

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 February 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, P Vooght and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

PC Emily Thomas attended (part-time).

There was one member of the public present.

1. Declaration of Interests.

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

2. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillors B Smyth and Colin Wade and from Wiltshire Council, Councillor Seed.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20 January 2010.

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 27 January 2010.

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

5. Adjournment.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for members of the public present to raise any points of interest on any other matter.

The Meeting then re-convened.

6. Neighbourhood Policing.

PC Thomas stated that there were no specific matters to report in respect of Semington. She added that there had been burglaries at Worton and Seend and that Melksham was being targeted by a 'professional' gang. She commented that she would 'chase up' the white lining of the canal bridge.

The Chairman reported that parishioners had complained that the travellers' dogs were proving to be a nuisance with reports of them running loose, worrying sheep and killing chickens, attacking mourners at the Crematorium and running into the A350 and A361 roads with the potential of causing a serious accident. PC Thomas stated that she would contact the Dog Warden and the RSPCA because the dogs appeared not to be under control and, if necessary, she would also speak directly to the travellers.

The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council Dog Warden expressing this concern expressed by parishioners and to ask to be kept informed of any action taken.

Cllr. Rimmer enquired whether chickens qualified as 'livestock' for the purposes of the owner taking action to protect them.

Clerk's Note.

PC Thomas confirmed (25/2/10) that poultry (including chickens) is classified as 'livestock' and thereby enjoy the same protection as sheep.

Cllr. Dobbyn expressed concern at the speed of traffic along the High Street and enquired whether

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Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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any effective action can be taken to deter motorists from speeding. A variety of measures was discussed but the Council thought it unlikely that the small volume of traffic along the High Street would justify such traffic calming measures. PC Thomas offered to speak to Wiltshire Council about the problem.

7. Planning.

a. To note the status of the following Planning Applications:

09/03542/FUL Motel Field 'Care Village' **Pending.**

The Chairman stated that Cllr. Seed had contacted him and had indicated that the plans for this development had now been changed to include a larger green space between the High Street and the development, more parking for the shop, a Bowling Green and a provision for the Village Hall improvements under a s106 Agreement.

The Clerk stated that he had attempted to obtain details of these changes so that they could be discussed at the Parish Council meeting this evening to enable a 'view' to be expressed to Cllr. Seed, but he had been unsuccessful. Nevertheless, he would continue to press Cllr. Seed and Wiltshire Council for this information.

09/03469 Land west of West Wilts Crematorium Playing Field **Pending.**

Clerk's Note.

The comments from the Parish Council have already been submitted to Wiltshire Council as per Planning Meeting held on 27 January 2010. Cllr. Lockwood declared a 'personal interest' in this matter and remained for this discussion but took no part in any voting.

Cllr. Lockwood reported that there is to be a meeting with West Wiltshire Crematorium on 1 March 2010 to progress this matter. He added that the 'change of use' (i.e. the Playing Field development) relates only to half the field and that the boundary line will need to be delineated. The Chairman stated that he had learned from Cllr. Seed following discussions with Wiltshire Council officers that it was more likely that grant aid would be forthcoming if the lease from West Wiltshire Crematorium for the use of the land by the Sports' club were in the name of the Parish Council. Cllr. Lockwood confirmed that the West Wilts Crematorium was prepared to grant a lease for the required period of ten to fifteen years and appeared not to be prescriptive regarding the leaseholder. Cllr. Oglesby stated that if the Parish Council were the leaseholder then it would automatically 'sub-let' the Playing Field to the Sports' Club. Cllr. Dobbyn commented that the Sports' Club should become a registered charity in order to gain certain benefits that would be advantageous to the Sports' Club when raising funds or applying for grants. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council to seek clarification of the advice given relating to the 'preferred' leaseholder when applying for grant aid in order to improve the chances of success. Cllr. Lockwood confirmed that the Application Form for the 'Performance Grant' had been completed and that he was consulting interested parties to ensure that the application fully stated the case for grant aid before formally submitting it.

The Chairman proposed that in order to facilitate the provision of grant aid, the Parish Council would, in principle, agree to become the primary leaseholder, subject to the clarification and acceptance by the Council of the various legal issues relating to leasehold. The Council voted unanimously in support of this proposal. Cllr. Lockwood did not vote.

b. The Parish Council considered the following Planning Application and agreed to send the comments to Wiltshire Council as shown:

10/00277/FUL 14 Highfield Close Extension **NEW.**

The Parish Council had no objections to this proposed development.

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- c. There were no planning applications received after 17 February 2010.
- d. There were no other planning or planning related matter raised.

8. Highways.

The Council noted that the Canal Bridge white lining is still outstanding and that PC Thomas had offered to progress this matter.

