

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2013 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present.

Councillor B Smyth (Vice-Chairman and Chairman for the meeting) and Councillors P. Bowyer, K Lockwood, R Robinson, W Scott, B Smyth, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

Wiltshire Councillor Cllr. J Seed attended the meeting (Part-time).

The Neighbourhood Policing Team, PC Emily Thomas attended the meeting (Part-time).

There were four parishioners present initially.

Note.

The Chairman took some Agenda items out of sequence but they are recorded here to accord with the Agenda.

1. Declaration of Interests.

There were no interests declared.

2. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillor R Oglesby and S Rimmer.

3. Co-option of New Member.

Councillors asked the Clerk to invite Francis Dobbyn to the next meeting with a view to a vote being taken on whether to co-opt him as a Parish Council member.

4. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9 October 2013.

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

5. Neighbourhood Policing.

PC Thomas of the Neighbourhood Policing Team reported that there had been two break-ins at the Littlemarsh Football Club and various items to the value of around £250 had been stolen. She added that there had also been a garage break-in at Littlemarsh and two arrests have been made and in an unconnected incident a mirror and keys had been left in suspicious circumstances in a garden.

PC Thomas stated that the matter concerning aggressive 'trick and treating' by children had been dealt with satisfactorily.

There were no matters raised by councillors.

6. Adjournment.

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

7. Wiltshire Council Report.

Cllr. Seed sought details of the burglaries at the Football Club and these were provided to him.

Cllr. Seed explained the nature of a Rural Housing Needs Survey and its use in determining likely housing requirements and advised that such housing needs can also include shared equity arrangements – something that is often missed or avoided by some surveys. He advised the Council that in addition to Wiltshire Council, the Wiltshire Rural Housing Association (WRHA) may be able to assist in conducting such a survey.

9. Planning.

a. There were no planning applications received after 12 November 2013.

b. The Council **resolved** to commission a Rural Housing Needs Survey (RHNS) and asked the Clerk to obtain sample survey forms from Wiltshire Council and from Wiltshire Rural Housing Association to determine whether the questions posed were suited to the needs of a village like Semington. It was noted that a survey undertaken by Wiltshire Council would not involve any funding from the Parish Council whereas the one undertaken by WRHA might involve the Parish Council having to make a financial contribution. The Clerk was asked to ascertain these costs and samples of the survey forms. The Chairman commented that it was fundamentally important that the correct questions were asked in any survey and a generic survey form may prove totally unsuitable. He added that it may be necessary for the Parish Council to include specific questions relating to Semington.

Cllrs. Robinson, Scott and Smyth agreed to examine the sample forms and to make recommendations to the next Parish Council meeting regarding the wording of the survey forms.

c. The Chairman stated that he had attended the Appeal hearing of planning application W/12/02050/FUL. He gave the following report to the Council (shown in italics):

The Planning Inspector focussed on 2 questions;

What is the effect of the proposal on the ‘character and appearance’ of the surrounding countryside?

The appellants considered that the proposals, including the amenity block, do not have a significant adverse impact on the character and appearance of the countryside. I argued that it was the ‘character’ of the Parish that would be adversely affected. I stressed the concern of parishioners that there is an increasing concentration of mobile home sites around Semington and that this would have an adverse effect on the overall character of the Parish. He accepted this point and confirmed that there is a provision in one of the formal guidance documents that states this should be avoided.

Is any harm to the countryside outweighed by other considerations, including the general need for gypsy sites and the accommodation needs and personal circumstances of the applicant?

There followed an in-depth discussion on the rationale for CP47 proposed site requirements for 2011–2016. Mr Phillips (advocate for the Appellants) strongly questioned the adequacy and credibility of the data used to determine the “need” for gypsy sites in Wiltshire. It appears that Mr Phillips is an ex-North Wiltshire Planning Officer who was responsible for the “caravan count” when the original research was being done. His argument was that just counting caravans was inadequate because gypsies travel about and the count is just a snapshot which would also vary depending on whether the count was undertaken in summer or in winter. The WC representatives accepted that the methodology could be questioned but maintained that the resultant data was not too far from the truth. However, the Inspector pointed out that although WC state there is not a “need” for additional sites like Littleton Stables this does not mean that no further sites could be provided.

