

## Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 February 2011 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

### Present.

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

PC Emily Thomas and PCSO Rose Baldock attended (Part-time).

There were no members of the public present.

### **1. Declaration of Interests.**

There were no interests declared.

### **2. Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Wiltshire Council, Councillor J Seed.

### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13 January 2011.**

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

### **4. Adjournment.**

In the absence of any members of the public, the meeting continued without an adjournment.

### **5. Neighbourhood Policing.**

PC Thomas reported on behalf of the Neighbourhood Policing Team. She stated that there have been a number of thefts along the canal involving the theft of red diesel oil and heating oil; a theft of some 1000 litres was reported. She commented that there had been two burglaries at Great Hinton during the daytime and at Seend some outhouses belonging to some of the larger properties, were broken into and property stolen. She advised that all residents must remain vigilant as some of the thefts were blatant.

Councillors Robinson and Lockwood reported that they had been made aware of some thefts within the village by local residents and gave details.

Cllr. Vooght reported that there private car sales on the highway and on the highway verges was a significant problem and gave examples of this practice at Crossroads. Refer to Agenda item 7.

### **6. Planning.**

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

W/10/02972/FUL	Land Adjacent to Somerset Arms, High Street, Barn Conversion and Extension	Refused.
W/10/02973/LBC	Land Adjacent to Somerset Arms, High Street, Barn Conversion and Extension	Refused.

b. There were no planning applications received after 9 February 2011.

c. There were no other planning matters to consider.

### **7. Highways.**

Cllr. Vooght restated the problem with private vehicles sales on the highway at Crossroads. The Clerk stated that a similar problem had been experienced at Southwick and a robust approach had been adopted by Wiltshire Council/Trowbridge Area Board in dealing with the matter. The Clerk

stated the issue of 'car trading on the highway' is being addressed by Wiltshire Council and the 'new' process will ensure that appropriate signage is displayed in the affected areas and thereafter, following an initial thirty days' notice, the 'offenders' will see their vehicles seized and the seller informed via the displayed telephone number. The Clerk stated that he would ask the NPT at Southwick (PC Mark Hough) and the Trowbridge Area Board Manager (Rachel Efemey) to talk to their opposite numbers at Melksham/Semington to ensure that similarly robust action is taken at Semington.

Cllr. Bowyer reported the poor state of the pavement outside Highfield House and agreed to report it to Clarence.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he had been approached by a parishioner who had asked when the pavement at Littlemarsh was to be cleared of weeds. After a short discussion, Cllr. Smyth stated that he would contact Angela Weston and request that the Parish Steward be asked to undertake this task.

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

a. There were no new projects to report. The Council asked that this Agenda item is removed from the Agenda in future.

b. The following projects were reviewed, as shown:

### Sports/Recreation Field.

Cllr. Lockwood reported that the development of the sports field was progressing well and the next tasks were to install the cesspit and to install the netting required to prevent balls being kicked into the road. Councillors suggested that some equipment, such as netting and benches may be available from the (old) George Ward School now that its use as a school has ceased. Cllr. Lockwood commented that the initial sum of £29,700 provided as a grant from Wiltshire Council had been found to be £5700 higher than that which Wiltshire Council had intended to pay and that the £5700 had now been repaid to Wiltshire Council. He added that this shortfall would present some difficulties but would be overcome.

### Village Hall Improvements

Cllr. Vooght stated that the plans for the repair had been drawn up and that costings for the repair scheme were awaited. Cllrs. Vooght and Rimmer gave details of the proposed work necessary to stabilise the building. Cllr. Vooght added that it was the intention to seek grant aid from Wiltshire Council via the Melksham Area Board. Cllr. Lockwood advised Cllr. Vooght to discuss the proposed grant application with Cllr. Seed (Wiltshire Council).

The Clerk advised the Council to be vigilant about any extant, or proposed, s106 Agreements relating to the Village Hall and to ensure that any monies are secured from Wiltshire Council in line with the Agreement wording. He added that Wiltshire Council records of s106 Agreements and their implementation is poor.

### Wessex Close Play Equipment.

Cllr. Bowyer and Cllr. Smyth confirmed that the new Play Equipment had been installed and asked that this Agenda item is removed from future Agendas.

### Bus Shelter.

Cllr. Bowyer confirmed that the new Bus Shelter is to be installed on 18 February 2011. The Clerk reported that Wiltshire Council was ceasing the Bus Shelter Grant Scheme with effect from 1 April 2011 but he had been assured by Sarah Anderson, Wiltshire Council, that the 50% grant for the Semington Bus Shelter was secure and would be paid.

