

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Semington Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 8 pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT:

Robert Oglesby, Chairman, Semington Parish Council and Chairman for the meeting.

Roger Coleman, Clerk.

The following Parish Councillors were present: P Bowyer, K Lockwood, S. Rimmer, W Scott, B Smyth and C Wade.

Wiltshire Councillor J Seed attended the meeting.

There were five members of the public present.

1. Introduction and Apologies.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Clerk explained the nature of an Annual Parish meeting.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 3 April 2013.

The Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council.

The Chairman presented his Annual Report of the Parish Council in which he described the activities of the Parish Council during the year.

A summary of his report and the topics are shown below (in italics):

Annual Report from the Parish Council - Year 2013 – 2014

8 councillors for part of year. Full Council (9 members) for latter part of year - F Dobbyn co-opted).

The following is a summary of some of the activities of the Parish Council on behalf of the parishioners of Semington:

10 Ordinary PC Meetings, 1 Annual PC Meeting, 1 Annual Parish Meeting

Consideration of Planning Applications – Around 25 (10 more than last year).

Annual Parish Meeting

War Memorial Project (Thanks to Ray Heard)

Village Sports Field – Development complete and now in use.

*Neighbourhood Policing Team Activities (Tasking Meeting etc)
PC Emily Thomas and PCSO Rose Baldock.*

*Village Environment/Expenditure:
Semington Jubilee Wood – Time Capsule.
Flower Planting (Daffodils).
St George's PCC – Churchyard & Grass Cutting.
St George's PCC – Village Newsletter.
Christmas Tree/Christmas Lights and Choir.*

Website – Development/Maintenance.

*Donations/Subscriptions:
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust*

Parish Steward - Footpath Clearance/Brambles/Grass Cutting/Overgrown Hedges.

*Highways issues:
Bus Clearway markings.
'No Through Road' ignored.
Grass Cutting (e.g. at Roundabout)*

*Other Matters:
Melksham Community Area Board involvement.
Melksham Campus (Support).
Wilts & Berks Canal trust involvement.*

Consideration/Consultation on numerous WC Documents.

4. Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2014.

The Clerk presented the following report (shown in italics):

The Clerk stated that the Financial Year had not yet ended so all figures here would be provisional. The Annual Return for FY2013/14 will be completed over the next couple of weeks and these figures are likely to change but not by very much. He added that he had quoted rounded figures.

The balance brought forward from FY2012/13 had been £10,843 and, allowing for the payments and receipts during the year, the balance carried forward at the end of FY2013/14, will be £15,419. The total receipts for the year to date are £11,930, payments for the year to date total £7354 and the value of the fixed assets owned by the Council is £26,793.

Annual Parish Meeting

Out of the balance of £15,419 carried forward some £5301 represented the legacy donation of the St George's Development Fund, namely the Tennis Court Fund and £3607 represented the War Memorial Fund donations and grant leaving thereby £6510 in the General Reserve Bank accounts. It had been £4494 last year.

Main Receipts in the year were:

Precept:	£7500
HMRC VAT Refund:	£137
War Memorial Donations	£3107 and this included a grant of £1500 from the Area Board.
HMRC PAYE	£1359
Bank Interest:	£4

Main Payments in the year were:

Staff Costs:	£3386
Office Expenses:	£338
Donations:	£825 - £40(Grass Cutting), £198 (Rotunda/Time Capsule), £69 (Bulbs), £18 (Xmas Tree Support), £500 (St George's PCC – Newsletter/Grass Cutting)..
HMRC PAYE:	£1359.
Insurance/Subscriptions/Audit Fees:	£ 891
Hall Hire:	£450

The Annual Return will be completed and the Internal Auditor will be invited to undertake the Internal Audit and thereafter the Annual Return will be presented to the Parish Council for approval. The Annual Return will be submitted to the Parish Council at the next meeting for approval and thereafter it will be sent to Grant Thornton, the External Auditor.

In the years that I have been Clerk, that is from 2002, the auditors – Internal and External – have found no matters that had to be brought to the attention of the Council.

5. Observations from Wiltshire Council Councillor Cllr. J Seed.

Cllr. Seed gave a short report. His report is shown below (in italics):

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL

CABINET ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES -EXTERNAL TRANSFORMATION

I thought that it may be useful to give you an idea of what I do as your Councillor and what I do with Wiltshire Council

I am Jonathon Seed and as well as representing my own Council Division of Summerham and Seend I am the

Annual Parish Meeting

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, CAMPUSES, AREA BOARDS, LEISURE, LIBRARIES AND FLOODING

CABINET MEMBER full time role, sit as a member of Council Executive, oversee a budget of about £120 million and to help me I have four Councillors to help with part of delivery', two portfolio holders one area boards and libraries and one leisure in addition to two Councillors helping with flooding matters together with a really top class team of officers delivering each service area

To give an overview of all of my portfolio:

COMMUNITIES. Council core aim is to develop resilient communities, all community matters relating to that including voluntary sector funding my role and aim is to facilitate this core value of the Council through developing community awareness and involvement in the delivery of their services in their community areas enhanced by the delivery of our ground breaking campus programme.

