

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2010 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.

PCSO Rose Baldock attended (part-time).

There were no members of the public present.

### **1. Declaration of Interests.**

Cllr. Lockwood declared a prejudicial interest in Planning application 09/03469. There were no other interests declared in accordance with the Revised Model Code of Conduct.

### **2. Apologies.**

All parish councillors were present.

The Clerk reported that Wiltshire Councillor Seed had indicated his intention to attend but Cllr. Seed's attendance at another meeting might delay his arrival.

### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 23 November 2009.**

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

### **4. Adjournment.**

In the absence of any members of the public, the meeting continued without an adjournment.

### **5. Neighbourhood Policing.**

PCSO Baldock reported that there is currently a spate of burglaries locally – especially in Trowbridge and Melksham and she advised everyone to remain vigilant. She added that farms appear to have been targeted with reports of horse tack having been stolen.

Cllr. Bowyer agreed to contact the editor of Semington Newsletter and to request that an article warning of the burglars and asking residents to be vigilant and to report any suspicious behaviour be placed in the Newsletter.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that he had attended the recent Melksham Parish Council Liaison Group meeting but there was nothing significant to report.

PCSO Baldock confirmed that the Blus and Zus Club at Melksham continues to take place on a Friday night and that youngsters from Semington are most welcome to attend.

There were no matters raised by councillors.

### **6. Planning.**

a. Councillors Smyth reported that the recent Appeal hearing in relation to Littleton Stables (Planning application 09/0040) concerning a Mobile Home/Day Room had been allowed, although the judgement had been accompanied by a lengthy narrative, some of which was very critical of the manner in which Wiltshire Council Development Control officers had dealt with this planning application. Cllr. Rimmer insisted that the main problem was that Wiltshire Council had failed to address the allocation of Traveller sites within Wiltshire and that Semington and other villages were suffering as a result with opportunism on the part of travellers allowing Wiltshire Council to become relaxed on the subject of providing official sites. Cllr. Dobbyn stated that such sites are being

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acquired, or provided, by default because of the ineptitude by Wiltshire Council who, in his view, has chosen to avoid the difficult task of identifying and providing official sites. He argued that Wiltshire Council has been put off its legally required task of providing sites because of the potential of significant local controversy. Cllr. Dobbyn stated that Semington and other communities needed to be proactive in identifying and adopting a strategy for preventing 'illegal' residential occupation similar to that at Littleton. Cllr. Rimmer argued that Wiltshire Council must continue to be pressurised to provide its quota of 'official' Traveller sites in the County. Cllr. Oglesby read out a possible statement to be sent to the Wiltshire Times and to each Wiltshire councillor. The draft statement read (shown in italics):

### Appeal Decision – Littleton Stables.

- *Concern that the appeal has not supported WC in enforcing planning control.*
- *Stating that there is now an urgent need for WC to now implement and deliver ASP the provision of travellers' sites in the county so that lack of provision cannot be used to allow temporary use of sites as has happen with this appeal.*
- *Provided WC is able to provide these site then the two current sites in Semington can revert to their original use as per the Planning enforcement directions in 2 and 3 years respectively.*

The Council resolved unanimously to release a statement along the lines of the draft statement above. The Clerk was asked to draft an appropriate statement and to circulate it to all parish councillors for agreement prior to its release.

#### b. Planning applications:

09/03542/FUL	Motel Field	'Care Village'	<b>NEW</b>
09/03469	Land west of West Wilts Crematorium	Playing Field	<b>NEW</b>

The Council noted that there was to be a Parish Council Planning meeting on 27 January 2010 at which these two applications were to be discussed and observations agreed that would be sent to Wiltshire Council. However, initial comments in relation to the 'Care Village' proposed that in view of the significant development that it represents, and the impact that it will have on the village, it would be reasonable for the developers to make a contribution to improve the community facilities in Semington, such as improvements to the Village Hall (e.g. disabled toilets). Such facilities would also be available to the residents of the 'Care Village'.

Cllr. Lockwood withdrew from the meeting.

