

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

### Present.

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

PC Thomas and PCSO Ledbury attended the meeting (Part-time).

There were no members of the public present.

### Clerk's Note.

The Chairman decided to take Agenda item 16 early in the meeting but it is reported in these minutes to accord with the Agenda for sake of clarity.

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

There were no interests declared.

### **2. Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Cllrs. S Rimmer and R Robinson and from Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed

### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 19 October 2011.**

The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

### **4. Adjournment.**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for members of the public to raise any matters of concern. The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

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

PC Thomas stated that it had been relatively quiet at Semington, although she did wish to warn everyone of a number of thefts from unlocked vehicles that had occurred in nearby villages and to ask everyone to secure their vehicles and to remain vigilant. She added that there had been a theft of diesel at Melksham.

The Chairman stated that a number of parishioners had complained about vehicles obstructing the Bus Clearway and he asked the Clerk to enquire of Wiltshire Council when the extended double yellow lines are to be painted on the road to prevent this infringement.

Cllr. Lockwood reported that a number of parishioners had remarked to him that there were still quite a large number of vehicles travelling through the village and ignoring the 'No Through Road' sign.

### **6. Planning.**

a. There were no planning applications to consider.

b. Cllr. Dobbyn reported that he had received a strongly worded rebuke from Wiltshire Council regarding the lack of arrangements that Wiltshire Council claimed had been made in respect of his recent visit to the Shurgold offices to meet with Cllr. Seed. Cllr. Dobbyn demonstrated that the letter was without any foundation and contained a number of errors, including the day of the visit, and that he would be seeking a full apology from Wiltshire Council.

The Chairman stated that he had not received a reply from Cllr. Seed in response to a number of points that he had raised regarding planning application W/11/01206/FUL. The Clerk commented that he believed that a reply had been sent to him and that he would check his own e-mails and forward on to him any reply that he had received.

Cllr. Dobbyn reported that he had received notification of an Appeal Hearing in respect of planning application W/11/01832/FUL – the erection of a wooden panel fence at Semington House.

**7. Highways/Environment.**

a. Cllr. Smyth reported that he had put two coats of varnish on to the seat located at the Swing Bridge and to the seat by the lock gates but the latter needed some additional repair work, such as the addition of a couple of bolts to support the cantilevered seat.

b. Cllr. Lockwood stated that he had made enquiries regarding the creation of a skatepark in the area of the new playing field and that a meeting with the Crematorium Manager, the owner of the land in question, is to be held soon to discuss this subject. Meanwhile, investigations into other possible sites are continuing.

c. There were no other matters reported.

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

The following projects were reviewed, as shown:

Sports/Recreation Field.

Cllr. Lockwood reported that the electric installation has been completed and that showers have been installed, although bespoke shower trays are required to be made and installed before they can be used. He commented that the playing field and the associated facilities are now nearly complete.

Village Hall Improvements

Cllr. Vooght reported that the buttresses on the north side of the Village hall are to be built and that the work is scheduled to commence tomorrow. He added that the grant application for the suspended ceiling had not been handed into the Melksham Area Board as expected and that it would now be necessary to wait until the next meeting of the Area Board for the submission of the grant application. Councillors observed that such grant applications can be filed on-line and invited Cllr. Vooght to consider this option.

**9. Finance.**

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

**Semington Parish Council - Financial Statement - 19 October 2011**

**Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025**

Bank Statement		£ 6,782.64
31-Aug-11		
	Total:	<b>£ 6,782.64</b>
 <b>Credits (1 September 2011 to 30 September 2011):</b>		
None		£ -
	Total:	<b>£ -</b>

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<b>Debits (1 September 2011 to 30 September 2011):</b>		
01-Sep	Clerk's Salary (August)	£ 258.46
	Office Expenses (July)	£ 19.64
	Office Expenses (August)	£ 14.33
	Fentongollan Farm (Bulbs)	£ 116.13
	Mazars Audit Fee	£ 342.00
	Code Water Solutions	£ 180.00
	St Georges PCC Donation	£ 500.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£ 1,430.56</b>

**Balance at 30 September 2011:** **£ 5,352.08**

## **Credits (1 October 2011 to 19 October 2011)**

None	£ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£ -</b>

<b>Debits (1 October 2011 to 19 October 2011):</b>		
01-Oct	Clerk's Salary (September)	£ 258.46
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£ 258.46</b>

