

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 June 2010 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present.

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

PC Barry Dalton and PCSO Rose Baldock attended (part-time).

Wiltshire Council Councillor J Seed attended (part-time).

There were no members of the public present (part-time).

The Chairman opened the meeting by announcing that the Memorial Bench, erected in memory of Doug Firmager, had been inaugurated on Sunday 13 June 2010 in the presence of his widow, Gay Firmager, his son Michael Firmager and members of Semington Parish Council.

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 F Dobbyn, K Lockwood and S Rimmer.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 19 May 2010.

Under 'Present' (at the commencement of the minutes): Delete 'Rob'. Insert 'Ron'.
The minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 19 May 2010.

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

5. Adjournment.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for members of the public to raise any points of interest.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to give a report. Cllr. Seed gave the following report:

St George's School, Planning Application W/10/01209/REGS.

This planning application has been 'called in'.

2 Pound Close, Planning Application W/10/01227/OUT.

This planning application has been 'called-in'. Cllr. Seed stated that he would confirm the status of this application.

'Care Village', Planning Application W/09/03542/FUL.

This planning application is 'on hold' pending resolution of the issue relating to the availability and management of the proposed shop that forms part of the planning application.

Playing Field Grant.

A decision on whether or not to approve the grant is due to be made next week.

Wessex Close Play Area.

There had been a site meeting between Wiltshire Council officers and members of the Parish

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Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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Council. This site meeting confirmed that items of play equipment had been removed and had not replaced. Wiltshire Council had now informed Cllr. Seed that new equipment would now be installed. The Parish Council had expressed a wish for a Climbing Frame and a Roundabout to be installed and the Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council confirming this choice of equipment.

Melksham Community Area Board.

Cllr. Seed stated that following his insistence, Wiltshire Council had written to all Parish Councils in the Electoral District of Summerham and Seend to seek views on their membership of the Melksham Community Area Board. He explained the background to this request and invited councillors to comment. Councillors were generally favourable in their responses and the consensus view was that there are benefits in remaining within the Melksham Community Area.

The meeting then reconvened.

6. Neighbourhood Policing.

PCSO Baldock reported that she will continue to patrol the area near to the school to deter indiscriminate and inconsiderate parking. In answer to a question, she commented that the results of the Metrocount Traffic Survey are not yet available. She stated that there were no other significant matters to report.

PC Dalton introduced himself as one of the Melksham North Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Cllr. Vooght reported that there had been a car break-in at Church Street and Cllr. Wade commented that the contents of an oil storage tank had been stolen – just outside the parish boundary.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that tree foliage is obscuring the 'No Through Road' sign. The Clerk stated that he would report this to Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Oglesby observed that a different traffic flow system may be necessary near to Melksham Police Station where the 'old' road was currently blocked if there is to be a Marina development near to the canal – especially if canal barges need to be off-loaded.

7. Planning.

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

W/10/01226/FUL	2 Pound Close	Demolish existing extension. Erect 2 Storey Extension	PC Objections.
W/10/01208/FUL	2 The Knapps	Single Storey Extension to Front	Permission.
W/10/01209/REGS	St Georges School	New Hall and Classrooms etc	PC Support.
W/10/01277/FUL	Lansdowne	Replace Mobile Home with new Unit (Wheelchair Access)	Withdrawn.

b. The Council decided to send comments in respect of the following planning applications to Wiltshire Council as shown:

W/10/01227/OUT	2 Pound Close	Two Storey Detached Dwelling	NEW (Called-in)
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The Council objected to this proposed development on the grounds of bulk, scale, visual impact and highway considerations. It also decided that it was intrusive and overdevelopment of a garden site.

W/10/01736/FUL	Lansdowne	Change Section of Agricultural Area for Domestic use to install Septic Tank.	NEW
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The Council supported this proposed development if no further development, relating to domestic facilities, could take place.

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Clerk to Semington Parish Council

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- c. The Clerk reported that there were no planning applications received after 8 June 2010:
- d. The Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to comment on whether there had been any change to the planning laws relating to Gypsies and Travellers. Cllr. Seed stated that there has been some new directions relating to planning applications and that the often-controversial guidance document Document 106 had been withdrawn.
In response to a request from the Parish Council, Cllr Seed stated that he would write to Wiltshire Council seeking full details of the current planning conditions relating to the site to the west of the crematorium, including details of any agreed changes to those conditions following the granting of the temporary permission.

8. Gypsy and Traveller Issues and General Approach Consultation.

The Council noted the comments that had been sent to Wiltshire Council on behalf of the Parish Council and agreed that those comments represented the views of the Parish Council.

9. Highways.

- a. There were no matters raised by councillors.
- b. Cllr. Bowyer confirmed that the proposed site for the new Bus Shelter had been agreed with Wiltshire Council. He added that the publican at the Somerset Arms had been consulted and was in favour of the intended location. The Clerk was asked to write to other nearby residents to seek their views. The Clerk stated that Wiltshire Council is currently undertaking a 'utilities search' and when these results are passed to the Parish Council it will indicate whether or not the proposed site is a viable one. He added that thereafter, quotations for the Bus Shelter would be sought. Cllr. Bowyer agreed to send the Clerk a specification for the proposed Bus Shelter. Cllr. Bowyer asked the Clerk to confirm that the change in position of the Bus Stop had been approved by Wiltshire Council and that the 'old' Bus Stop post could be removed if the new Bus Shelter is installed. Cllr. Bowyer confirmed that Wiltshire Council had informed him that planning permission for the Bus Shelter was not required.

