

DRAFT – UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Semington Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 12 May 2010 at 8 pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT:

Paul Bowyer, Chairman, Semington Parish Council and Chairman for the meeting.

Roger Coleman, Clerk.

The following Parish Councillors were present: K Lockwood, R Robinson, B Smyth, P Vooght and C Wade.

Wiltshire Councillor J Seed attended the meeting.

PCSO R Baldock attended the meeting (Part-time).

There were no other members of the public present.

1. Introduction and Apologies.

The Clerk, Roger Coleman opened the meeting by explaining the purpose of, and procedure for, a Parish Meeting.

The Chairman, Paul Bowyer, welcomed everyone to the meeting and he expressed his disappointment that the attendance was so low.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6 May 2009.

The Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council.

The Chairman presented his Annual Report of the Parish Council in which he described the activities of the Parish Council during the year.

A summary of his report and the topics addressed is attached at Annex A to these minutes.

4. Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2010.

The Clerk stated that he had balanced the accounts and had completed the Annual Return and all associated paperwork. He stated that the balance brought forward from FY2008/09 had been £30,536.94 and, allowing for the payments and receipts during the year, the balance carried forward at the end of FY2009/10, was £32,369.24. He added that the total receipts for the year were £7997.71, payments for the year totalled £6165.41 and the value of the fixed assets owned by the Council was £19988.48

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Of the balance £32,369.24 carried forward some £27,170.07 represented the legacy donation of the St George's Development Fund, that is:

St George's Developer Grant - £21,876.46.
Tennis Court Fund - £5293.61

leaving £5199.17 in the General Reserve Bank accounts.

Main Receipts in the year were:

Precept:	£7500
HMRC VAT Refund:	£21.00
ROMAT Donation:	£210.00
WC Grant (Litter Bin):	£249.00
Bank Interest:	£17.71

Main Payments in the year were:

Staff Costs:	£3101.59
Office Expenses:	£493.02
Donations:	£300 (Newsletter), £200 (St George's PCC), £150 (SPLASH), £100 (Wiltshire Air Ambulance).
Memorial Bench:	£245.55.
Village Bulb Planting:	£281.53.
Insurance/Subscriptions/Audit Fees:	£ 893.72
Hall Hire:	£400

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been completed and that the Internal Auditor had completed her audit and had signed off the Annual Return. He added that the Annual Return will be submitted to the Parish Council at the next meeting for approval and thereafter it will be sent to Mazars, the External Auditor.

5. Observations from Wiltshire Council Councillor Cllr. J Seed.

Cllr. Seed reported that the transfer of Semington, as part of the Electoral District of Summerham and Seend, from the Trowbridge Community Area to the Melksham Community Area had given rise to some difficulties initially, exacerbated by the lack of full consultation with the parishes involved. Notwithstanding this, he commented that the Melksham Community Area Board appears to be working well with the interests of Semington being fully recognised and he was hopeful that Semington parishioners also recognised the contributions that he and the Board had made on their behalf to secure the resolution of various issues. He added that

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he was taking a particular interest in planning matters and was very pleased that he had been successful in influencing Wiltshire Council to address the concerns of Semington Parish Council in respect of the Orders of St. John Care Trust 'Care Home' development. He observed that the Area Board had also made a grant for a Litter Bin at Littlemarsh and that it fully supported the Performance Reward Grant application for the Sports' Field at Semington – a development that had now been granted 'permission' for the proposed change of use.

He reported that parishes within Summerham and Seend will be invited to comment on the transfer to the Melksham Area Board now that a year has elapsed – in line with a promise made when the transfer occurred. Whilst he considered that it had worked well, he stated that it was important for the parishes to express their views.

He concluded his report by stating that on 24 May 2010 he will be surveying the Electoral District with the Wiltshire Council member responsible for 'transport' to review the public transport arrangements locally.

Cllr. Seed invited those present to raise any matters with him.

The Clerk asked Cllr. Seed to ensure that the regular bus service from Semington to Bath is maintained, as it is a valuable amenity for the village, especially for those who are elderly or frail and without transport of their own.

Neighbourhood Policing.

The Chairman invited PCSO Rose Baldock to comment on the activities of the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT).

PCSO Baldock stated that the NPT continues to be involved in a wide range of activities within the village and will continue to be represented at the Parish Council meetings where detailed reports are given, each month, of specific activities. She added that the 'metrocount' traffic survey equipment has now been installed in the High Street – following a request from the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Baldock for her report.

6. To consider resolutions of which written notice has been given.

No resolutions were submitted.

7. To consider other matters raised by those present.

A parishioner stated that he had noted in the Financial Report that the Parish Council assets amounted to nearly £20,000 and he requested details of those assets.

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The Clerk replied that the asset value is based on the latest insurance valuation and that the assets comprise two bus shelters and their bases, two noticeboards, two flower planters, a memorial bench and its base and a four-drawer filing cabinet.

9. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

10. Close.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman

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Annex A

Annual Report from the Parish Council - Year 2009 – 2010

Full Council (9 members) for whole year.

The following is a summary of some of the activities of the Parish Council on behalf of the parishioners of Semington:

Consideration of Planning Applications – Around 10 (nearly 20 last year).

- Orders of St John Care Trust – ‘Care’ Village Development.
(Special Planning Meeting – 27 January 2010)
Changes agreed – Village Green, Shop Facilities, s106 (£25,000),
Planning Permission granted.

St George’s Developer Grant - £21,876 (at 31/3/10)
Tennis Court Fund - £5294 (at 31/3/10).

Village Sports Field – Development underway (Field identified, Planning permission granted etc).

Travellers:

- General Concern – Traveller incursions etc
- Littleton Stables (Appeal allowed).
- Land next to the Crematorium.
- Littlemarsh – Site Visit by WC.

Neighbourhood Policing Team Activities (Tasking Meeting etc)

- PC Emily Thomas and PCSO Rose Baldock.

Village Environment/Expenditure:

- Bulb Planting in the Villagr.
- Flower Tubs Planting..
- St George’s PCC – Churchyard & Grass Cutting.
- St George’s PCC – Village Newsletter.
- Allotments.
- Wessex Close Play Equipment.
- Memorial Bench – Doug Firmager.

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- Littlemarsh Litter Bin.
- Grit Bins.

Donations/Subscriptions:

- Cloth Arts Trail.
- Community First..
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust .
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance.
- SPLASH.

Website Development.

Village Clean-Up – Litter Pick.

Parish Steward - Footpath Clearance/Brambles/Grass Cutting/Overgrown Hedges.

Highways issues:

- Bus Clearway.
- Speed of traffic through village.
- 'No Through Road' ignored.
- Parking at School.

Other Matters:

- Transfer of Summerham & Seend from Trowbridge Community Area to Melksham Community Area – without consultation!.
- New Wiltshire Council member – Cllr. Jonathon Seed.