**Balance at 19 October 2011:** **£ 5,093.62**

## **Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement  
09-Sep-11 £ 11,114.68

<b>Credits</b>		
09-Oct	Interest	£ 0.40
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£ 0.40</b>

<b>Debits</b>		
None	£ -	
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£ -</b>

**Balance at 19 October 2011:** **£ 11,115.08**

**Total Balance in hand at 19 October 2011:** **£ 16,208.70**

## **Payments to be authorised (19 October 2011).**

Clerks Salary (October 2011)	£ 258.46
Office Expenses (September 2011)	£ 22.97

**TOTAL:** **£ 281.43**

**Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (19 October 2011).**

None £ -

**TOTAL:** £ -

b. The Clerk stated that Semington Parish Council is now registered as an employer with HMRC.

*Clerk's Note.*

*Semington PC is now registered with HMRC as an Employer, in accordance with current legislation. It has one employee – the Clerk, Mr R P Coleman with an Employee No. of Sem 01. The Employer PAYE Reference is: 475/WA63332*

c. The Clerk gave each councillor a statement showing the details of the St George's Fund Accounts and details of the projects that had been provided by this fund. The Clerk advised that the sum remaining to be disbursed was around £5000 although a further £968.76 had to be transferred into the St George's Fund from Account 2149025 because of a VAT Refund. Nevertheless, he recommended that no more than £4500 be disbursed forthwith at this stage. He added that he would give a full statement of the Parish Council accounts at the end of the Financial Year and that would be the opportunity to make any final disbursements and to close the St George's Fund Account.

Cllr. Lockwood declared a personal interest in any matters relating to a financial contribution to the development of the playing field and took no part in the discussion or voting.

The Council **resolved** unanimously that the following disbursements be made from the St George's Fund:

- Village Jubilee Celebrations - A donation of £500 and a 'loan' of £500 to be repaid from monies raised at the event. This donation/loan will be paid in FY2012/13.
- Village Hall Maintenance and Improvements – A donation of £2250.
- Semington Playing Field and Facilities - A donation of £2250.

d. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above including a payment of £17.86 to Cllr. Smyth for the cost of the materials used in repairing the canal seats.

**10. Jubilee Wood.**

The Clerk reported that s96 application to create the wood has now been lodged with Wiltshire Council but there has not yet been any formal reply, although comments from the officers dealing with it have given the Parish Council grounds for optimism that it will be granted.

**11. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration 2012.**

a. Cllr. Dobbyn reported that he had chaired a meeting, yesterday, of representatives from a wide range of community groups from the village and that a comprehensive programme of possible events for the Jubilee Celebrations had been drafted. Cllr. Dobbyn gave a brief resumé of the proposed programme and the events planned included a street party, a fancy dress pageant, a duck race on Semington Brook, a sports' day and a Thanksgiving Church Service at St George's Church on the Sunday. He added that he will write up the notes of the meeting and he will send them to all councillors and that the next meeting is planned for mid-December.

Cllr. Dobbyn asked the Clerk to make enquiries regarding insurance requirements and cover and the need for a Risk Assessment to be undertaken for the events planned.

b. The Council was informed that the children at St George's School are currently drawing up a number of possible designs for the Jubilee Mugs and these will be presented to the Parish Council in due course for the 'winning entry' to be chosen.

## **12. Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Working Group.**

Cllr. Smyth stated that he and Cllr. Robinson attended the recent meeting of the Working Group and that he had sent a written report to councillors following that meeting. Cllr. Smyth gave a brief verbal report summarising his written report. The latter is shown below (in italics) for completeness.

