

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23 November 2009 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present.

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

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 Councillor F Dobbyn.

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

There were no matters raised.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

5. Neighbourhood Policing.

PC Thomas of the Neighbourhood Policing Team stated that there were no crime incidents in Semington to report and the incidence of reported crime in Steeple Ashton appears to be declining. She added that the Blus and Zus Club at The Bear in Melksham was proving very popular and it is intended to run this as a regular event, the next one scheduled for 18 December. She commented that it is a Club for the 12 to 16 year age group and that it provides a number of activities in a safe environment. She requested the Parish Council and councillors to give it wide publicity.

Pc Thomas concluded her report by commenting that the window of the derelict Post Office was damaged during Halloween Night.

There were no matters raised by councillors.

6. Planning.

a. Councillors Smyth and (possibly) Cllrs. Robinson and Bowyer indicated their intention to attend the Appeal Hearing on 8 December 2009 in respect of:

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

The Clerk agreed to forward previous correspondence on this subject, including the letter supporting Wiltshire Council in its serving of the Enforcement Notice, to all councillors.

The Clerk read out the reply that he had sent to SW Law on behalf of the Parish Council.

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

b. Planning Applications.

There were no planning applications to consider.

c. Planning Enforcement Seminars.

Cllr. Bowyer indicated his intention to attend this Seminar at County Hall, Trowbridge.

d. Planning Development Control – 6 Month Review.

The Council asked the Clerk to reply to Wiltshire Council along the following lines:

- A Six Month Review is premature and further time should be allowed before a review is undertaken.
- The existing '21 day' rule for 'Call-in' by a Wiltshire Council is undemocratic and it deprives the Parish Council of its democratic duty to the electorate to represent its interest in planning applications.
- A Parish Council should retain the power to insist that a planning application is considered by the full planning committee – as was the case under the auspices of West Wiltshire District Council.

Other Matters:

Cllr. Rimmer enquired whether any progress had been made by Wiltshire Council in identifying possible 'permanent' travellers' sites. The Clerk stated that Cllr. Seed was pursuing this matter and would be the best person to provide a definitive answer – as he had done at previous Parish Council meetings.

The Chairman made reference to the exchange of correspondence with Wiltshire Council in relation to the number of caravans claimed to be on the temporary site near to the crematorium. He added that Wiltshire Council had investigated this claim and was satisfied that the conditions appertaining to the extant (temporary) planning permission were being met.

7. **Highways.**

The Clerk advised the Council of a letter from Wiltshire Council stating that Shails Lane is to be closed permanently following a recommendation from a coroner and the subsequent consultation exercise.

Cllr. Wade advised the Council that there appeared to be a dispute over the ownership of a small parcel of land (and an associated path) located outside the three cottages at the corner of Church Lane. Wiltshire Council indicated that the path is in the ownership of Wiltshire Council and stated its intention to tarmac the path, whereas the residents had tendered this path and grassed area for many years with no interference or support from the local Authority. The interest of Wiltshire Council was aroused when a request to clear a nearby drain was received by that Council from one of the residents.

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.

Cllr. Lockwood confirmed that a planning application for 'a change of use' (i.e. agricultural to recreation) had now been submitted to Wiltshire Council. He added that various Grant applications are now to be made with the assistance of Cllr. Seed.

Village Hall Improvements.

There was nothing to report.

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

The Clerk stated that, as requested, he had sent all relevant correspondence to Cllr. Seed and would seek a report on the current position from him.

9. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 23 November 2009

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 30-Sep-09	£ 513.87
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Total:	£ 513.87
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Credits (1 October 2009 to 31 October 2009):

22-Oct	Transfer from A/C 7754288	£ 500.00
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Total:	£ 500.00
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Debits (1 October 2009 to 31 October 2009):

STO	Clerk's Salary (September)	£ 255.16
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26-Oct	Office Expenses (September)	£ 22.53
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27-Oct	Bulbs (K Lockwood)	£ 116.18
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Total:	£ 393.87
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Balance at 31 October 2009:

£ 620.00

Credits (1 November 2009 to 23 November 2009)

Nil

£ -

Total:	£ -
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Debits (1 November 2009 to 23 November 2009):

01-Nov	Clerk's Salary (November)	£ 255.16
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Total:	£ 255.16
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Balance at 23 November 2009:

£ 364.84

Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 30-Sep-09	£ 34,348.39
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Credits

10-Oct	Interest	£ 1.20
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10-Nov	Interest	£ 1.10
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£ 2.30

Debits

22-Oct	Transfer to A/C 2149025	£ 500.00
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£ 500.00

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Total: £ 33,850.69

Balance at 23 November 2009:

£ 33,850.69

Total Balance in hand at 23 November 2009:

£ 34,215.53

Semington Parish Council

Payments to be authorised (23 November 2009).

