

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2010 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present.

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

PCSO Rose Baldock attended (part-time).

There was one member of the public present (part-time).

1. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared in accordance with the Revised Model Code of Conduct.

2. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillors K Lockwood and from Wiltshire Council, Councillor Seed.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 24 February 2010.

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

4. 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.

5. Neighbourhood Policing.

PCSO Baldock stated that there were no specific matters to report in respect of Semington.

Cllr. Oglesby reported that at the Melksham Area Board meeting, Inspector Cullop has stated that the overall crime rate in the area was 5.3% lower than the target set (with 67 fewer victims) and overall detections have increased to 30.6%. However, one continuing concern was dwelling house burglaries – although as a result of deploying additional resources a local 17 year old youth has been arrested and has admitted committing some thirty-five of these burglaries. Inspector Cullop had commented that the main common factor of these burglaries was householders leaving their premises insecure.

Cllr. Oglesby was reassured by PCSO Baldock that the issues with the travellers' dogs had now been addressed.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that new Neighbourhood Watch signs are required.

6. Planning.

a. The Council noted the status of the following Planning Applications:

W/09/03542/FUL	Motel Field	'Care Village'	Pending.
W/09/03469	Land west of West Wilts Crematorium	Playing Field	Permission.
W10/00277/FUL	14 Highfield Close	Extension	Permission.

b. There were no planning applications received after 18 March 2010.

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

c. Cllr. Vooght declared a personal interest in the matter of planning application W/09/03542/FUL and the possibility of a s106 Agreement. He took no part in the voting.

The Council discussed planning application W/09/03542/FUL and the offer by the developer to enter into a s106 agreement such that the Village Hall could benefit from improved facilities. There ensued a lengthy discussion on the nature and cost of the proposed improvements to the Village Hall which were to include the provision of disabled toilets and a new roof. Cllr. Vooght presented plans for the disabled toilets, drawn up by the architect and accompanied by a written quotation for the likely cost of the work. Cllr. Vooght stated that the overall cost of the total 'improvement package' is in the order of £130,000 which councilors observed was much more than the current s106 offer from the developer. Cllr. Smyth stated that one beneficiary of the 'improved' Village Hall would be the Care Home because the Care Home residents would be able to also enjoy these facilities and, as such, the developer may well be inclined to contribute substantially more than is currently on offer.

Cllr. Oglesby stated that his particular concern was that Wiltshire Council may enter into a s106 agreement with the developer without consulting the Parish Council – as happened with the St George's Hospital development – and accept a 'token' s106 sum that bore no relationship to the actual cost of the proposed Village Hall works. Following a further discussion, the Parish Council resolved that the Clerk is to write to Wiltshire Council, copy to the developer, stating the Council's view of an 'acceptable' sum of money for the s106 Agreement. The letter is to emphasize that written quotations have now been received for the intended Village Hall improvements and that these improvements are designed to benefit all residents of Semington, including those in the Care Home. The Clerk was asked by Cllr. Smyth to note the comments made at the January Parish Council meeting in relation to the 'conditions' attached to the Parish Council support for the Care Home development and to address the relevant ones in his letter to Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Rimmer stressed that there was more negotiation to be undertaken with the developer to secure an improved offer. Notwithstanding this, Cllrs. Rimmer and Dobbyn, supported by Cllr. Vooght stated that other sources of funding will also be sought in order to make up for any shortfall in the s106 Agreement should that be necessary.

The Council noted the report of the proceedings of the Devizes Community Area Partnership in the Devizes Gazette and Herald relating to the provision of a travellers' site. The report commented that Wiltshire Council is to launch a consultation process leading to the setting up of a travellers' site in the Devizes Area. It stated that a 'Drop-in' event with a display raising awareness of cultural issues surrounding gypsies and travellers, as well as the process of identifying possible sites is to take place at the Corn Exchange, Devizes on 11 May 2010. The Parish Council was encouraged to learn that Wiltshire Council was now taking action to identify such sites and the Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council accordingly.

7. Highways.

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Wiltshire Council to invite its views about the installation of a new Bus Shelter opposite to The Somerset Arms, but had not yet received a reply.

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

- a. There were no new projects to report.
- b. The following projects were reviewed, as shown:

Sports/Recreation Field.

- The Council noted that planning permission had been granted for the creation of a Sports' Field on the site west of the crematorium and that some seventeen conditions accompanied that permission. The Chairman reported that Cllr. Lockwood was at the Melksham Area Board meeting that evening where the Performance Reward Grant application towards the cost of the

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

development of the Sports' Field is to be discussed. He added that if this Grant application is successful it would ensure that the future of this project is almost certainly assured, although other funding will still need to be attracted.

There was a discussion regarding the payment of invoices relating to the Sports' Field development. The Clerk stated that he would consider the matter and advise accordingly.

Clerk's Note.

Subject to the Council agreeing a specific donation to be made to the Football Club (the sponsors of the Sports' Field Development) from the St George's Fund it would be possible for the Council to agree to purchase specific items of equipment/specific facilities related to 'sporting activities' and for those accounts to be presented to the Parish Council for payment. Such invoices would require to be made out to Semington Parish Council. In such circumstances, the VAT could be reclaimed.

Village Hall Improvements

- This was addressed under Agenda item 6c.