*Things are progressing well and it looks like a substantial amount of construction work will be completed by Dec 2012 - the main points covered are as follows;*

1. *The planning application for the Melksham canal link will be with Wilts Council sometime before this Christmas. The construction looks as if it will be undertaken in 3 distinct phases;*
  - a. *First will be the Semington to Berryfields section – apparently funding is available for this section and the workforce is also available (the Pewsham to Reybridge stretch has gone as far as it can at the moment and the construction team would be available soon to work on the Melksham link). It is likely that this section will be completed during 2012. Getting this section completed first would provide an impetus to the landowner (I believe it's John Stainer) to start the process for the marina development.*
  - b. *Second will be the works at the River Avon end - this includes the work on the weir, the new lock and the hydroelectric power generation installation (possibly an Archimedean Screw design).*
  - c. *Third will be the section to join up the first two – This would be the most expensive section and the funding has yet to be fully determined.*
2. *It was noted that the new Caen Hill Marina was opened by Claire Perry, one of the local MPs, on 15 October. The Chairman informed us that the Marina was intending to host a "Saturday market" on site during the summer months and felt that there could be a similar opportunity for Semington once the marina is built here. (see <http://www.caenhillmarina.com/index.htm> for a bit more info)*
3. *AOB:*
  - a. *I informed the meeting of the plans to develop the Semington dry dock facility with a second dock and they were enthusiastic about it.*
  - b. *Apparently Sainsbury's were paid £17k by WC as a result of the outcome of some planning dispute and they intend to put that money back into Melksham community projects. I understand the Canal Partnership have approached Sainsbury's in Melksham to see if they would be willing to use some of the money to fund things like signposting from the canal to the town and various other canal information panels.*

*The next meeting is on 15 Dec 2012.*

## **13. Community Area/Area Boards.**

a. There was nothing to report.

b. There were no matters that the Council wished to raise at the next Community Area Board meeting to be held at Semington on 14 December 2011.

## **14. Tennis Court.**

Cllr. Lockwood stated that he has mended the 'gate stop' but the remains of a couple of damaged

sections of chain-link fencing that someone had removed remains at the side of the Tennis Court next to the footpath and needs to be taken away and disposed of properly. Cllr. Smyth suggested that the Footpath Warden or the Parish Steward should be requested to take action and asked whether the missing fence should be replaced.

## 15. Any Other Business.

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

- The Boundary Commission – Review of Parliamentary Boundaries. The Council decided that its preference would be that the Summerham and Seend Electoral District remains associated with Trowbridge and not transferred to the Devizes Ward.
- Melksham Without PC – Shadow Operations Board. The Clerk advised the Council of the correspondence received and the nature of the sentiments expressed. Cllr. Lockwood took the letter and attachments to study in more detail.

## 16. Planning Appeal – W/11/01206/FUL.

The Chairman proposed that the public are excluded from the meeting because of the nature of the business to be discussed would be prejudicial to the public interest. The Council **resolved** to adopt this proposal.

This matter is recorded separately.

At the conclusion of this Agenda item, the Council **resolved** that the public be readmitted.

## 17. Date of the next meeting.

The Council noted the date for the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting:

Wednesday 25 January 2012 at 8.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 10.00 pm.

R Oglesby  
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

25 January 2012

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## Financial Forecast - 31 October 2011

ITEM (Description)	Budget FY11/12 Agreed	Actuals FY11/12 31-Oct-11	Estimated FY11/12 31-Mar-12
<b><u>Income:</u></b>			
Precept	7500	7500	7500
Lloyds A/C 7754288 (Ex. St Georges Fund)	15	3	5
Lloyds A/C 2149025	0	0	0
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0
VAT Reclaim	36	1037	1037
ROMAT Donation	0	0	0
Tennis Court Maintenance Fund			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7551</b>	<b>8540</b>	<b>8542</b>
<b><u>Expenditure:</u></b>			
Clerk Salary	3163	2067	3101
Expenses	425	226	350
Office Allowance	125	125	125
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0
Solicitors Fees	0	0	0
Chairman	0	0	0
Hire Hall	500	400	400
Audit	275	452	452
Subscriptions	100	72	72
Insurance	700	651	651
Community (Section 137)	2500	806	1500
Elections	2500	0	0
Training	0	0	0
Misc.	0	2180	2500
	<b>10288</b>	<b>6979</b>	<b>9151</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>7551</b>	<b>8540</b>	<b>8542</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>10288</b>	<b>6979</b>	<b>9151</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>-2737</b>	<b>1561</b>	<b>-609</b>

Balance Carried Forward  
at 31 March 2011:  
(as per Annual Return  
FY2010/11) £4,123.00

**Forecast Balance Carried Forward at 31  
March 2012: £3,514.00**

**St Georges Fund carried Forward at 31  
March 2012: £10,218.00**  
(Tennis Court - £5296, St Georges - £4922)