

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2018 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

### Present.

Councillors B Smyth (Chairman), P Bowyer, R Oglesby, S Rimmer, R Robinson, W Scott, P Smith, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time).

There was one member of the public present.

### 1. **Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from PCSO Ledbury.

### 2. **Declaration of Interests.**

There were no interests declared by councillors.

### 3. **Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20 December 2017.**

The Council **resolved** that the minutes were a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

### 4. **Community Policing.**

PCSO Ledbury had sent a written report to the Clerk prior to the meeting that the Clerk had sent to all councillors. This report was a general report but included content specific to Semington that is reproduced below (in italics):

#### **CRIME EXCEPTIONS**

***These figures are based on an evaluation of data, over a two year rolling period. Using this data we can predict what figure is the average that should be reported in a specific month, and what are the higher and lower parameters that we may expect. Figures outside of these parameters are classed as 'Crime Exceptions'.***

#### **ED12 (Shaw, Whitley, Atworth, Broughton Gifford, Beanacre, Bowerhill)**

*December showed 30 crimes for December 2017 against the average of 30.5 for this month over the last 2 years. There are no exceptions within the data.*

*Violence Against the person shows 12 crimes against the average of 11.4  
Criminal Damage showed 9 against the average of 6.9. Theft was slightly lower than average at 4 compared to 7.6 average.*

#### **ED13 (Seend, Bulkington, Poulshot, Keevil, Semington, Great Hinton, Steeple Ashton)**

*December had 13 reported crimes across this Beat area against the average of 9.3. There are no exceptions within this data.*

*Theft was the highest category with 5 reports against the average of 3.5. Criminal Damage had 4 reports against the average of 1.7, and 3 Violence against the person against an average of 3.4.*

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

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## Semington

### **Crimes for December 2017**

4 <sup>th</sup>	Caravan stolen from Fairfields
8 <sup>th</sup>	RTC fail to stop on Semington Roundabout.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Van broken into in Semington. Several items stolen.
30 <sup>th</sup>	Attempted dwelling burglary (failed) sheds (bike stolen)

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit... <https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>

**Sector Inspector – Inspector Andy Fee** – [andy.fee@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andy.fee@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)  
**Sector Deputy – Sergeant Gill Hughes** – [gill.hughes@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gill.hughes@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)  
**Community Coordinator – Pc Lee Pelling** – [lee.pelling@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lee.pelling@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

### **5. Adjournment.**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the member of the public to raise any matters of interest. The Chairman then reconvened the Parish Council meeting.

### **6. Wiltshire Council Report.**

Cllr. Seed gave a report on the following topics:

#### Council Tax for FY2018/2019.

Cllr. Seed stated that the Wiltshire Council budget for FY2018/2019 is to be published next week and is likely to show a shortfall of some £20m. He commented that the Council Tax is likely to rise by 5.9% - the maximum permitted by Central Government and that the Police Budget would also rise and this would represent a £12 per year increase for a Band D property.

#### Wiltshire Air Ambulance – Bus Gate.

The Chairman stated that he and Cllr. Smith had recently attended a meeting with Cllr. Seed to discuss the matter concerning the relocation of the Bus Gate on the (old) A350 road through Semington following the construction of the new Headquarters for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to comment on that meeting.

Cllr. Seed stated that in his view it is necessary to go back and look at the problem that gave rise to the Bus Gate initially. He commented that a metrocount survey of the vehicles using that part of the road should be undertaken in order to gather current data in order to inform any decisions regarding the Bus Gate relocation. Cllr. Smith commented that it is important that an accurate figure is obtained and that it would be necessary for the Air Ambulance Trust sub-contractors to be alerted as to the existing prohibitions otherwise unrealistic figures will be obtained.

Cllrs. Oglesby and Scott emphasized that the Air Ambulance Trust had confirmed in its original planning application that details to relocate the existing Bus Gate would be included in the full planning application and that there was a clear intention stated that alterations would be made to the existing Bus Gate facilities so that access can instead be gained only from the business park to the north. Councillors commented that this assurance was instrumental in the Parish Council supporting the original planning application and that it was inexcusable that the Air Ambulance Trust had now reneged on that agreement.. They argued that Air Ambulance had been willing to relocate the Bus Gate but had been persuaded otherwise by Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Seed observed that the cost of relocating the Bus Gate had been estimated locally at £20,000 to £30,000 – a sum of money that it had been understood may have been available from the Air Ambulance Trust and a cost for the work significantly lower than that proposed by Wiltshire Council. . Cllr. Rimmer stated that the attitude by the Air Ambulance Trust in respect of this matter

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had been dismissive.

