

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2018 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

### Present.

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

There were two members 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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 16 May 2018.**

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

### 4. **Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 16 May 2018.**

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

### 5. **Community Policing.**

PCSO Ledbury had sent a written report to the Clerk prior to the meeting that the Clerk had sent to all councillors. The part of the report relating to local issues is reproduced below (in italics). The Clerk read out the following report in full.

#### ED13 Beat Code Monthly Report for May 2018

#### Poulshot

4<sup>th</sup> *Verbal abuse of CSW members*

#### Bulkington

No reports

#### Keevil

5<sup>th</sup> *Car battery stolen*

9<sup>th</sup> *Drone over Keevil*

30<sup>th</sup> *Unknown persons have broken in to a vehicle and stolen £1300 of equipment.*

#### Steeple Ashton

19<sup>th</sup> *44 year old males arrested failure to provide.*

30<sup>th</sup> *Unknown persons have broken in to a compound and stolen two wheels and a car jack in Steeple Ashton.*

#### Great Hinton No reports

#### Semington

20<sup>th</sup> *Dog attack in Church Street Semington. Knocking dog owner to the ground and attacking the dog.*

31<sup>st</sup> *ASB- Boy on bicycle causing issues in Semington.*

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Seend  
30<sup>th</sup>

*Non-Injury RTC fencing damaged at Sells Green.*

*Not sure where this one sits but it comes under ED13*

11<sup>th</sup> *Criminal damage to ground and trees in Biss Woods*

*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 James Williams – [james.williams@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:james.williams@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)*

*Community Coordinator – Pc Charly Chilton : [charlotte.chilton@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:charlotte.chilton@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)*

Cllr. Robinson advised the Council that a number of sheds had been broken into in nearby villages.

The Chairman advised councillors to be wary of casual street traders known as ‘Nottingham Knockers’ as many were unlicensed and had ulterior motives for house to house calling.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that he had nothing to report in respect of Neighbourhood Watch.

## 6. Adjournment.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the members of the public to raise any matters of interest. Following contributions from the public he reconvened the Parish Council meeting.

## 7. Wiltshire Council Report.

In the absence of Cllr. Seed there was no report.

## 8. Planning.

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

18/02804/FUL	29 High Street	Conversion of outbuilding to create ancillary (annexe) accommodation. Minor amendment to that approved under app.ref: 15/12704/FUL	Approved
18/02885/LBC	29 High Street	Conversion of outbuilding to create ancillary (annexe) accommodation. Minor amendment to that approved under app.ref: 16/00054/LBC	Approved

b. The Council examined the following planning application and **resolved** to send comments to Wiltshire Council as shown (in italics):

18/04830/FUL	9 High Street	Two storey rear extension	New
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*The Council has no comments on this planning application.*

c. There were no planning applications received after 6 June 2018.

d. The Council noted the Notification of Enforcement Appeal (APP/Y3940/C/17/3191874) dated 2 May 2018 – Lansdowne, Littleton, The Clerk confirmed that he had sent the comments from the Parish Council agreed at the last meeting to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Clerk confirmed that he had sent Wiltshire Council Briefing Note 355 – Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan – to all councillors for information.

The Council noted the Application for Street Trading Consent in respect of ‘The Griddle King’ to be

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

located at the Layby on the A361 at Littleton and **resolved** that it had no objections.

Cllr. Scott gave a brief report on the progress of the Village Green application. He stated that he was awaiting a date for the Enquiry and that meanwhile the various witness statements were being finalised.

## 9. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 13 June 2018 was as follows:

### Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 30 April 2018	£ 23,523.08
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Total:	<b>£ 23,523.08</b>
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Cheque 858(£118.80) not banked

Cheque 856(£125) not banked

### **Credits (1 May 2018 to 31 May 2018):**

HMRC PAYE Month 2	£ 118.80
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Dixon Health Chiropractors	£ 100.00
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Total:	<b>£ 218.80</b>
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### **Debits (1 May 2018 to 31 May 2018):**

Clerk's Salary (April)	£ 296.79
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Clerk's Expenses (April)	£ 37.67
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HMRC PAYE Month 2	£ 118.80
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Carer Support	£ 125.00
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Wiltshire Council	£ 5,000.00
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Clerk's Office Allowance	£ 150.00
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Total:	<b>£ 5,728.26</b>
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### **Balance at 31 May 2018:**

<b>£ 18,013.62</b>
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### **Credits (1 June 2018 to 13 June 2018):**

None	£ -
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Total:	<b>£ -</b>
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### **Debits (1 June 2018 to 13 June 2018):**

Clerk's Salary (May)	£ 316.18
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Wiltshire Wildlife	£ 36.00
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Internal Audit Fee	£ 120.00
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Total:	<b>£ 472.18</b>
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# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