Councillors remarked that some local roads have serious potholes that need attention and that some pathways are equally as bad. Cllr. Robinson identified the area near to the Ragged Smock Memorial Bench as needing attention and Cllr. Bowyer identified the area outside Highfield House.

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

a. Cllr. Bowyer stated that two projects had been suggested to him, namely a Bus Shelter opposite to the Somerset Arms where the ‘Bus Clearway’ had been marked on the road surface and a Bench seat in the High Street. Councillors observed that a new Bus Shelter in the position proposed had been investigated previously and for various reasons it had proved impractical. Notwithstanding this, the Clerk was asked to contact Wiltshire Council to enquire whether a Bus Shelter opposite to the public house was now feasible. Cllr. Bowyer was asked to provide details of its exact location to the Clerk

b. The following projects were reviewed, as shown:

Sports/Recreation Field.

- This project was addressed at Agenda item 7a.

Village Hall Improvements

- Cllr. Vooght stated that an architect had been engaged to draw up a scheme, or schemes, for improving the toilet facilities, the kitchen facilities and for installing a new roof.

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

- There was nothing to report. The Clerk was asked to pursue this matter with Cllr. Seed who had agreed to progress this matter with Wiltshire Council.

10. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 24 February 2010

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

	Bank Statement 31-Dec-09	£	883.15
	Total:	£	883.15
Credits (1 January 2010 to 31 January 2010):			
14-Jan	Wiltshire Council Grant	£	249.00
	Total:	£	249.00
Debits (1 January 2010 to 31 January 2010):			
STO	Clerk's Salary (December)	£	255.16
	Office Expensrs (November)	£	30.06
	Office Expenses (December)	£	21.31
	Devizes Building Supplies	£	58.74
	Total:	£	365.27

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Balance at 31 January 2010: £ 766.88

Credits (1 February 2010 to 24 February 2010)

Nil

Total: £ -

Debits (1 February 2010 to 24 February 2010):

01-Feb Clerk's Salary (January) £ 255.16
Total: £ 255.16

Balance at 24 February 2010: £ 511.72

Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement
31-Dec-09

£ 32,352.62

Credits

09-Jan Interest £ 1.35
09-Feb Interest £ 1.35
£ 2.70

Debits

None £ -
£ -

Total: £ 32,355.32

Balance at 24 February 2010: £ 32,355.32

Total Balance in hand at 24 February 2010: £ 32,867.04

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Payments to be authorised (24 February 2010).

Clerks Salary (February 2010) £ 255.16
Office Expenses (January) £ 43.09
Memorial Bench Anchor £ 14.32
TOTAL: £ 312.57

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (24 February 2010).

Wiltshire Air Ambulance TBA
TOTAL: £ -

- b. The Council resolved unanimously to make a donation of £100 to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. The Council resolved to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above.

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11. Environment.

- a. There were no specific matters reported.
- b. The Council noted the request for information on Grit Bin locations and Cllr. Bowyer agreed to annotate the Parish plan provided with the exact location of existing Grit Bins (and their condition in terms of structural integrity and whether they are empty or full) and to indicate possible locations for additional ones.
- c. The Council decided not to enter the Best Kept Village Competition 2010 but indicated an intention to enter in 2011.
- d. There was nothing to report in respect of allotments. The Clerk was asked to pursue this matter with Cllr. Seed who had agreed to progress this matter with Wiltshire Council.
- e. The Council noted that the Memorial Bench had now been installed and it expressed its thanks to Cllr. Robinson who had taken the lead in this matter. Notwithstanding this, councillors reported that there was a prevailing view that the seat should be facing in a different direction – even though the Council had carefully considered and had agreed the present orientation. Cllr. Robinson agreed to make the necessary modifications to the hardstanding and to the orientation of the Bench.
- f. The Clerk reported that the Litter Bin for Littlemarsh had been ordered and that it would be delivered directly to Mr Roy McDine who would arrange to install it. The Clerk added that Wiltshire Council had agreed to empty the bin on a regular basis.

12. Semington Website.

This Agenda item was deferred until the next meeting.

13. Wiltshire Racial Equality Council.

The clerk was asked to request a copy of the latest published Annual Report of the Wiltshire Racial Equality Council.

14. Community Area/Area Boards.

- a. There were no matters reported that related directly to Semington arising from the Community Area/Area Board Meetings.
- b. There were no specific matters that councillors wished to refer to the Community Area Board.

15. Tennis Court.

Cllr. Lockwood reported that the Tennis Court was in good order.

16. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

The Clerk advised the Council of the following:

- WC/Swindon – Draft Waste Site Allocations DPD.

Cllr. Oglesby proposed that members of the public be excluded from the Parish Council meeting at this point because of the confidential nature of the business to be addressed. The Council resolved unanimously to adopt this resolution.

Clerk's Note.

This Agenda item was minuted separately.

17. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 24 March 2010.

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The meeting concluded at 9.45 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

24 March 2010.