

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2010 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present.

Councillor R Oglesby (Chairman) and Councillors P Bowyer, F Dobbyn, K Lockwood, R Robinson, B Smyth, P Vooght, and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

PCSO Rose Baldock attended (part-time).

There were no members of the public present.

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 S Rimmer and C Wade.

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

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

4. Adjournment.

There were no members of the public present and the Chairman decided to continue the meeting without an adjournment.

5. Neighbourhood Policing.

PCSO Baldock stated that there were no specific matters to report in respect of Semington. She commented that a parishioner had complained of the speed of traffic past the school and inconsiderate parking there.

Cllr. Lockwood stated that there are still motorists flouting the 'No Entry' signs at the end of the village and Cllr. Dobbyn added that a camera at that point could prove both a deterrent and a possible source of income. Cllr. Lockwood added that a flashing 'Speed Indicator Device' at Bowerhill appeared to be very effective in reducing the speed of traffic and thought should be given to installing one in the High Street.

Cllr. Dobbyn stated that the speed of some vehicles through the village was very high and some effective traffic calming measure – such as that employed at Stratton-on-the-Fosse should be installed.

PCSO Baldock stated that she would investigate the possibility of a 'Metrocount' traffic survey being undertaken in Semington because that would provide a quantitative measure of traffic speeds.

6. Planning.

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

09/03542/FUL	Motel Field	'Care Village'	Pending Permission
10/00277/FUL	14 Highfield Close	Extension	

b. There were no planning applications received after 15 April 2010.

c. The Clerk reported that he had written to Wiltshire Council in relation to a s106 Agreement being reached in connection with the proposed Care Village development and that Wiltshire Council had replied. He added that copies of this correspondence had been sent to all councilors.

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7. Gypsy and Traveller Issues and General Approach Consultation.

The Clerk stated that he had sent all councillors the information relating to the 'Wiltshire Local Development Framework – Gypsy and Traveller Issues and General Approach Consultation' and he added that it was important that the views of Semington Parish Council are communicated to Wiltshire Council no later than the required date of 4 June 2010. He requested that each councillor study the documentation – especially the 'Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document, Issues and General Approach Consultation Document' that is available at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gypsyandtravellersdpd or is available at the main Council offices in Chippenham, Devizes, Salisbury and Trowbridge and in the libraries.

The Clerk commented that views are sought on all aspects of the 'Issues and General Approach' but in particular to:

- Have the accommodation needs of the travelling community been correctly identified? (Section 5)
- Are there any issues that have not been discussed? (Section 6)
- Do you agree with the proposed site search methodology? (Section 7)
- What makes a good location for new traveller sites?

There ensued a general discussion on the various concerns of the Parish Council, including whether the criteria for the selection of sites was correct or whether the needs of the local, existing, community should be a priority.

The Council agreed to study the relevant documents and for each councillor to sent their individual comments to the Clerk. The Clerk stated that he would collate these comments and would sent consolidated comments to all councillors prior to the next Council meeting. He added that the next Council meeting would enable the Council to decide the exact comments to be sent to Wiltshire Council.

Councillors Bowyer, Robinson and Dobbyn expressed their intention to visit the 'Drop-in' event at Devizes on 11 May 2010.

8. Highways.

a. The Clerk gave copies of the Community Speed Watch information leaflet to all councillors. There followed a discussion on the benefits, or otherwise, of championing such a scheme for Semington. The Council resolved to take no action.

b. The Clerk confirmed that he had received a reply from Wiltshire Council to his letter inviting views about the installation of a new Bus Shelter opposite to The Somerset Arms. Wiltshire Council had proposed a site meeting. Cllr. Bowyer stated that he would attend a site meeting and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

9. 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.

Cllr. Lockwood stated that following the granting of planning permission, development of the land as a sports' Field is continuing and that equipment is gradually being acquired. He commented that one or two matters associated with the conditions attached to the planning permission are currently being addressed. He added that the Grant application has been made and is pending consideration by Wiltshire Council, having been supported by the Melksham Community Area Board.

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Village Hall Improvements

Cllr. Vooght stated that a meeting has been arranged with the architect and a local builder for Tuesday 27 April in order to 'flesh out' the outline plans for the Village Hall improvements. Cllr. Oglesby enquired whether the proposed development could be 'phased'. Cllr. Vooght replied that the first step was to agree the exact nature of the development before planning how the work was to be undertaken and that that this was the main purpose of the meeting next Tuesday.

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

The Council expressed its frustration and dissatisfaction at the delay in progressing this matter. The Clerk was asked to take urgent steps to resolve the matter. The Council was insistent that Wiltshire Council must reinstate this area to its original condition, that is with the previously removed play equipment returned. Thereafter, the Council stated that it would wish to consider how to manage and maintain that Play Area in the future.

10. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 21 April 2010

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

	Bank Statement 28-Feb-10	£	511.72
		Total:	£ 511.72
25-Mar	Credits (1 March 2010 to 31 March 2010):		
	Transfer from A/C 07754288	£	1,000.00
		Total:	£ 1,000.00
	Debits (1 March 2010 to 31 March 2010):		
STO	Clerk's Salary (February)	£	255.16
	Office Expenses (January)	£	43.09
	Memorial Seat Anchor	£	14.32
	Wiltshire Air Ambulance Donation	£	100.00
	Office Expenses (February)	£	9.17
	Clerk's Back Pay (1/4/09 to 31/3/10)	£	39.67
	Memorial Seat Anchor/Ballast	£	37.49
		Total:	£ 498.90
	Balance at 31 March 2010:		£ 1,012.82
	Credits (1 April 2010 to 21 April 2010)		
	Nil	£	-
		Total:	£ -
	Debits (1 April 2010 to 21 April 2010):		
01-Apr	Clerk's Salary (March)	£	255.16
		Total:	£ 255.16
	Balance at 21 April 2010:		£ 757.66

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Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 31-Dec-09 £ 32,352.62

Credits

11-Jan	Interest	£ 1.46
09-Feb	Interest	£ 1.29
09-Mar	Interest	£ 1.24
		£ 3.99

Debits

25-Mar	Transfer to A/C 2149025	£ 1,000.00
		£ 1,000.00

Total: **£ 31,356.61**

Balance at 21 April 2010:

£ 31,356.61

Total Balance in hand at 21 April 2010:

£ 32,114.27

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Payments to be authorised (21 April 2010).