<b>Balance at 13 June 2018:</b>	£	<b>17,541.44</b>
<b>Minus Semington War Memorial Monies Remaining:</b>	£	375.99
<b>Parish Council Balance at 13 June 2018:</b>	£	<b>17,165.45</b>
 <b><u>Lloyds A/C 7754288</u></b>		
Bank Statement 31-May-18	£	7,626.80
 <b>Credits</b>		
Interest (Approx)	£	0.37
	£	<b>0.37</b>
 <b>Debits</b>		
None	£	-
	£	-
 <b>Balance at 13 June 2018:</b>	 £	 <b>7,627.17</b>
 <b>Total Balance in Hand at 13 June 2018:</b>	 £	 <b>24,792.62</b>

### Payments to be authorised (13 June 2018).

Clerk's Salary (June)	£	316.18
Clerk's Salary (Back Pay - May)	£	19.39
Office Expenses (May)	£	10.26
(HMRC PAYE Income Tax to be paid at Month 3)		
HMRC PAYE Month 3 (Includes Tax owed at Month 2)	£	134.40
<b>TOTAL:</b>	£	<b>480.23</b>

b. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above. The Council agreed to the request from Cllr. Robinson that the person who was looking after the planters in the village should be given a donation of £15 to cover her out of pocket expenses. The Council **resolved** to make a payment to X2Connect Ltd of £153.00 in respect of K6 Telephone Kiosk signs.

#### **10. Highways/Environment.**

a Cllr. Robinson confirmed that the local roads had been swept by the road-sweeper vehicle. He added that he had cut the grass at The Ragged Smock but because of the nature of the area future cuts would need the facility of a strimmer. Cllr. Robinson was asked to investigate the purchase of a strimmer plus necessary attachments and to present these details to the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Rimmer confirmed that he had cleared a path through the trees that had been planted by the Parish Council at Littlemarsh and recommended that councillors and others took advantage of this facility.

## SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Scott stated that he was intending to plant some Yellow Rattle plugs in strategic positions in the village, including the Littlemarsh woodland path, to reduce the growth of unwanted grass.

The Clerk stated that a parishioner had asked him to inform the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council that there had been fly-tipping at Littlemarsh. The Clerk added that he had advised the parishioner to contact Wiltshire Council directly.

The Chairman reminded the Clerk to send a response to the parishioner regarding the overgrown vegetation at the path near to the school.

b. The Clerk confirmed that Wiltshire Council was addressing the matter of 'screening' and that Wiltshire Council would be contacting the parishioner directly.

c. Cllr. Smith stated that work to refurbish the telephone kiosk has progressed well and that the outside of the kiosk was now almost completed, although some seventy-two glazing bars required a final coat of paint. He added that the interior light is now working again and that refurbishment of the inside of the kiosk is now required. He confirmed that the new 'Semington' sign at the top of the kiosk had now been fitted.

d. Cllr. Rimmer stated that approval had now been obtained from Wiltshire Council for the planting of a number of oak trees in the village opposite to the crematorium to commemorate the ending of the First World War and the fallen of Semington. He explained the proposed planting plan and councillors agreed to accompany him to examine the proposed site and to measure it and mark it out where the trees are to be planted. Cllr. Rimmer commented that he would order the trees with a view to planting them in the Autumn. The Clerk requested that the Clerk is sent the invoice or proforma invoice for payment and that the order is made out to Semington Parish Council.

### 11. War Memorial.

Councillors noted the full report given by Mr Ray Heard during the Adjournment regarding the extensive research that he had undertaken to investigate the history of John Farmer and William Hancock and to ascertain whether or not it was appropriate to add their names to the existing War Memorial in the churchyard. He had commented that he had had discussions with members of the respective families and with the Commonwealth Graves Commission, the War memorials Trust and The Royal British Legion and that he had spent considerable time at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre examining past contemporaneous Parish Council and Parochial Church Council meeting minutes. Mr Heard had presented his research findings to the Council during the Adjournment.

There ensued a lengthy discussion on the results of this research and based on the evidence available the Parish Council decided that these two individuals (Messrs. Farmer and Hancock) had already been appropriately commemorated and the Parish Council **resolved** to take no further action.

The Parish Council **resolved** to thank Mr Heard for his conscientious and detailed research into this matter and for his report to the Parish Council.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he would write an article for the Parish Newsletter summarising the research undertaken and the decision taken the Parish Council in respect of these two individuals.

### **Clerk's Note.**

**Briefing Notes in relation to this matter and the article written by Cllr. Smyth are attached to these minutes.**

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council thanked Mr Heard for purchasing two commemorative poppy sprays for £20 and following his advice the Council **resolved** to add the sum of £20 to the remaining War Memorial Fund – now totalling (with the £20 donation) £395.99.

The Council further **resolved** to purchase, annually, a Memorial Wreath for the Remembrance Day commemorations at a cost of £50 approximately and two Poppy Sprays for the two war graves in the churchyard - approximately £10 each.

## 12. Melksham Community Area Board/Community Area Transport Group Meetings.

Cllr. Robinson stated that he had not attended the Area Board meeting because it did not address 'normal business' and that he would be unable to attend the CATG meeting on 21 June 2018. Cllr. Wade stated that he was likely to be able to attend the CATG meeting in June.