## **9. Finance.**

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

Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 16 February 2011			
<b><u>Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025</u></b>			
	Bank Statement		£ 3,913.87
	31-Dec-10		
		Total:	<b>£ 3,913.87</b>
<b>Credits (1 Jan 2011 to 31 Jan 2011):</b>			
	None		£ -
		Total:	<b>£ -</b>
<b>Debits (1 Jan 2011 to 31 Jan 2011):</b>			
01-Jan	Clerk's Salary (December)		£ 258.46
13-Jan	Office Expenses (December)		£ 43.98
13-Jan	Office Expenses (January)		£ 0.40
		Total:	<b>£ 302.84</b>
<b>Balance at 31 January 2011:</b>			<b>£ 3,611.03</b>
<b>Credits (1 February 2011 to 16 February 2011)</b>			
			£ -
		Total:	<b>£ -</b>
<b>Debits (1 February 2011 to 16 February 2011):</b>			
01-Feb	Clerk's Salary (January)		£ 258.46
		Total:	<b>£ 258.46</b>
<b>Balance at 16 February 2011:</b>			<b>£ 3,352.57</b>
<b><u>Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288</u></b>			
	Bank Statement		£ 13,610.17
	09-Dec-10		
<b>Credits</b>			
09-Jan	Interest		£ 0.63
09-Feb	Interest		£ 0.63 (Approx)
			<b>£ 1.26</b>
<b>Debits</b>			
	None		£ -
			<b>£ -</b>
<b>Balance at 16 February 2011:</b>			<b>£ 13,611.43</b>
<b>Total Balance in hand at 16 February 2011:</b>			<b>£ 16,964.00</b>
<b>Semington Parish Council</b>			
<b><u>Payments to be authorised (16 February 2011).</u></b>			
	Clerks Salary (February 2011)		£ 258.46
	Office Expenses (January 2011)		£ 18.87
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ 277.33</b>
<b><u>Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (16 February 2011).</u></b>			
	None		
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ -</b>

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

The Clerk stated that the two Santander Accounts were now closed and that Cllr. Dobbyn was now an approved signatory for the Semington Parish Council Bank Accounts.

## **10. Environment.**

Cllr. Rimmer reported that during heavy rain the High street in the vicinity of The Somerset Arms and Brook House was flooded. He observed water emanating from a manhole near the centre of the road. He thought that this may be because of blocked drains. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council to request that the problem is investigated and that the drains in that area are cleared.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he had observed a large volume of rubbish in the layby near to the field where the Car Boot Sale is regularly held. He added that he telephoned Wiltshire Council on the 'fly-tipping' number and reported that this rubbish had since been cleared.

## **11. Wilts & Berks Canal Trust working Group.**

Cllr. Smyth reported that he and Cllr. Robinson had attended the recent Working Group meeting and that he had sent a written report to all councillors. Cllr. Smyth stated that one of the main issues raised at the meeting was whether Semington Parish Council would wish to become part of the Canal Partnership and he had been informed that Mr Ken Oliver would be writing to the Parish Council inviting the Parish Council to do so. Cllr. Smyth gave a brief summary of the other points arising at the meeting – access, car parking, residential and industrial development along the route, possible s106 Agreements to fund some of this development. He commented that the next meeting was to be held on 17 February and, once again, he and Cllr. Robinson would attend.

## **12. Community Area/Area Boards.**

a. There were no matters arising from the recent Area Board meeting relevant to Semington. Cllr. Bowyer who had attended this meeting had provided a written report to all councillors prior to the Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Lockwood stated that the main interest of the Community Area Board currently was the development of the Melksham Campus.

- b. There were no matters identified as needing to be raised at the next Area Board meeting.

## **13. Tennis Court.**

Cllrs. Vooght and Lockwood stated that the Tennis Court appears in good order but that a more detailed inspection would be undertaken in the summer to identify any necessary maintenance activities.

## **14. Any Other Business.**

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

There were no additional matters that the Clerk needed to draw to the attention of the Council.

Councillors observed that a large mobile home appears to have been installed at the Travellers' Site near to the crematorium and that this development was not permitted. Cllr. Robinson agreed to send photographs of the mobile home to the Clerk for him then to make representations to Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Vooght stated that the new houses at The Turnpike are very nearly completed and that he was pleased to learn that the new tenants have been invited to a 'signing up' ceremony and an initial induction talk at the Village Hall. He commented that one outstanding matter at that development is the boundary line of the development site with properties in Hunt Close.

Cllr. Oglesby stated that he had sent an e-mail to all councillors with information relating to the

proposed 'new' Standards regime to replace the now defunct 'Standards Board for England' Standards scheme.

**15. Date of the next meeting.**

- a. The Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting:
  - Wednesday 16 March 2010 at 8.00pm.
  
- b. The Council agreed the date for the Annual Parish Meeting thus:
  - Wednesday 20 April 2011.

The meeting concluded at 9.20 pm.

R Oglesby  
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

16 March 2011.