Cllr. Seed and the Parish Council noted that a meeting had been arranged with the Chairman of the Air Ambulance Trust and other representatives to take this matter further on 8 February 2018.

## Planning.

a. The Council noted the status of extant planning applications:

17/10025/FUL	Greenacres, Littleton	Change of use to provide 5 additional gypsy and traveller pitches (14 in total each with 1 static caravan and 1 touring caravan) and associated ancillary works including landscaped amenity areas. This is in lieu of the 3 pitches and 8 caravans approved under permission W/11/01206/FUL and the further 6 pitches and 12 caravans approved under permission 14/10797/FUL. Retention of the existing dayroom approved under 14/04110/FUL. Retrospective approval for stone walled entrance to site	Pending
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b. The Council examined the following planning application and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown below (in italics):

17/12013/FUL	April Cottage, Littleton	Proposed Replacement Porch, Garage Conversion, Fenestration Alterations and Detached Garage and Workshop/Gym.	NEW
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*This application is supported by the Parish Council.*

c. There were no planning applications received after 16 January 2018.

d. Cllr. Scott stated that with other councillors he had attended a Village Green Public Enquiry at Marlborough to learn of the processes and procedures that are likely to obtain when the Semington Village Green Enquiry is held later in the year. He added that the visit had been very worthwhile and the Semington Enquiry is likely to last two or three days, although no Inspector had yet been appointed.

## 8. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 20 December 2017 was as follows:

### Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 30 November 2018	£	20,106.21
Total:	£	<b>20,106.21</b>

### **Credits (1 December 2017 to 31 December 2017):**

None	£	-
Total:	£	-

### **Debits (1 December 2017 to 31 December 2017):**

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Clerk's Salary (November)	£	296.79
HMRC PAYE Month 9	£	118.80
Southview Nurseries	£	196.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>611.59</b>

**Balance at 31 December 2017:****£ 19,494.62****Credits (1 January 2018 to 24 January 2018):**

HMRC PAYE Month 9	£	118.80
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>118.80</b>

**Debits (1 January 2018 to 24 January 2018):**

Clerk's Salary (November)	£	296.79
Clerks Expenses	£	8.36
Southview Nurseries	£	196.00
<b>S Rimmer</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>22.72</b>
B Smyth (Photocopying)	£	26.00
S Rimmer (Trees/Lights)	£	192.08
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>741.95</b>

**Balance at 24 January 2018:****£ 18,871.47****Minus Semington War Memorial Monies Remaining:****£ 375.99****Parish Council Balance at 24 January 2018:****£ 18,495.48****Lloyds A/C 7754288**

Bank Statement 29-Sep-18	£	7,615.30
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**Credits**

9/10	Interest	£	0.29
2/11	Pennine Magistrates	£	9.02
9/11	Interest	£	0.32
11/12	Interest	£	0.33
11/1	Interest	£	0.32
		<b>£</b>	<b>10.28</b>

**Debits**

None	£	-
<b>Balance at 24 January 2018:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>7,625.58</b>

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Total Balance in Hand at 24 January 2018:

£	26,121.06
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**Payments to be authorised (24 January 2018).**

Clerk's Salary (January)	£	296.79
Office Expenses (December)	£	6.86
HMRC PAYE Month 10	£	118.40
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>422.05</b>

**Donations/Subscriptions to be considered (20 December 2017).**

None

£	-
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**TOTAL:**

£	-
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b. The Council **resolved** to adopt the proposed Budget, shown below:

**Semington Proposed Budget FY2018/2019**

ITEM (Description)	Budget FY17/18 Agreed	Estimated FY17/18 31-Mar-18	Budget FY18/19 Proposed
<b><u>Income:</u></b>			
Precept	12000	12000	12750
WC Grant (Information Boards)	0	530	0
Lloyds A/C 7754288 (Ex. St Georges Fund)	5	5	5
Lloyds A/C 2149025	0	0	0
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0
VAT Reclaim	251	251	250
Donations (War Memorial)	0	0	0
Tennis Court Maintenance Fund	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>12256</b>	<b>12786</b>	<b>13005</b>
<b><u>Expenditure:</u></b>			
Clerk Salary	3561	3592	3664
Expenses	250	250	250
Office Allowance	150	150	175
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0
Chairman	0	0	0
Hire Hall	550	490	515
Audit	230	320	300
Subscriptions	36	36	89
Insurance	800	757	795
Community (Section 137) Projects (e.g. Tree/Bulb planting/Christmas Tree)	2250	2250	2250
Road Safety Improvements	500	500	1500
Road Safety Improvements	0	0	5000
War Memorial Project	376	376	376
Neighbourhood Plan	0	0	0