## 13. Wilts & Berks Canal.

There was nothing reported in respect of current developments.

## 14. Tennis Court and Wessex Close Play Areas.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he recommended that a Working Party in the Autumn could clear the overgrown vegetation that has encroached upon the Play Area at Wessex Close that had reduced the available usable space.

Councillors agreed to talk to a parishioner with experience of refurbishing play areas regarding improving/repairing the damaged football pitch at Wessex Close Play Area.

## 15. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Oglesby – Advised the Parish Council of the likely effect of the General Data Protection Regulations on the working practices of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he had attended the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Annual General Meeting.

Cllr. Robinson asked whether he should proceed to purchase a Memorial Plaque for a local person who had been killed in the Crimean War. The Chairman requested the Clerk to include this subject as an Agenda item at the next meeting.

## 16. Date of Next Meeting.

a. The Council noted the following meeting date thus:

18 July - Ordinary PC Meeting at 8pm.  
No meeting in August.

b. The following dates were proposed for subsequent meetings:

12 September 2018.  
17 October 2018.  
14 November 2018.  
12 December 2018.

**Clerk's Note: These dates have now been confirmed.**

The meeting concluded at 10.05pm.

Brian Smyth  
Semington Parish Council

18 July 2018

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Briefing Notes Parish Council - 13-6-2018

Why are we doing this. We looked at this in 2014 and following CWGC guidance did not add names.

( explain)

We should proceed in line with the War Memorial Trust guidance for adding names to a memorial.(copy for Clerk & PC )

Letter with Parish News ref war memorial.

Contacted CWGC for guidance. (1) Awaiting response 00060776.

Royal British Legion state that no known incident of names added to a memorial of deaths re ex service AFTER dates of war i.e 1914-18 1919-45.

OWNERSHIP Detail Local Authority and Religious authority,

Explain details from RECORDS OFFICE (2)

Both Parish Council and PCC.

Note John Farmer (father) was on the PC.

PCC Accounts in 1919 ref Cross

War memorial in church. Churchyard after end of 1945.?? Note no comments on WW1 both PC and PCC Steeple Ashton

Explain end of war i.e. (3) 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1920 but CWGC use Parliament 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 1921. And graves option .Farmer enlisted on 12-12-15 Discharged 22-10-17 under army order 265/17 par 2. Hancock enlisted 4-5-15 Discharged 10-12-15 under army order 392/15 par 111

Following contact with CWGC, the facts are

From the end of the war 1918 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 1921 any ex serviceman who died from the effects of war OR NOT the family would be offered a headstone from CWGC for the churchyard. This means that the CWGC then maintain, clean or replace headstone for perpetuity . Both Farmer & Hancock parents would have asked for this knowing the grave would be maintained forever.

PCC permission. (4) Contact made with Rev John Rees and Sec of PCC (24.5.18). Awaiting date (may be confirmed)

to explain action the PC wish's to take and the next PCC meeting is in SEPTEMBER. After this we have to then contact Diocesan Office to petition for faculty application (Details with the Chairman and the Clerk)

Family. You will all have a copy of the Melksham News Ref Farmer & Hancock. (5)

Good News I have made contact with members of the Farmer Family WHO did not know of Frank Baden Palmer. (may have meet by then) We are meeting at the Church to lay Poppy Spray on his grave ( bought).

Sum up.

PCC approval Diocesan permission. War Memorials (Local Authority Powers) Act 1923.

Conservation Officer WCC for advice.

I would recommend no action until meeting with the family but following telephone contacts I am confident no changes to the present

We must ensure that a Poppy Spray is laid at every Remembrance Sunday and would suggest it is in standing orders of PC ??

# SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Semington War Memorial – Cllr. B Smyth

2018 sees the 100th anniversary of the ending of the 1st World War and there is considerable attention on the various memorials that will be the focus of the commemorations in November. In addition to the main war memorial at St George's Church, there are official war graves in the churchyard for two villagers who served in WW1 - Frank Baden Farmer and William Henry John Hancock. Both individuals died after the end of hostilities. For some time now Semington Parish Council have been considering whether these two names should be added to the main war memorial. This question has required much research which has been undertaken by our local military historian Ray Heard. In addition to many hours reading through archives, Ray sought advice from both the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and the British Legion.

From the end of the war in 1918 until 31 August 1921 any ex-service personnel who died, whether from the effects of the war or not, were offered an official CWGC headstone for the churchyard. This means that the families of Farmer and Hancock both chose this option. The other fact that came to light was that it is not accepted practice to add to community memorials the names of individuals who died after the end of hostilities, as was the case here.

We know that official war graves were a source of great pride for the families of those who died and taking all these things into account the Parish Council decided that it should not seek to add their names to the main village war memorial. We thought long and hard about this issue and felt it was important that Parishioners were made aware of the reasoning behind our decision. Nevertheless, the PC will ensure that in addition to the annual wreath laid at the war memorial, individual poppy sprays are laid also at the two war graves.