There ensued a brief discussion on Planning application 09/03469 at the end of which councillors indicated their support for this application.

Cllr. Lockwood returned to the meeting.

c. There were no planning applications received after 13 January 2010.

### 7. Highways.

a. Cllrs. Lockwood and Vooght reported that there were two Grit Bins missing in the village – one at St George's Road (High Street end) and one in the Village Hall Car Park. The Clerk was asked to contact Wiltshire Council and to request their return.

b. The Council noted the completion of the Wiltshire Council Speed Limit Review and the Clerk was asked to place the information relating to it on circulation.

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

a. There were no new projects reported.

b. The Council reviewed the following projects:

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## Sports/Recreation Field.

Refer to Para 6b above.

## Village Hall Improvements

- There was nothing to report.

## Wessex Close Play Equipment.

- The Clerk stated that he is awaiting a response from Cllr. Seed.

## 9. Finance.

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

### Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 20 January 2010

#### Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

	Bank Statement 31-Oct-10	£	620.00
		Total:	<b>£ 620.00</b>
26-Jan	<b>Credits (1 November 2009 to 30 November 2009):</b> Transfer from A/C 7754288	£	1,500.00
		Total:	<b>£ 1,500.00</b>
	<b>Debits (1 November 2009 to 30 November 2009):</b>		
STO	Clerk's Salary (October)	£	255.16
		Total:	<b>£ 255.16</b>
	<b>Balance at 30 November 2009:</b>		<b>£ 1,864.84</b>
	<b>Credits (1 December 2009 to 31 December 2009)</b> Nil	£	-
		Total:	<b>£ -</b>
	<b>Debits (1 December 2009 to 31 December 2009):</b>		
01-Dec	Clerk's Salary (November)	£	255.16
02-Dec	Office Expenses (October)	£	11.54
09-Dec	TimberTack Bench	£	135.00
22-Dec	St George's PCC	£	500.00
23-Dec	S Rimmer (Bulbs)	£	79.99
		Total:	<b>£ 981.69</b>
	<b>Balance at 31 December 2009:</b>		<b>£ 883.15</b>
	<b>Credits (1 January 2010 to 20 January 2010)</b> Nil	£	-
		Total:	<b>£ -</b>
	<b>Debits (1 January 2010 to 20 January 2010):</b>		

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04-Jan	Clerk's Salary (December)		£ 255.16
		Total:	£ 255.16

**Balance at 20 January 2010:**

**£ 627.99**

**Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement  
30-Sep-09

£ 34,348.39

**Credits**

09-Oct	Interest		£ 1.42
09-Nov	Interest		£ 1.45
09-Dec	Interest		£ 1.36
09-Jan	Interest		£ 1.30
			<b>£ 5.53</b>

**Debits**

22-Oct	Transfer to A/C 2149025		£ 500.00
26-Nov	Transfer to A/C 2149025		£ 1,500.00
			<b>£ 2,000.00</b>

Total: **£ 32,353.92**

**Balance at 20 January 2010:**

**£ 32,353.92**

**Total Balance in hand at 20 January 2010:**

**£ 33,237.07**

**Payments to be authorised (20 January 2010).**

Clerks Salary (January 2010)		£ 255.16
Office Expenses (November 2009)		£ 30.06
Office Expenses (December 2009)		£ 21.31
Devizes Building Supplies (Memorial Bench)		£ 58.74
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ 365.27</b>

**Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (20 January 2010).**

None		£ -
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ -</b>

b. The Clerk presented details of the Proposed Budget for FY2010/2011. The Council noted the Proposed Budget for FY2010/2011 and, following a discussion, resolved unanimously to adopt it and to request a precept of £7,500. A copy of the agreed Budget is appended to these minutes.

