

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

### Present.

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

Wiltshire Councillor J Seed attended (Part-time).

There were two members of the public present.

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

There were no interests declared.

### **2. Apologies.**

There were no apologies from councillors. All councillors were present.

PC Emily Thomas sent her apologies for non-attendance (See Para 5 below).

### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 16 February 2011.**

Cllr. Vooght stated that it was not PCSO Baldock who attended the last meeting but another PCSO from Melksham. The minutes were amended accordingly and then signed as a true and accurate record.

### **4. Adjournment.**

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

Cllr. Seed stated that the budget recently agreed by Wiltshire Council had protected front line services and had ensured that 'Sure Start' and the Public Libraries were unaffected by the need to reduce expenditure. He added that an additional £50m had been made available for 'social care'. Cllr. Seed stated that on the previous Monday, Melksham Town Council voted in favour of a 'single site' Campus that would include such facilities as a Sports Centre, Indoor Bowls, Squash Courts, Swimming Pool and Library and that it was planned to be completed in Spring 2013. He urged the Parish Council to make its views known and that the Community Area Board meeting on 29 March 2011 was an opportunity for all interested parties, especially Parish Councils, to express their views on the campus, whatever they may be.

The meeting then reconvened.

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

In the absence of a member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, no report was given.

Clerk's note:

PC Thomas provided the following written report (in italics) received on 15 March, but read by the Clerk on 17 March:

*'Please can you send my apologies I am on a day shift. I will however be at the coffee morning on Thursday. There has been another report of a theft at the Canal Bridge B and B also a male was arrested near to Palmer Grove and the car seized as found with stolen items inside and vehicle has been used in crime. As Robert will tell you bins were taken from the Salt Depot, I did check the traveller's site no trace of the vehicle.'*

Cllr. Dobbyn reported that taxi drivers are ignoring the 'No Through Road/No Entry' sign at the

northern end of the village along High Street, claiming that as a 'public service vehicle' they were entitled to ignore the sign and to take advantage of the access allowed for public service vehicles. Cllr. Robinson stated that he had observed individuals taking two waste bins from the Salt Store and had informed the police, and although the police attended no offenders were apprehended.

## **6. Planning.**

- a. There were no planning applications received after 8 March 2011.
- c. There were no other planning matters to consider.

## **7. Highways.**

Cllr. Lockwood stated that the new development at The Turnpike had now acquired its street nameplate of Turnpike Close and Cllr. Robinson commented on the pleasant visual appearance of that development now that it was nearing completion.

Councillors noted that the 'missing' Grit Bins had been replaced with new ones and the Chairman thanked Cllr. Seed for his efforts in resolving this matter satisfactorily. Cllr. Vooght observed that the one near to the Village Hall would have to be moved to a better position.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that he had reported the uneven pavement outside Highfield House to Clarence.

Cllr. Lockwood stated that a dropped kerb had been installed at 38 Highfield Close and enquired whether the correct procedures had been followed to authorise its installation and for protecting the pedestrian traffic whilst work was taking place. The Clerk stated that he had written to Wiltshire Council (Andy Cadwallader and Pat Whyte) posing these questions.

In reply to the Chairman, the Clerk stated that he now had the information required to make enquiries about the street sign for the 'hidden' houses in the High Street and would contact Wiltshire Council without further delay.

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

- a. The following projects were reviewed, as shown:

### Sports/Recreation Field.

Cllr. Lockwood reported that the development of the sports field was progressing well and that it was intended that it would be available for use at the commencement of the Football season in late summer, although it was planned to hold a football match there on Good Friday.

### Village Hall Improvements

Cllr. Vooght stated that the buttresses are to be installed over the next two weeks and that full costings for the repair scheme were still awaited.

The Chairman observed that under the s106 Agreement payment of the agreed sum to the Village Hall Management Committee for the new disabled toilets and other improvements would not be paid until the development at the Motel Field by the St John Care Trust was some seventy-five per cent completed and that this was not likely to be the case for a least a year or two.

## **9. Finance.**

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

### **Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 16 March 2011**

#### **Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025**

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

556

Bank Statement  
31-Jan-11

Total: £ 3,611.03

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**Credits (1 Feb 2011 to 28 Feb 2011):**

None

Total: £ -

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**Debits (1 Feb 2011 to 28 Feb 2011):**

01-Feb Clerk's Salary (December) £ 258.46  
16-Feb Office Expenses (January) £ 18.87

Total: £ 277.33

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**Balance at 28 February 2011:**

**£ 3,333.70**

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**Credits (1 March 2011 to 16 March 2011)**

None

Total: £ -

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**Debits (1 March 2011 to 16 March 2011):**

01-Mar Clerk's Salary (February) £ 258.46

Total: £ 258.46

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**Balance at 16 March 2011:**

**£ 3,075.24**

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**Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement £ 13,610.17  
09-Dec-10

**Credits**

09-Jan Interest £ 0.63  
09-Feb Interest £ 0.63  
09-Mar Interest

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£ 1.89

**Debits**

None

£ -

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£ -

**Balance at 16 March 2011:**

**£ 13,612.06**

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**Total Balance in hand at 16 March 2011:**

**£ 16,687.30**

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## Semington Parish Council

### Payments to be authorised (16 March 2011).

Clerks Salary (March 2011)	£ 258.46
Office Expenses (February 2011)	£ 15.51
Amazon Portable Hard Drive	£ 41.77
Queensbury Bus Shelter	£ 3,922.58
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ 4,238.32</b>

### Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (16 March 2011).