We then discussed the situation in the event that the appeal was dismissed. The appellants argued that their smallholding business (which includes pig and puppy rearing, buying and selling of horses and tack etc) was their only source of income and if they were forced to vacate the site they would have nowhere else to go. Mr Wilmott (WC) stated that in such an event the Council would be unlikely to seek immediate enforcement and the appellants could have a valid claim for Council accommodation particularly in view of their existing medical problems. The appellants stated that if enforcement happened they would not accept Council accommodation and would prefer to go “on

the road". The Inspector said that he was obliged to consider the implications of refusing the appeal.

Other points;

'Human Rights' was mentioned but it was not an issue.

The Inspector considered whether temporary permission would be appropriate to allow a more acceptable proposal to be submitted. A decision on this will be part of the overall decision letter. Mr Phillips asked whether in the event of permission being granted the partner of the appellants' son would be able to live in the caravan. The Inspector said no because that is not part of the proposal being considered today. It would have to be the subject of a further submission. Short discussion on costs to be claimed by either party depending on the decision outcome.

Site Visit – we adjourned the meeting in Trowbridge at about 3pm. The others went off to visit the site but I opted out as I've seen it before and the Inspector did not intend to restart any discussions.

The decision letter is likely to be sent out in 6 to 8 weeks time,

d. There were no other planning matters.

9. Highways/Environment.

a. Cllr. Smyth stated that the next visit of the Parish Steward is to take place during the first week of December. [Post meeting note: WC has clarified that the Parish Steward will not be visiting Semington for another 3 months yet]. He added that he had met up with the Highways and Streetscene Focal Point, Stuart Renfrew, and can confirm that some tasks have now been completed although some further work is still required to complete the programme of work given to him previously. Cllr. Smyth reported that new tasks for the Parish Steward had been identified and these, including those highlighted by Cllr. Scott at this meeting, will be passed to Mr Renfrew. Councillors commented that of the matters reported by Cllr. Scott the broken stile would be the responsibility of the Footpath Warden and the brambles overhanging a footpath belonged to St Georges Church.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that there was a tree overhanging the pavement between Brook Bridge and Semington Brook Bridge. Cllr. Smyth stated that he will pass this information on to Mr Renfrew.

Cllr. Smyth explained the nature of 'Community Days' and indicated that such an occasion would be suitable for a Litter Pick, although as Community Days only operated Monday to Fridays the only councillors who indicated their availability during that time were Cllrs. Robinson, Scott and Smyth. Cllr. Smyth stated that he would make enquiries of Stuart Renfrew.

b. In the absence of Cllr. Rimmer, councillors reported that the rotunda had been installed, although some final 'dressing' remains to be done. Cllr. Robinson suggested that some form of obelisk should mark the position of the time capsule and it would be appropriate to plant crocuses around the rotunda. Cllr. Bowyer commented that he understood that a plaque was to be affixed to the Village Hall wall that showed the coordinates of the time capsule. The Council **resolved** that a plaque would be purchased and engraved and Cllrs Bowyer and Robinson agreed to make enquiries regarding the purchase of a plaque and its engraving. The proposal for an obelisk was not pursued. The Council **resolved** that crocuses be planted, as proposed by Cllr. Robinson, at a cost not exceeding £30.

c. Councillors confirmed that the Christmas Tree is to be erected on 30 November and the 'Switch on' is to take place on 7 December. Cllr. Smyth agreed to contact Leigh Swinden regarding the felling and transportation of the tree that is now scheduled to take place on 29 November and

Cllr. Bowyer agreed to contact St George's School regarding the tree decorations and the possibly of the school children being involved in the 'switch-on' ceremony.

d. Councillors reported that a substantial quantity of new bulbs had now been planted in the village.

10. Semington War Memorial.

The Clerk stated that the printed letters for the War Memorial donations would be delivered to Cllr. Oglesby in the morning for him to sign and for Mr Heard to collect.

11. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 20 November 2013 was as follows:

Lloyds TSB A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 30 September 2013	£	7,200.51
Total:	£	7,200.51

Credits (1 October 2013 to 31 October 2013):

RP Coleman HMRC/PAYE (Month 7)	£	120.40
Total:	£	120.40

Debits (1 October 2013 to 31 October 2013):

Clerk's Salary (September)	£	281.86
Office Expenses (September)	£	13.13
Clerk's Back Pay	£	16.70
HMRC PAYE Month 6	£	112.80
HMRC PAYE Month 7	£	120.40
Total:	£	544.89

Balance at 31 October 2013:

£ 6,776.02

Credits (1 November 2013 to 20 November 2013):

R P Coleman HMRC/PAYE (Month 8)	£	114.00
Total:	£	114.00

Debits (1 November 2013 to 20 November 2013):

Clerk's Salary (October)	£	284.67
Total:	£	284.67

Balance at 20 November 2013:

£ 6,605.35

Lloyds TSB A/C 7754288

Bank Statement – 30 June 2013	£	7,590.22
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Credits

Interest	£	0.30
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21 November 2013

Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

726

Interest	£	0.32
Interest	£	0.32
Interest (approx)	£	0.30
Interest (approx)	£	0.28
	£	1.52
Debits		
None	£	-
	£	-
Balance at 20 November 2013:	£	7,591.74

£ 14,197.09

Payments to be authorised (20 November 2013).

Clerk's Salary (November)	£	284.67
Office Expenses (October)	£	5.80
HMRC PAYE (Month 8)	£	114.00
S Rimmer (Rotunda/Time Capsule)	£	69.06
S Rimmer (Bulbs)	£	198.00
TOTAL:	£	671.53

Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (20 November 2013).

None	£	-
TOTAL:	£	-

b. The Council noted the Financial Forecast (attached to these minutes) and resolved that no action need be taken.

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

12. Wilts & Berks Canal.

There was nothing significant to report. Cllr. Robinson stated that work continues on the design and planning of the project and the Council agreed that it must remain alert to any proposed development associated with the Canal Project.

13. Tennis Court.

There was nothing to report.

14. Any Other Business.

The Clerk reported the following:

- Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service Safety Plan.
- West Wilts 'O' Group Premises.
- Esso Pipeline – Recent Survey results.

There were no other matters reported by councillors.

15. Date of Next Meeting.

The Council noted the dates for the next Ordinary Parish Council meetings:

- 8 January 2014
- 19 February 2014
- 19 March 2014
- 16 April 2014

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on 26 March 2014.

The meeting concluded at 9.55 pm.

R Oglesby
Chairman, Semington Parish Council

8 January 2014

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

728

Financial Forecast at 31 October 2013

ITEM (Description)	Agreed Budget FY2013/14	Actual Expenditure 31-Oct-13	Estimated Expenditure FY2013/14
<u>Income:</u>			
Precept	7500	7500	7500
Lloyds A/C 7754288 (Ex. St Georges Fund)	5	2	5
Lloyds A/C 2149025	0	0	0
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0
VAT Reclaim	60	137	137
Zurich Insurance Claim	0	0	0
Tennis Court Maintenance Fund	0	0	0
Total Income	7565	7639	7642
<u>Expenditure:</u>			
Clerk Salary	3275	1963	3386
Expenses	450	134	350
Office Allowance	150	125	125
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0
Chairman	0	0	0
Hire Hall	475	450	450
Audit	350	230	230
Subscriptions	75	36	36
Insurance	700	661	661
Community (Section 137)	1750	540	1750
Training	0	0	0
Elections	1000	0	1000
	8225	4139	7988
Net Income	7565	7639	7642
Net Expenditure	8225	4139	7988
Surplus	-660	3500	-346

Balance Carried
Forward at 31 March
2013:
(as per Annual Return
FY2012/13) £10,842.72

**Forecast Balance Carried Forward at 31
March 2014: £10,496.72**

**General Fund carried Forward at 31 March
2014: £5,541.18**

**Tennis Court Fund carried Forward at 31
March 2014: £5,301.54**