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

**10. Environment.**

a. Councillors reported that there was a collapsed drain in the High Street and that water was unable to flow along it beyond No. 11 High Street causing flooding in the vicinity. The Clerk was requested to contact Wiltshire Council to ask that remedial action is taken.

b. The Clerk stated that he is awaiting a response from Cllr. Seed in respect of acquiring land for allotments.

c. The plinth for the Memorial Bench had now been completed but the recent bad weather had frustrated attempts to complete this project.

d. The Clerk reported that the Melksham Community Area Board had made a grant of £249

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Clerk to Semington Parish Council

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towards the Litter Bin at Littlemarsh. He stated that he would now place an order for the bin and that he would contact Roy McDine and Wiltshire Council to agree the installation arrangements.

## 11. Semington Website.

This Agenda item was deferred until the next meeting.

## 12. Wiltshire Racial Equality Council.

Councillors reported that they have been unable to acquire a copy of the WREC Annual Report but understood that Cllr. Seed was attempting to get a copy on its behalf. The decision whether to make representations in the light of the reported comments in the WREC Annual Report was deferred until a copy of the report had been obtained.

## 13. Community Area/Area Boards.

a. Cllr. Bowyer stated that he had attended the recent meeting of the Melksham Community Area Board Meeting. He added that there was nothing specific to report except that the grant application from the Parish Council had been approved – as previously reported.

b. The Council agreed that the Area Board must apply pressure to Wiltshire Council for it to provide official Traveller sites in the County.

## 14. Tennis Court.

Councillors reported that this facility was in good order.

## 15. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

The Clerk reported the following:

- WC – Town and Council Election Costs & Appointment Procedure.
- WC – Interim Change to Planning Scheme of Delegation to Officers.
- Melksham Town Council Reception invitation – 5 March.

Cllr. Smyth reported that he, too, had been invited to the Melksham Town Council reception. He handed the invitation to Cllr. Bowyer. The Council indicated that it would pay for the invitation (£30) if Cllr. Bowyer attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Oglesby stated that he had been invited to a Civic Dinner and Dance on 19 March being held on behalf of Trowbridge Town Council.

Cllr. Smyth advised councilors that he had been informed that electrical work being undertaken at the Turnpike, apparently in support of the construction of the Affordable Homes' will result in local power cuts.

## 16. Date of the next meeting.

To note the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting:      Wednesday 24 February 2010.

The meeting concluded at 10.10 pm.

R Oglesby  
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

24 February 2010.

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Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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## Agreed Budget FY2010/2011

ITEM (Description)	Budget FY09/10 Agreed	Actuals FY09/10 31-Dec-10 (Revised)	Estimated FY09/10 31-Mar-10 (Revised)	Proposed Budget FY2010/11
<b><u>Income:</u></b>				
C/F from Lloyds TSB Bank A/Cs:	4132	2690	2690	<b>4047</b>
Precept	7500	7500	7500	<b>7500</b>
Lloyds A/C 7754288 (Ex. St Georges Fund)	20	11	5	<b>5</b>
Lloyds A/C 2149025	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
VAT Reclaim	0	0	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>
ROMAT Donation	0	210	210	<b>0</b>
Tennis Court Maintenance Fund				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11652</b>	<b>10411</b>	<b>10426</b>	<b>11588</b>
<b><u>Expenditure:</u></b>				
Clerk Salary	3121	<b>2296</b>	3060	<b>3125</b>
Expenses	425	<b>294</b>	400	<b>425</b>
Office Allowance	125	125	125	<b>125</b>
Tennis Court Insurance	100	0	0	<b>0</b>
Solicitors Fees	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Chairman	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Hire Hall	500	400	400	<b>500</b>
Audit	275	238	238	<b>275</b>
Subscriptions	100	72	72	<b>100</b>
Insurance	600	584	584	<b>650</b>
Community (Section 137)	2500	<b>1067</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>2500</b>
Elections	2500	0	<b>0</b>	<b>2500</b>
Training	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Misc.	100	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>10346</b>	<b>5076</b>	<b>6379</b>	<b>10200</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>11652</b>	<b>10411</b>	<b>10426</b>	<b>11588</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>10346</b>	<b>5076</b>	<b>6379</b>	<b>10200</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>1306</b>	<b>5335</b>	<b>4047</b>	<b>1388</b>