None

**TOTAL:** £ -

The Clerk stated that he had sought a quotation from Zurich Municipal Insurance Co. for the annual Parish Council insurance and that the premium required appeared attractive and less than that currently charged by Aon Insurance Co. for the same cover.

Cllr. Bowyer reminded the Clerk to ensure that the new Bus Shelter is added to the Asset Register and that it is included on the Insurance Schedule.

Clerk's Note.

The Bus Shelter was added to the Insurance Schedule on 17 March with an insured value of £3950.

Cllr. Smyth queried why on his Council Tax statement, Wiltshire Council had indicated that the proportion attributable to the Parish Council precept had increased by 0.5% when all other figures were unchanged and when the Parish Council precept had remained the same as last year. The Clerk stated that he would make enquiries of Wiltshire Council.

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

The Clerk stated that following the payment of the invoice for the Bus Shelter and the receipt of the grant from Wiltshire Council he expected there to be a modest sum amounting to £3000 to £4000 left in the St Georges Fund and that the Parish Council may wish at a future meeting to decide the fate of this balance.

### **10. Environment.**

Cllr. Vooght stated that the old Motel Field had now been bought by the Orders of St John Care Trust and that development of that site was now likely.

The Clerk advised the Council and the public of the proposed changes to the Bus Services in Wiltshire and Cllr. Rimmer took note of the details for them to be published in the Newsletter.

Cllr. Vooght commented that an oak tree near to the travellers' site had been vandalised.

Councillors reported that action had now been taken to resolve the flooding problem reported in the vicinity of Brook House. Cllr. Bowyer stated that the gullies in that area had been cleaned and Cllr. Rimmer reported that following representations by residents it was now intended to undertake a visual inspection of the drain by sending a man down to examine it.

The Clerk stated that he had taken action over the vehicle sales on the highway and had also

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17 March 2011

Roger Coleman  
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

registered it as an 'issue' on the Wiltshire Council website. He added that Cllr. Seed had stated that he would chase this matter up and inform the Clerk of progress.

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

Cllr. Smyth reported that he and Cllr. Robinson had attended the recent Working Group meeting on the 17 February and that he had sent a written report to all councillors. This report is reproduced here for information:

- a. Funding – The Chairman explained that British Waterways have offered to pay for the third of the canal length (from the Semington end). The rest as I said last time will come from various sources including the resulting development.
- b. New Slipway - There will be a new slipway built at the Adventure Centre, the funding for which is likely to come from "Canoe England".
- c. Power Generation – It would appear that power generation will be installed at Chippenham somewhere along the river at Avenue La Fleche. Our Working Group will watch these developments closely to see what lessons can be learned from their experiences.
- d. Spring Festival – It has been decided by the Community Area Partnership that there is not enough time left this year to arrange the festival, so they are now talking about Spring 2012. The advantage of next year would be that the canal proposals will have moved on considerably, people will now more about it and will have more interest in it.
- e. Consultation – The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the canal consultation will take place soon. However, it will not start until the consultation on the "campus" completes, i.e. April 2011. Note that the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> consultation are on the internet (try this link - <http://www.wiltsandberkscanal.org.uk/melksham.htm> ).

He commented that the next meeting was to be held on 17 March and, once again, he and Cllr. Robinson would attend.

## 12. Community Area/Area Boards.

There were no matters arising from the recent Area Board meeting held on 9 March relevant to Semington. However, the next meeting was to be held on 29 March and this meeting was to be a full debate and discussion of the 'Campus' proposals and councillors agreed that Semington Parish Council would be represented. Cllr. Rimmer proposed that Semington Parish Council supports the 'Campus' development and, following a vote, the Parish Council **resolved** by a majority to support the development. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chairman of the Melksham Community Area Board indicating this support.

## 13. Tennis Court.

Cllrs. Vooght and Lockwood stated that they intended to undertake a full inspection of the Tennis Court over the next few weeks and to identify any necessary maintenance activities.

## 14. Any Other Business.

Exchange of views on matters not requiring a decision:

The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to the following matters:

- Best Kept Village Competition 2011 – The Council decided not to participate.
- Wiltshire Council – Funding for Young People's Projects. The Council asked Cllr. Rimmer to ensure that this information is sent to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the next issue. Cllr. Vooght also took the publicity notices and agreed to place them on the noticeboard.

Cllr. Robinson gave the Clerk photographs of the mobile home at the Travellers' Site for him to make representations on behalf of the Parish Council to Wiltshire Council. The Council discussed the impending changes to legislation contained in the Localism Bill and also noted the advice given

by Cllr. Seed in respect of proposed revisions to extant planning guidance. Cllr. Dobbyn agreed to undertake research into these proposed changes and to assess their likely impact on the creation of travellers' sites, such as that at the crematorium. He also agreed to prepare a dossier containing key decisions/dates and a timeline of events.

Cllr. Dobbyn enquired what was happening to the old Post Office building. The Chairman stated that once the new shop is opened at the St John Care Trust Development then it was likely that the owner of the old Post Office would apply for a 'change of use' and that the application was likely then to be successful.

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

- a. The Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting:
- Wednesday 13 April 2010 at 8.00pm.
- b. The Council noted the date for the Annual Parish Meeting thus:
- Wednesday 20 April 2011.

The meeting concluded at 9.45 pm.

R Oglesby  
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

13 April 2011.