25 January 2018

Roger Coleman  
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

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

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Training	0	0	0
Elections	2500	2500	2500
Tennis Court	1000	1032	500
Ex-WC Functions	0	0	0
	<b>12203</b>	<b>12253</b>	<b>17914</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12256</b>	<b>12786</b>	<b>13005</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>12203</b>	<b>12253</b>	<b>17914</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>-4909</b>

Balance Carried Forward at 31  
March 2017:  
(as per Annual Return  
FY2016/17) £21,475.64

**Forecast Balance Carried Forward at 31 March  
2018: £22,008.64**

**Forecast Balance Carried Forward at 31 March  
2019: £17,099.64**

**NOTE**  
**Tennis Court Fund = £4300 approx (included in Forecast Balance)**

b. The Council **resolved** to adopt the proposed budget as presented subject to increasing the Precept to £12750.

c. The Council **resolved** to request a precept of £12750 for FY2018/19.

d. The Clerk presented a case for becoming a Member of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and following a brief discussion the Council **resolved** that the Clerk to Semington Council should become a member of the SLCC and further **resolved** that the sum of £53 be paid to the SLCC for this membership.

The Council **resolved** that a payment of £28 be made to Cllr. Robinson in respect of donations he had made on behalf of the Parish Council to the parishioners who assisted in the erection etc of the Christmas Tree and the Council resolved that £117.34 be paid to Cllr. Smith for expenses incurred in refurbishing the telephone kiosk and for photocopying of Carol Sheets for the Village Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree.

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

## 9. Highways/Environment.

a. The Chairman stated that he would report the following to the Parish Steward:

- The need to clear moss etc from the footpath at St Georges Road.
- To clear the path near to the Bus Stop on the A361 road (Littlemarsh side).

b. Cllr. Smith stated that there had been no further progress on the refurbishment of the telephone box because of the cold and the adverse weather.  
Cllr. Oglesby suggested a future use for the telephone box could be for an ATM money dispenser.

Cllr. Smith commented that he had written to the Headteacher, George's School inviting suggestions for possible uses for the kiosk.

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c. Cllr. Robinson reported that the safety improvement work to be undertaken on the A361 by Wiltshire Council is now due to commence in late March.

d. Cllr. Robinson stated that he had informed Wiltshire Council of a number of instances of fly-tipping in the layby (south side of A361 by Bartletts Farm) and this refuse had been promptly removed. He added that it was a continuing problem and that there was overwhelming evidence of rats infesting that area. He commented that he would contact Wiltshire Council Environmental Health.

Cllr. Robinson commented that he also undertook a 'litter pick' recently with a parishioner and that the village and its environs were now much tidier. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Robinson for his efforts.

Cllr. Wade invited other councillors to join him this Saturday at 10am to remove the roots of cleared vegetation at the Tennis Court. This was noted by councillors.

Cllr. Scott reported that the bramble hedge at the Church field needed cutting back as it is now overhanging the Pound Lane footpath.

Cllr. Rimmer reminded councillors of the decision made some time ago to purchase specimen trees – ideally ten trees – and to plant them as a feature opposite to the crematorium. Possible candidates were oak trees, each costing £45.95. He added that a cheaper but far less attractive possibility was purchasing small saplings that would cost £5 to £6 each. He stated that he would send details of these options to all councillors. He added that a decision would not be required until later in the year.

## **10. Melksham Community Area Board/Community Area Transport Group Meetings.**

The date for the next CATG meeting was noted – 8 March 2018, 4pm at Melksham Fire Station..

## **11. Assets of Community Value.**

The Chairman stated that he would list those artefacts that he considered may qualify as 'Assets of Community Value' and send this list and the 'Briefing Note' to all councillors with a view to the Parish Council deciding whether or not to nominate any of the artefacts – or additional ones identified by councillors – at the next Parish Council meeting.

## **12. Wilts & Berks Canal.**

There was nothing reported in respect of current developments.

## **13. Tennis Court.**

There was nothing reported other than the need to clear the existing roots – See Agenda item 9d above.

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

Cllr. Scott reported that a photograph in the Melksham News newspaper claiming to be an aerial shot of Melksham was dominated by a photograph of Semington with comparatively little of Melksham shown.

Cllr. Robinson stated that owing to personal reasons he may have to resign as a parish councillor.

## **15. Date of Next Meeting.**

a. The Council noted the date of the following meeting thus:

- 21 February 2018

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b. The Council agreed a number of dates that subsequent Ordinary Parish Council meetings could be held. The Clerk stated that he would contact the Booking Officer for Village Hall availability.

It was noted that the date for the April meeting had already been agreed - 18 April 2018

The meeting concluded at 10.07pm.

Brian Smyth  
Semington Parish Council

21 February 2018