Clerks Salary (November 2009)	£	255.16
Office Expenses (October 2009)	£	11.54
S Rimmer (Bulbs)	£	79.99
St Georges PCC - Newsletter	£	300.00
St Georges PCC - Churchyard Maintenance	£	200.00
TimberTack (Bench)	£	135.00
TOTAL:	£	981.69

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (23 November 2009).

None £ -

b. The Council reviewed the Financial Forecast at 31 October 2009 and decided that no action was necessary. A copy of this forecast is appended to these minutes.

c. The Council noted that it had received a request for donations from Mr J Woodward, Treasurer of St George's PCC and resolved unanimously to make donations to the St George's PCC totalling £500 (shown under 'Payments to be authorised' above). The Council also resolved unanimously to make all the other payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above.

The Clerk advised the Council that he had received a 'Precept Request' from Wiltshire Council that had to be returned by 14 January 2010 – almost a week before the next meeting. The Council asked the Clerk to inform Wiltshire Council that it would receive the completed form from Semington Parish Council immediately after the January meeting – as per normal practice. The Council agreed that this would enable it to hold a proper debate on this matter and agree the Precept figure for FY2010/2011. The Council resolved unanimously to request a precept of £7500 if Wiltshire Council failed to accede to its request.

10. Environment.

a. Cllr. Smyth reported that Wiltshire Council had recently undertaken 'litter picking' from the A350 road westwards, along the A361.

b. In respect of seeking land for allotment gardens, the Clerk stated that Cllr. Seed was pursuing this matter with officers at Wiltshire Council and that he would invite him to provide a report on progress.

c. The Council was informed that the Memorial Bench was to be installed facing the road but at an angle to allow those using it to have sight of approaching buses. Cllr. Robinson agreed to prepare the concrete base for the seat with the assistance from other councillors. He commented

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

that some additional landscaping was required in the immediate vicinity. The Council resolved that a maximum of £100 be expended on the materials and equipment for installing the seat.

Cllr. Bowyer agreed to procure a suitably inscribed Memorial plaque on behalf of the Council. The Council authorised a maximum cost of £50.

d. The Clerk stated that he had submitted a Community Grant application for the Litter Bin and that this application had been acknowledged. He added that once the application had been granted, he would place the order for the Litter Bin commenting that he was fearful that a premature purchase order could jeopardise the grant application.

11. Wiltshire Racial Equality Council.

Councillors reported that they had not yet received the promised documentation from Cllr. Seed. The Clerk was asked to 'chase this up'.

12. Community Area/Area Boards.

a. Cllr. Robinson reported that he had attended the Melksham Community Area Board AGM on 13 November 2009 and that the main item of business had been to agree changes to the constitution to allow all parish councils within the Community Area to have a seat on the Area Board. He added that Doug Ross (Trowbridge Community Area Future) gave an impressive presentation on the changes planned for, and being executed, in Trowbridge. Cllr. Robinson concluded his report by stating that the next meeting is to be held in January 2010.

The Council resolved that there should be a representative from Semington Parish Council at each Area Board meeting, although the actual councillor attending will depend on circumstances.

b. There was no matters identified that needed to be brought to the attention of the Area board.

13. Tennis Court.

Councillors reported that this facility was in good order. The Clerk confirmed that it was insured by Allianz Cornhill Insurance and that it was an asset included in the Parish Council Insurance Schedule.

14. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

- The Clerk advised the Council that the website is being revitalised and that he had sent previous minutes to the web masters (Stuart and Nigel Taylor) for them to be added to the Semington Website. The Council asked the Clerk to include this subject as an Agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.

15. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next meeting:

- Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 20 January 2010 at 8pm.

The Council agreed that the following meetings are to held as shown:

24 February 2010.

24 March 2010.

21 April 2010.

19 May 2010 (Annual PC Meeting and Ordinary PC Meeting).

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

16 June 2010.
14 July 2010.
15 September 2010.
13 October 2010.
17 November 2010.

Annual Parish Meeting – 12 May 2010.

The meeting concluded at 09.55 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

20 January 2010.