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

- The Clerk stated that he had been in contact recently with Cllr. Seed who stated that he was still awaiting developments but would speak directly to the Wiltshire Council Cabinet member concerned

9. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 24 March 2010

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 31-Jan-10		£	825.62
	Total:	£	825.62
Credits (1 February 2010 to 28 February 2010):		£	-
	Total:	£	-
Debits (1 February 2010 to 28 February 2010):			
STO	Clerk's Salary (January)	£	255.16
	Office Expenses (January)	£	43.09
	Devizes Building Supplies	£	58.74
	Memorial Seat Anchor	£	14.32
	Wiltshire Air Ambulance Donation	£	100.00
	Total:	£	471.31
Balance at 28 February 2010:		£	354.31
Credits (1 March 2010 to 24 March 2010)			
	Nil	£	-
	Total:	£	-
Debits (1 March 2010 to 24 March 2010):			
01-Mar	Clerk's Salary (February)	£	255.16

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Total:	£	255.16
Balance at 24 March 2010:		£	99.15
<u>Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288</u>			
Bank Statement		£	32,352.62
31-Dec-09			
Credits			
09-Jan	Interest	£	1.35
09-Feb	Interest	£	1.35
09-Jan	Interest	£	1.35
		£	4.05
Debits			
	None	£	-
		£	-
	Total:	£	32,356.67
Balance at 24 March 2010:		£	32,356.67
Total Balance in hand at 24 March 2010:		£	32,455.82

Semington Parish Council

Payments to be authorised (24 March 2010).

Clerks Salary (March 2010)	£	255.16
Clerk's Back Pay (1/4/09 to 31/3/10)	£	39.67
Memorial Bench Sundries	£	37.49
Office Expenses (February)	£	9.17
TOTAL:	£	341.49

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

Wiltshire Air Ambulance	TBA
TOTAL:	£ -

b. The Council noted the Back Pay due to the Clerk because of the Final NALC/SLCC National Pay Award Agreement and agreed its payment. The Council also agreed to pay the invoice submitted by Cllr. Robinson in respect of the additional materials required to install the Memorial Bench.

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

10. Environment.

a. There were no specific matters reported.

b. Cllr. Bowyer confirmed that he had undertaken the Grit Bin Survey. He stated that there is only one Grit Bin in the Parish now, the others have disintegrated and disappeared; the remaining one is on the far side of the canal bridge, in a precarious position on the bank side. He recommended that this Grit Bin is relocated at the front wall of the Village Hall under the police post-box and that two more Grit Bins (to replace the disintegrated ones) are located as follows:

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- At the bottom of St Georges Road where it joins the High Street.
- At the bottom of Pound Lane where it joins the High Street.

The Council endorsed this recommendation and Cllr. Bowyer was asked to annotate the Parish Map accordingly and to send the Survey response to Wiltshire Council.

c. There was nothing to report in respect of allotments. The Clerk commented that this was a matter also being addressed by Cllr. Seed.

d. Cllr. Robinson confirmed that the Memorial Bench had now been installed in accordance with the latest instructions. The Council thanked him for his unremitting efforts in installing this Bench. Cllr. Bowyer tabled the proposed wording for the memorial plaque to be affixed to the Memorial Bench. Cllr. Bowyer was authorised by the Council to decide on the exact wording, seeking advice as necessary and it authorised him to spend a maximum of £100 on the purchase of a brass plaque and the engraving.

e. The Clerk reported that the Litter Bin for Littlemarsh had been ordered. There had been some delay because the order had not specified a particular colour of Litter Bin. He stated that after an exchange of correspondence with Mr McDine at Littlemarsh the colour chosen was green with a gold band.

11. Semington Website.

Website: webmaster@semington-village.co.uk

a. The Chairman invited Mr Stuart Taylor, the Semington Website webmaster, to join the Council in its discussions on how best to develop the current website. Mr Taylor explained that hitherto he had developed the website as a private venture and had not sought funding for it. The Council stated that it appreciated the considerable work that Mr Taylor had undertaken, free of charge, on behalf of the village and since it hosts Parish Council information and information from other non-profit making organisations from the village it felt that it was reasonable to make a donation to Mr Taylor for his continued work. In return, the Chairman added, the Council would seek an assurance that Parish Council Agendas, Minutes, and notice of local charity/fund - raising events would be displayed on the website in a timely manner. Mr Taylor stated that this request would be met. The Council emphasized that it was not seeking ownership, or control, of the website; these would remain with Mr Taylor. There ensued a discussion as to how the requirements of the Parish Council in respect of website content were to be defined. The Council decided, by a majority, to write a specification of requirements for the website that accurately reflected the needs of the Council and to pass this specification to Mr Taylor for him to provide a quotation for undertaking this work on an annual basis. Cllr. Smyth agreed to undertake this task on behalf of the Council.

b. A decision on the remuneration for the management of the website was deferred until the next meeting.

12. Wiltshire Racial Equality Council.

The Clerk stated that despite making a request to the Wiltshire Racial Equality Council, he had not received a copy of the latest published Annual Report. The Clerk was asked to press the WREC for this Report.

13. Community Area/Area Boards.

a. The only matters reported that related to Semington arising from the Melksham Community Area/Area Board Meetings were the report from Wiltshire Police, Inspector Cullop (see Para 5 above) and the Sports' Field Performance Reward Grant (see Para 8b above).

b. There were no specific matters that councillors wished to refer to the Community Area

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Board.

14. Tennis Court.

It was reported that the Tennis Court was in good order.

15. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

The Clerk advised the Council of the following:

- WC Flood Fair. Cllr. Oglesby agreed to complete and to return the Flood Questionnaire.

16. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 21 April 2010.

The meeting concluded at 10.00 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

21 April 2010.