10. 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.

This project is proceeding with a request that the Parish Council donates a set of goalposts. This is to be addressed later in the Agenda.

Village Hall Improvements

Cllr. Vooght stated that he is awaiting a set of drawings from the architect.

Wessex Close Play Equipment.

This was reported under Agenda item 5.

11. Finance.

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 16 June 2010

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	1,012.82
31-Mar-10		
	Total:	<u>£ 1,012.82</u>

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Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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23-Apr	Credits (1 April 2010 to 30 April 2010): Wiltshire Council Precept FY2010/11	£ 7,500.00
	Total:	£ 7,500.00

STO	Debits (1 April 2010 to 30 April 2010): Clerk's Salary (March) Litter Bin (Wybone) Devizes Building Supplies Ltd	£ 255.16 £ 319.67 £ 104.01
	Total:	£ 678.84

Balance at 30 April 2010: **£ 7,833.98**

	Credits (1 May 2010 to 31 May 2010) HMCE VAT Refund	£ 35.61
	Total:	£ 35.61

	Debits (1 May 2010 to 31 May 2010):	
04-May	Clerk's Salary (April)	£ 258.46
05-May	P Bowyer (Memorial Plaque)	£ 32.50
06-May	Office Expenses (March)	£ 28.00
25-May	Office Expenses (April)	£ 27.00
15-May	Annual Office Allowance	£ 125.00
25-May	Aon/Allianz Insurance Premium	£ 629.38
27-May	Internal Audit Fee	£ 100.00
	Total:	£ 1,200.34

Balance at 31 May 2010: **£ 6,669.25**

	Credits (1 June 2010 to 16 June 2010): Nil	£ -
	Total:	£ -

STO	Debits (1 June 2010 to 16 June 2010): Clerk's Salary (May) Village Hall Hire (Unpresented Cheque at 27/5/10) Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (Unpresented Cheque at 27/5/10)	£ 258.46 £ 400.00 £ 36.00
	Total:	£ 694.46

Balance at 16 June 2010: **£ 5,974.79**

Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement
25-Mar-10 £ 31,356.61

	Credits	
11-Apr	Interest	£ 1.35
10-May	Interest	£ 1.33
10-Jun	Interest	£ 1.33
		£ 4.01

Debits
Nil £ -

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	£	-
Total:	£	31,360.62
Balance at 16 June 2010:	£	31,360.62
Total Balance in hand at 16 June 2010:	£	37,335.41

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Payments to be authorised (16 June 2010).

Clerks Salary (June 2010)	£	258.46
Office Expenses (May)	£	75.18
TOTAL:	£	333.64

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (16 June 2010).

TOTAL:	£	-
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- b. The Council resolved unanimously to purchase a set of goalposts for Semington Rovers Football Club at a cost of £2115 on the understanding that any grant aid received towards such a purchase from another source, such as the Football Association, is returned to the Parish Council forthwith.
- c. The Council resolved to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above.

12. Environment.

- a. Cllr. Robinson asked the Clerk to write to the owner of the land, stated to be the St George's Parochial Church Council, to inform the owner that rubbish is being dumped on land near to Littlemarsh and to seek its removal.

Councillors reported that unidentified persons had been seen apparently investigating the area that is being developed as a Playing Field, although investigations had not revealed anything untoward.

- b. The Council resolved unanimously to join the Wilts & Berks Canal Working Party – as championed by Melksham Town Council. The Clerk was asked to write to Melksham Town Council accordingly.

13. Wiltshire Racial Equality Council.

The Clerk was asked to write to WREC asking that the provocative statement relating to Semington Parish Council is retracted or that evidence to support the accusation is provided.

14. Community Area/Area Boards.

- a. There were no matters raised under this Agenda item.
- b. There were no specific matters that councillors wished to refer to the Community Area Board.
- c. The Council resolved unanimously to remain a member of the Melksham Community Area Board.

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15. Tennis Court.

It was reported that the Tennis Court was in good order. Cllr. Vooght stated that the painting of the seat was still outstanding.

16. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

Cllr. Vooght: No residents had yet cut back the vegetation that overhangs the footpath by the side of the Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to write again to the residents indicating that the Parish Council may ask Wiltshire Council to undertake the task and to pass the cost, estimated to be £400, on to the relevant parishioners.

Cllr. Oglesby: The Parish Steward is now to undertake tasks on a 'pro-active' basis and will not require a list of tasks to be provided in advance of his visits.

Cllr. Smyth: According to a report in the Melksham News, landowners could be forced to give up land for allotment gardens under the provisions of the Allotments and Smallholdings Act 1908. Cllr. Wade commented that although it may be possible, the landowner was also entitled to compensation amounting to the full market value of the land. Cllr. Smyth also commented that The Somerset Arms had been voted the Community Village Pub of the Year by CAMRA.

Cllr. Bowyer reported that he had attended the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators meeting at Devizes and that it was interesting.

Cllr. Oglesby: The Clerk was asked to check progress in the installation of new street name/number signs for 7a, 7b and 7c High Street that were intended to assist the Emergency vehicles in locating these properties.

The Clerk advised the Council of a grant scheme related to young persons that could provide access to learning and sports facilities where transport links are poor.

17. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date of the next meeting:

Ordinary Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 14 July 2010 at 8.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 10.00 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

14 July 2010.