AREA BOARDS are a Wiltshire Council localism initiative. Important to grasp that Area Boards are about communities and not meetings.

When I took over I launched a root and branch review with the core goal of that review being to further enhance the role of area boards, developing innovative community-led approaches to designing and delivering services. Timescale role out next month.

CAMPUSES Council Business Plan commits each Community develop a campus opportunity. Determined this will happen and I now have Cabinet approval for this at the pace the community dictates together with input from partners and this is a £120million project. Our community area of Melksham will gain the first super campus which will complete the planning process next month and will be occupied in 2016

Should emphasise we are encouraging each community area to bring their proposal forward and develop it through a Community Operations Board whose job is to incorporate what the community wants into the campus proposal that the council can afford

Same way that ABs are about communities not meetings or building campuses are about community and personal engagement and not buildings

*LEISURE responsibility for policy of 23 leisure centres including 11 swimming pools all of which I have visited since taking office
Goal is to retain and enhance our leisure offering including the integration of leisure into public health. Business Plan no 10. Integrate public health at the heart of all public services*

*LIBRARIES responsibility for policy for 31 libraries all of which I have visited since taking office
Goal to retain, enhance and expand our library service offering including new buildings, longer hours, wider services.*

Annual Parish Meeting

FLOODING strategic cabinet lead for flooding in the county, largely developed from my previous role and expertise as an OFWG chair

Goal to provide a fully coordinated proactive and reactive flood alleviation service to the people of Wiltshire through efficient strategic planning, targeted tactical investment and greatly enhanced community working. Note that in the recent flood event Wiltshire had nearly over 500 dwellings and sixty businesses flooded compared to Somerset 120.

Locally I try and regularly attend all the seven Parish Council meetings in my Division Poulshot, Seend, Bulkington, Keevil, Great Hinton, Steeple Ashton and Semington and I deal with both issues raised by those Parish Councils as well as individual residents.

In Semington I have helped with issues which attract attention include travellers and I have worked closely with your Parish Council and particularly your Chairman. . I engage with the village and the Parish Council on many other local planning issues.

I also try and help with highways matters and the new system of highways meetings followed by action days seems to be working well.

Finally I do try to ensure that my own villages get at least their fair share of Area Board support and funding and I am pleased to report that in the past year Semington has received funding for village hall improvements, Christmas tree lights and I am happy to help with other projects where I am asked.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Seed for his report.

6. 'The War Memorial Project' – A short presentation by Mr Ray Heard.

Mr Ray Heard gave a presentation on the War Memorial Project. He stated that this project was designed to commemorate the First World War. He explained that the War Memorial is to be renovated and 'missing' names to be added and additional work is to be undertaken to renovate the wooden plaque in the Church that also bears the names of the fallen. He added that a re-dedication ceremony is to be held on 3 August at St George's Church and representatives from the many branches of the Armed Services are to be present. He expressed his gratitude and thanks to the many organisations and individuals who had made voluntary contributions to this project and added that the sum donated so far exceeds £3000. Mr Heard concluded his presentation by stating that he is to prepare a Book of Remembrance in which the details of the fallen will be recorded.

The Chairman thanked Mr Heard for his presentation.

7. To consider resolutions of which written notice has been given.

The Clerk stated that there had been no written resolutions.

8. To consider other matters raised by those present.

The following topics were raised by those present:

Annual Parish Meeting

Development of the land at St Georges Road – no further progress on this matter except the commissioning by the Parish Council of a Rural Housing Needs Survey.

Neighbourhood Planning – and the proposal by the Parish Council to consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Semington.

Melksham Campus/ Hubs – Cllr. Seed explained the nature of these developments and the rationale behind their creation.

Allotments – The failure by the Parish Council to acquire suitable land for allotment garden use.

CPRE Best Kept Village Competition – A request to parishioners for assistance in preparing the entry paperwork for this competition. Cllr. Seed suggested that it may be possible to obtain an Area Board Grant for the construction of a 'Tourist Information Board (containing a map)' for Semington Village.

Tree planting – To plant more trees in the village.

9. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

10. Close.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chairman