

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present.

Councillor R Oglesby (Chairman) and Councillors K Lockwood, B Smyth, P Vooght, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

Wiltshire Councillor Jonathon Seed attended part-time (leaving after Agenda item 8).

PC Emily Thomas attended (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.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillors P Bowyer, S Rimmer and R Robinson.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14 September 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.

Following this adjournment for the public to speak, the Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to report on any matters of interest.

Cllr. Seed reported the following:

Melksham Canal Link.

Cllr. Seed gave details of the proposed route for this revitalised canal link and added that the funding appears to be in place thereby making the whole scheme viable, although there were still one or two issues that required further discussion.

Allotments.

A conversation had taken place with Ian Brown, Wiltshire Council (WC) Amenities Officer who was actively seeking sites within Semington for use as allotment gardens.

Sports' Field.

Cllr. Seed reported that he had discussed this project, and proposed planning application, with WC Development Control officers and alerted them to this 'sensitive' local community project. Cllr. Lockwood stated that it was intended to lodge the planning application within a week or so. Cllr. Seed offered to accompany Cllr. Lockwood on a site visit and to discuss the project in more detail. He added that there are funds available for grant aid and an application for grant aid to the Melksham Area Board should be made.

Planning application 07/03870.

Cllr. Seed stated that the full set of papers relating to this planning application had now been reviewed by Wiltshire Council (Mr Brad Fleet) against the background of the public controversy, letters written by Semington Parish Council and the correspondence from Cllr. Dobbyn. He

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commented that no adverse comments had been made by Mr Fleet but the review exercise had served as a salutary lesson for Wiltshire Council and important lessons had been learned.

Wiltshire Racial Equality Council (WREC).

Cllr. Seed agreed to obtain a copy of the WREC Annual Report in which claims of 'racist' were alleged to have been made against Semington Parish Council. Cllr. Seed stated that he would pass the copy to Semington Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Seed for his report.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

5. Neighbourhood Policing.

PC Thomas of the Neighbourhood Policing Team stated that there had been an absence of reported crime in Semington over the last month or so. She reported that an extension of the white line over the canal bridge – to deter car parking there – was a possibility. She added that patrolling the 'No Through Road' restriction on the old A350 road north of Semington remains a policing priority locally. She concluded her report by stating that there had been a number of thefts/burglaries in Steeple Ashton, including the theft of roofing materials. PC Thomas handed out details of the Community Payback scheme.

There were no matters raised by councillors.

6. 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. It was agreed that attendance at this appeal hearing would be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting.

b. There were no planning applications received after 15 October 2009 nor other planning matters raised..

7. Highways.

The Clerk advised the Council of a letter from WC regarding giving notice to WC of road closures that may be required when local events are being staged.

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

a. There were no new projects to report.

The Council expressed the view that the St Georges Fund should not be held in perpetuity but that it should be used soon for the purposes intended. The Clerk was asked to place an advert in the Semington Newsletter inviting the local community to propose suitable projects that would attract funding from the St George's Fund.

b. The Council reviewed the following projects:

Sports/Recreation Field.

This subject was covered in the report by Cllr. Seed (Agenda item 4).

Village Hall Ceiling.

There was nothing to report. It was agreed to change the title of this project to 'Village Hall Improvements'.

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Wessex Close Play Equipment.

The Clerk was asked to 'chase' Wiltshire Council for a response to the Parish Council correspondence requesting improvements to this play equipment. Cllr. Seed requested a copy of the related correspondence and observed that there were Play Equipment grants available. He stated that he would send the Clerk details.

9. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 21 October 2009

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 31-Aug-09	£	431.09
	Total:	£ 431.09

Credits (1 September 2009 to 30 September 2009):

Transfer from A/C 7754288	£	500.00
	Total:	£ 500.00

Debits (1 September 2009 to 30 September 2009):

STO	Clerk's Salary (August)	£	255.16
514	Office Expenses (July)	£	19.62
514	Office Expenses (August)	£	4.44
515	Mazars Audit Fee	£	138.00
	Total:	£ 417.22	

Balance at 30 September 2009:

£ 513.87

Credits (1 October 2009 to 21 October 2009)

None	£	-
	Total:	£ -

Debits (1 October 2009 to 21 October 2009):

01-Oct	Clerk's Salary (September)	£	255.16
	Total:	£ 255.16	

Balance at 21 October 2009:

£ 258.71

Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 30-Jun-09	£	34,844.00
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Credits

10-Jul	Interest	£	1.43
10-Aug	Interest	£	1.48
10-Sep	Interest	£	1.48
10-Oct	Interest	£	1.20

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	Debits		£	5.59
18-Sep		Transfer to A/C 2149025	£	500.00
			£	500.00
		Total:	£	34,349.59
		Balance at 21 October 2009:	£	34,349.59
		Total Balance in hand at 21 October 2009:	£	34,608.30

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Payments to be authorised (21 October 2009).