Clerks Salary (April 2010)	£ 258.46
Office Expenses (March)	£ 28.00
Wybone (Waste Bin)	£ 319.67
Aon (Allianz) Insurance Premium	£ 624.34
TOTAL:	£ 1,230.47

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (21 April 2010).

TOTAL: **£ -**

The Clerk stated that a new Insurance Premium quotation was to be received from Aon Allianz that properly reflected the Semington population number of 830 and this would affect the Public Liability element of the insurance and, thereby, the premium. He stated that the cheque for Aon Allianz is not to be signed.

The Clerk added that there were two further payments due; one to Cllr. Bowyer of £32.50 for the Memorial Bench plaque and an outstanding one for £104.01 to Devizes Building Supplies Ltd for supplies associated with installing the Memorial Bench.

The Clerk concluded his report by stating that he had completed the Semington Parish Council Annual Financial Return for FY2009/2010 and that everything was in order.

b. The Council decide to postpone agreeing to renew the Insurance Policy until the next meeting.

c. The Council decided not to make a donation to the Sports' / Football Club (Sports' Field Development) at this meeting and to defer the decision to a subsequent meeting. The Council agreed that the correct procedures are to be adopted to enable a VAT refund to be claimed on

22 April 2010

Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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purchases made by the Parish Council and donated to the Sports/Football Club.

d. The Council resolved to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above including those to Cllr. Bowyer and to Devizes Building Supplies Ltd..

11. Environment.

a. Cllr. Smyth reported that the hedge from a parishioner's property was overhanging the footpath next to the Village Hall and that it was a safety hazard. Cllr. Vooght agreed to investigate this, and another complaint about overhanging vegetation, and to advise the Clerk of the names or addresses of the parishioners concerned to enable a 'polite' letter to be sent asking the parishioners to take action.

Cllr. Lockwood stated that the grass on the roundabout required mowing. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council.

The Clerk confirmed that the new Litter Bin had now been delivered and installed at Littlemarsh and that Wiltshire Council had agreed to empty it regularly.

b. The Clerk stated that correspondence sent to the Parish Council in August 2009 had confirmed that Wiltshire Council did not own any land in Semington suitable for allotment gardens. Cllr. Smyth stated that a small parcel of land on the old railway track by Melksham Police Station was being used as an allotment garden as a result, so he believed, of a private arrangement with the landowner. The Council asked Cllr. Smyth to provide details to the Clerk who was asked to write to the landowner and to enquire whether the Parish Council could rent an additional plot for use by parishioners as an allotment garden. Cllr. Lockwood commented that he also knew of another area being used as an allotment and that he would make enquiries and would pass the details to the Clerk.

c. Cllr. Bowyer confirmed that the Memorial Bench brass plaque had been made and handed it round to all councillors for them to examine. Cllr. Bowyer was thanked for obtaining this plaque. Cllr. Bowyer added that he would ensure that Mrs. Firmager was content with the wording and he would then attach it to the seat. The Chairman stated that there should be an 'Opening Ceremony' for the Memorial Bench, although its exact nature led to some wild speculation.

Cllr. Robinson stated that the area around the Memorial Bench was to be landscaped.

d. The Clerk and councillors reported that they had received many compliments regarding the planting scheme in the village and that it had transformed the appearance of the village for the better. Councillors stated that the planting scheme would be extended to Littlemarsh once the 'bundling' had been undertaken in that area. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council requesting that the 'bundling' is undertaken without any further delay.

12. Semington Website.

Website: webmaster@semington-village.co.uk

a. Cllr. Smyth presented a draft specification for the requirements of the Parish Council in respect of the website content. Councillors agreed that this draft specification addressed most of the requirements but that it should include information from St George's School, St George's Church and information relating to other local events. Cllr. Smyth agreed to amend the draft specification and to send the amended copy to the Clerk who would write formally to the web master, Stuart Taylor, with a copy of the requirements.

b. The Council resolved to remunerate the web master, Stuart Taylor, at the rate of £240 per year, that is £20 monthly, payable quarterly in arrears with effect from 1 April 2010. The Clerk was asked to write formally to Mr Taylor along these lines.

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13. Wiltshire Racial Equality Council.

The Clerk was asked to press the WREC for this Report and to write to the Charity Commissioners stating the difficulty of obtaining information from the WREC and to enlist their assistance in obtaining a reply.

14. Community Area/Area Boards.

a. Any matters that related to Semington arising from the Melksham Community Area/Area Board Meeting were reported at the last Parish Council meeting.

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

15. Tennis Court.

It was reported that the Tennis Court was in good order. Cllr. Vooght stated that he would attend to the bench at the Tennis Court and will give it a coat of paint.

16. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

The Clerk stated that he intended taking his annual leave in August this year, unlike other years when he had simply continued working. The Chairman stated that Wiltshire Council must be informed that any planning applications during that period should be sent to him directly.

17. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next meetings:

Annual Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 19 May 2010 at 8pm.

Ordinary Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 19 May 2010 at 8.30pm (approx).

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 12 May 2010 at 8pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.55 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

19 May 2010.