

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 September 2009 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present.

Councillor R Oglesby (Chairman) and Councillors P Bowyer, S Rimmer, R Robinson, B Smyth, P Vooght and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

Wiltshire Councillor Jonathon Seed attended part-time (attending from Agenda item 9).

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 F Dobbyn and C Wade. Cllr. Wade attended the meeting from Agenda item 6c.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13 July 2009.

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

4. Adjournment.

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

5. Neighbourhood Policing.

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

Cllr. Robinson reported that there had been three burglaries at premises at the Turnpike over the Summer period.

Cllr. Oglesby suggested that an 'alert' system should be established in the village to warn landowners and others of a possible incursion by travellers. He proposed that a 'cascade' or 'snowball' system of making telephone calls to villagers should be considered and recommended that such a system is set up for next year.

7. Planning.

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

09/00407	Littleton Stables	Mobile Home/Day Room	Refused (Appeal Pending)
----------	-------------------	----------------------	---------------------------------

This Appeal is to be heard at Wiltshire Council Committee Room 1, Bradley Road on 8 December 2009, commencing at 10 am.
The Clerk was asked to enquire whether members of the public can attend that meeting and speak at that meeting.

09/00814	Aidan's Field Farm	Car Boot Sales	Withdrawn.
09/00826	Stourton Farm	Barn Extension	Permission.
09/01664	St George's Church	Replacement Storage Shed	Permission.
09/01983	15 The Orchard	Conservatory	Permission.
09/01996	Brickfield farm	Replacement Dwelling	Permission.

b. There were no planning applications received after 8 September 2009.

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Smyth reported that he had understood from a parishioner that the building of the 'affordable homes' at the Turnpike was to commence over the next two or three months.

Cllr. Rimmer stated that Wiltshire Council (WC) had confirmed that the building (Amenity Room) recently completed at the travellers' site was in compliance with the planning permission granted and that the maximum dimensions permitted had not been exceeded. The Parish Council observed that it had never seen a copy of the proposed plans for this Amenity Room nor had it been given the opportunity to comment on them.

The Clerk added that he would remind WC that the Parish Council was still awaiting a copy of the 'approved' plans for this development.

c. The Chairman gave a report on the site meeting with WC (Mr Bill Parks) at Littlemarsh held on 21 August 2009. He stated that Cllrs. Smyth and Bowyer accompanied him on the visit and that a number of possible measures to prevent incursions by travellers were discussed, including the planting of trees, extending the existing ditch and introducing bunding. Cllr. Oglesby added that it was a very useful meeting and that Mr Parks fully understood the problem and that he was keen to take effective steps to improve the situation. Mr Parks had indicated that the availability of finance from WC would determine the measures to be taken. The meeting concluded that 'bunding' would be an effective measure if combined with a remodelling of the existing ditch. This would also provide a platform for the planting of trees and hedges and would be visually attractive and could offer some sound attenuation from the proposed sports' field nearby. It had been agreed to proceed with the introduction of the bunding and it had been stressed by Mr Parks that it would be introduced progressively when machinery and materials became available and subject to the necessary permissions (Environmental Agency certificates etc) being obtained. Mr Parks undertook to progress the granting of these permissions and to report back to the Parish Council.

7. Highways.

Cllr. Robinson reported that many of the pavements had weeds growing in them and that an application of weed killer was required. Cllr. Smyth agreed to contact Angela Weston and to request her to place it on the list of tasks for the Parish Steward.

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

a. There were no new projects to report.

b. The Council reviewed the following projects:

Sports/Recreation Field.

In the absence of Cllr. Lockwood no report was given.

Village Hall Ceiling.

There was nothing to report.

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

The Clerk stated that he was awaiting a response from Wiltshire Council on completion of its 'Play Areas' Survey'.

9. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 14 September 2009

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£ 1,197.41
30-Jun-09	

15 September 2009

Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Total: £ 1,197.41

Credits (1 July 2009 to 31 July 2009):

None

£ -

Total: £ -

Debits (1 July 2009 to 31 July 2009):

STO	Clerk's Salary (June)	£	255.16
511	R Robinson (Flower Tubs)	£	50.41
512	Office Expenses (June)	£	55.59
513	SPLASH Donation	£	150.00
		Total:	£ 511.16

Balance at 31 July 2009:

£ 686.25

Credits (1 August 2009 to 31 August 2009)

None

£ -

Total: £ -

Debits (1 August 2009 to 31 August 2009):

01-Aug	Clerk's Salary (July)	£	255.16
		Total:	£ 255.16

Balance at 31 August 2009:

£ 431.09

Credits (1 September 2009 to 14 September 2009)

None

£ -

Total: £ -

Debits (1 September 2009 to 14 September 2009):

01-Sep	Clerk's Salary (August)	£	255.16
		Total:	£ 255.16

Balance at 14 September 2009:

£ 175.93

Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement
30-Jun-09

£ 34,844.00

Credits

10-Jul	Interest	£	2.00
10-Aug	Interest	£	2.00
		£	4.00

Debits

None £ -

£ -

Total: £ 34,848.00

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Balance at 14 September 2009:

£	34,848.00
---	-----------

Total Balance in hand at 14 September 2009:

£	35,023.93
---	-----------

Semington Parish Council

Payments to be authorised (14 September 2009).

Clerks Salary (September 2009)	£	255.16
Office Expenses (July 2009)	£	19.62
Office Expenses (August 2009)	£	4.44
Mazars External Audit Fee	£	138.00
TOTAL:	£	417.22

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (14 September 2009).

None	£	-
TOTAL:	£	-

b. The Clerk reported that the External Audit by Mazars of the Annual Return for FY 2008/9 was satisfactory. He added that the only comments or observations made were in relation to the level of Fidelity Insurance and to the formal recording of the approval by the Parish Council of individual sections of the Annual Return. The Clerk stated that he would review the level of Fidelity Assurance but that the comment on the formal recording of individual sections of the Annual Return was, in his view, somewhat pedantic. He tabled the Annual Return for councillors to inspect.

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

10. Environment.

a. Cllr. Oglesby proposed that bulbs are planting throughout the village. The Council agreed that a bulb planting scheme would improve the appearance of the village and that a mixture of daffodils and crocuses should be planted. Cllr. Rimmer suggested that the children at St George's School could be involved and Cllr. Smyth agreed to put this proposal to the School Secretary, Angela Weston. Failing this, the Council agreed that a working party of councilors would undertake the task of bulb planting. The Council resolved unanimously (Proposer: Cllr. Robinson) that a maximum sum of £200 be expended on this project.

Cllr. Smyth commented that the smooth operation of the Canal Swing Bridge was impaired by poor engineering of the support rails. He added that this resulted in a 'clunk' where there was a gap in the support rails and that prolonged use could lead to a failure of the Swing Bridge. The Clerk stated that British Waterways Board (BWB) was responsible for this Swing Bridge.

Clerk's Note:

The Contact Details of BWB are:

British Waterways, The Dock Office, Commercial Road, Gloucester GL1 2EB.

Telephone No. 01452 318000.

E-mail: enquiries.southwest@britishwaterways.co.uk

b. The Clerk reported that he is awaiting a response from the St George's PCC in respect of the availability of land for allotments.

Cllr. Seed stated that he was following up the enquiry made by the Parish Council of Wiltshire

15 September 2009

Roger Coleman

Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Council regarding availability of land. He added that although an acknowledgement of the request for information had been received he was still awaiting a full reply.

c. The Council resolved unanimously to purchase a Memorial Bench in the name of Cllr. D Firmager and that the type and style of bench as proposed by Cllr. Bowyer at a cost of around £150 was suitable. Cllr. Bowyer was asked to provide exact details of the bench to the Clerk so that an order could be placed. The Chairman asked Cllr. Bowyer to consider a means of anchoring the seat to the ground to prevent its theft. The Chairman added that it was proposed to site it at The Ragged Smock.

d. The Council resolved to purchase a Litter Bin for Littlemarsh at a cost not exceeding £250. The Council asked the Clerk to ask WC whether it would install the bin and, if so, the cost of doing so and whether that cost included the regular emptying of the bin. The Clerk was also asked to find out whether the residents of Littlemarsh could install it themselves and, if so, whether WC would undertake its regular emptying.

