleased to learn that there is an allocation of £50,000 for small projects within the Community Area. He speculated that it might be possible to bid for some of this money to support the provision of the Sports' Field. Another possibility was the procurement of a 'flashing' speed sign.
- c. There were no representations to be made to the Community/Area Board at this time. The Council noted that the next meeting of the Melksham Area Board is on 1 July at Semington Village Hall.

13. Tennis Court.

Councillors confirmed that the Tennis Court and equipment were in good order.

14. Local Development Framework.

The Council had no comments to make in respect of the request for 'Preliminary Consultation'.

15. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

The Clerk asked the Council to note the information:

- 'Fun in the Sun' Programme. Details of this programme were handed to Cllr. Bowyer for onward transmission to Angela Weston (for St George's School).
- Bridge House Training Programme.

Cllr. Oglesby tabled a letter from Leigh Swinden that provided a quotation for strimming an area of land close to St George's Road. It was agreed that the Parish Steward may undertake this task and that enquiries would be made via the Parish Steward contact, Angela Weston.

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Cllr. Dobbyn tabled a proposal for a letter to be sent to the Wiltshire Times regarding planning abuses. He asked councillors to read it and to decide at the next Parish Council meeting whether the Council agreed with the sentiments and, if so, whether it should be sent to the Wiltshire Times.

16. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next meeting:

- Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – **13 July 2009 at 8.00pm (Revised Date).**

The meeting concluded at 10.10 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

13 July 2009