Clerks Salary (October 2009)	£	255.16
Office Expenses (September 2009)	£	22.53
TOTAL:	£	277.69

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (21 October 2009).

None	£	-
TOTAL:	£	-

The Clerk stated that there was a presentation at WC on the process for setting the Precept in November for anyone who may be interested. No interest was expressed.

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

10. Environment.

a. The Council decided to request the Parish Steward to ensure that the roadside drains are kept clear of leaves.

b. The Chairman reported that over 6000 daffodil, crocus and narcissi bulbs had been planted at the entrance to the village by councillors and Cllr. Robinson's son. This had been undertaken over two Saturday sessions. The Council expressed its thanks to all those who had taken part. The Chairman added that bulbs had also been supplied to the school children at St George's School who intended planting them soon outside the school. Cllr. Lockwood stated that next year it was intended to extend the planting to the main roundabout, to Littlemarsh and to other areas of Semington.

c. This Agenda item relating to allotments was partly covered under Cllr. Seed's report at Agenda item 4. The Clerk added that a reply from St George's Parochial Church Council (PCC) stated that there was no Parochial Church Council land currently available within the village. All plots presently owned, or managed, by the PCC were tenanted.

d. The Chairman stated that the Memorial Seat had been delivered to Cllr. Bowyer's home. The Council agreed the form of words to be engraved on the Memorial Plaque and it was agreed to request Cllr. Bowyer to arrange for the plaque to be made and engraved.

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The Council agreed that the Memorial Seat would be sited on the Ragged Smock on concrete plinths but its orientation would be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting.

e. The Clerk read out the correspondence from WC in relation to the Litter Bin for Littlemarsh. WC had advised that an alternative type of bin would be a better choice and would prove to be more 'vandal-proof'. Following a short discussion, the Council agreed to purchase the following

Litter Bin details:

Wybone Never Rust Bin Litter Bin, Victoriana Finish. Code: NR/1V. Price: £248.75. (Wybone Catalogue, Page 36).

The Clerk confirmed that WC were satisfied with its intended location and that it would regularly empty the bin at no extra cost. He added that he was still awaiting details of the installation cost from WC.

Cllr. Seed advised the Council to apply to Melksham Area Board for a grant towards the cost of the Litter Bin.

11. Wiltshire Racial Equality Council.

This item was covered in Cllr. Seed's Report at Agenda item 4.

12. Community Area/Area Boards.

a. There was nothing to report.

b. There was nothing to report.

13. Tennis Court.

Cllr. Wade reported that a resident who lived opposite the Tennis Court and who had regularly tidied up the Tennis Court had advised him that she was intending to do it no longer. She had reported that litter, including discarded bottles, was an unending problem and that youths were abusing the tennis Court by using it for unsupervised 5 a side football. She had also reported that the gate to the Tennis Court was being forced into the ground when being opening the 'wrong' way. Cllr. Vooght offered to contact the resident and to thank her for her efforts in the past. Notwithstanding this, councillors confirmed that the Tennis Court and equipment were in good order and Cllrs. Lockwood and Vooght stated that they would inspect the gate.

14. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

- The Clerk advised the Council of the following:
- Correspondence from Melksham Without Parish Council regarding support for 'flashing' speed signs. The Council decided not to support the proposal.
- Community First Grant opportunities.

Cllr. Lockwood reported that the hedge that runs alongside the footpath near to the Village Hall required cutting back.

The Chairman, with the support of the Council, asked the Clerk to write to British Waterways Board requesting that the Semington Bypass Aqueduct is named after Mr Thomas Noad – as had been proposed by the Parish Council some three years ago.

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15. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next meeting:

- Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – **MONDAY 23 November 2009 at 8pm.**

The meeting concluded at 9.50 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

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