Clerk's Note:

Waste bin details:

Wybone Timber Fronted Semi-Open Top Litter Bin. Code: RLA/5T/LTOK (Alternative: RLA/5S/LOTK). Price: £243.80 (Alternative: £220.60).

The Council decided to delay ordering the waste bin until the next meeting when the details regarding installation and emptying would be known.

e. Cllr. Wade explained the rationale behind the Proposed Weight Limit (A361 Littleton to Seend Fork. The Council had no comments to send to WC.

11. Community Area/Area Boards.

a. There was nothing significant to report in respect of the recent Area Board meeting. A report had been given at the last Parish Council meeting by Cllr. Bowyer.

b. Cllr. Seed reported that the next Melksham Area Board meeting was to be held on 23 September and that matters to be raised included the Community Area Partnership, the Community Speedwatch scheme and the bid for a new CCTV system. He added that Wiltshire Police had now endorsed the Community Speedwatch scheme and that the purchase of the necessary equipment, its deployment and use and the priority areas for traffic monitoring would be the responsibility of the Area Board.

Cllrs. Bowyer, Oglesby and Robinson each expressed an interest in attending the next Area Board meeting.

12. Tennis Court.

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

13. Information Commissioner (IC) – Parish Council Complaint.

The Clerk summarised the correspondence received from the IC and Cllr. Smyth commented that the Clerk had sent a copy of this correspondence, via e-mail, to all councillors. The Clerk observed that the IC had been particularly critical of West Wiltshire District Council in its handling of the information request from the Parish Council in relation to planning application 07/03870. He added that a warning shot had been fired across the bows of Wiltshire Council that a more open and responsive system must be adopted by WC for the IC to be satisfied that its various legal requirements were being met.

The Clerk was asked to send copies of this correspondence to Cllr. Seed.

14. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

15 September 2009

Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Oglesby advised the Council of the following:

- The Code of Conduct information recently sent around councillors in a Circulation Pack should be studied and he invited councillors to give him feedback on its relevance and usefulness.
- The minutes of a full Wiltshire Council meeting had stated, in answer to a written question, that Wiltshire Council cannot force travellers to move to a new identified travellers site and that it was the planning process that would determine the outcome. Cllr. Oglesby asked Cllr. Seed whether this was a change of policy. Cllr. Seed replied that it was not and that the position previously described by him was unchanged. He added that Wiltshire Council cannot enforce illegal occupation. Cllr. Rimmer observed that the existing travellers' site has only temporary permission for three years and he would expect that the planning process would ensure that this was not extended if a new identified travellers' site was available.

Cllr. Seed stated that he had been appalled to read in a copy of the Wiltshire Racial Equality Commission (WREC) Annual Report accusations that a number of villages and councils were 'racist' because of the position that had taken on illegal travellers' sites. He added that this matter had been taken up with the leader of the Council, Jane Scott, who was equally appalled at the inaccuracy of the statement and that action was being taken with the Chairman of WREC to seek redress. Cllr. Wade asked for this to be an Agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Seed stated that he would report progress on this matter to the Council

The Independent Living Centre (ILC) AGM is to be held on 22 October 2009.

- Directions to the ILC to be included on the brown 'Tourist Board' signs. The Council agreed that this was a good idea and asked the Clerk to convey this sentiment to the ILC.

The Clerk advised the Council of the following:

- Wiltshire Council Service of Dedication at Salisbury Cathedral on 11 October 2009.
- WC – Consultation (Harmonisation of Concessionary Travel).

Cllr. Wade asked that publicity be given to the use of the WC Mobile Library service.

15. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next meeting:

- Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 21 October 2009.

The meeting concluded at 9.55 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

21 October 2009

15 September 2009
Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____