

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2018 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present.

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

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

There were five members of the public present initially.

1. **Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillor S Rimmer and from PCSO Maggie Ledbury.

2. **Declaration of Interests.**

There were no interests declared by councillors.

3. **Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 17 October 2018.**

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

4. **Community Policing.**

PCSO Ledbury of the Community Policing Team had sent the Clerk the November monthly report that he had subsequently sent to all councillors. The Clerk read out that part of the report that dealt with local issues and this is reproduced below (in italics):

Melksham Rural Report – ED12 and ED13 - November 2018

CRIME EXCEPTIONS DATA

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, Berryfields)

October showed 33 crimes for this beat area, against the average of 33.4 offences for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups that accounted for 79% of ED12 crime are as follows :

Violence against the Person showed 15 reported crimes, compared to an average of 12.5 offences.

Theft showed 7 reported crimes, compared to an average of 4.6 offences.

Criminal Damage showed 2 reported crimes, compared to an average of 7.5 offences.

Public Order showed 2 reported crimes, compared to an average of 2.4 offences.

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

October showed 17 crimes for this beat area, against the average of 11 offences for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups that accounted for 88% of ED13 crime are as follows :

Violence against the Person showed 6 reported crimes, compared to an average of 4.1 offences.

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*Theft showed 4 reported crimes, compared to an average of 1.9 offences.
This crime type is showing as an exception as the number of offences is higher than we would expect to see. When put into context this is a rise of only 2 offences. When broken down, three of these offences relate to items stolen from farmland and one is a theft from a private dwelling.*

*Criminal Damage showed 3 reported crimes, compared to an average of 1.7 offences.
Vehicle Offences showed 2 reported crimes, compared to an average of 1.6 offences.*

COMMUNITY POLICING PRIORITIES WITHIN YOUR AREA

Burglaries

In recent weeks we have continued to see burglaries across the West Wiltshire sector, with entry being gained to many properties via insecurities.

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

CONTACT US

*Please use 999 in an emergency or crime in progress. Use 101 for all past or non-urgent crimes/incidents and issues or visit Wiltshire Police's new website at:
<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/>*

*CPT TEAM EMAIL (please use this email for all enquiries, meeting invitations and minutes)
CPTWestWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk*

Temporary Sector Inspector – James Williams – james.williams@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Deputy Sector Sergeant – Jeff Rice – jeff.rice@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Community Coordinator – PC Charly Chilton – charlotte.chilton@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

5. 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.

6. Wiltshire Council Report.

Cllr. Seed gave a report on the following:

- Bus gate enforcement and the possible means of deterring errant motorists.
- The likely Wiltshire Council precept for FY2019/20 – a personal view.

7. Planning.

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

18/08128/OUT	Land West of 5a High Street	Proposed New Dwelling	Approved
18/08168/FUL	Bay Tree Cottage, 5A High Street	Proposed single storey extension & outbuilding	Approved

b. There were no planning applications received after 7 November 2018.

c. Cllr. Scott explained that the Village Green application for Great Lees Field is progressing and to promote this initiative a 'Friends of Great Lees Field' has been established with an agreed constitution. He stated that a date for the enquiry has yet to be set and an Inspector has yet to be appointed. Cllr. Scott commented that the Friends of Great Lees Field has been working with villagers to obtain witness statements, to identify those willing to give oral evidence and to begin the preparation of the case to present to the Inspector taking advice from those organisations and individuals with experience of such matters. He added that it may be necessary to seek legal advice in order to mount a successful case.

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Roger Coleman
Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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The Clerk stated that noting that the Friends of Great Lees Field were seeking to protect and to provide a community asset for the benefit of the parishioners of Semington and others it would appear that the Friends of Great Lees Field Group could, if it wished, receive a donation from the Council to assist it in its task provided such donation was commensurate with the nature of the cause and not excessive.

Clerk's Notes.

i. The briefing note given to the Parish Council by Cllr. Scott is appended to these minutes.

ii. Following the Parish Council meeting a response was received from Wiltshire Council about the delay in setting up the inquiry for the village green which has been caused because Wiltshire Council is currently appealing against a High Court decision about a village green inquiry in Royal Wootton Bassett. When matters have been clarified, a date is likely to be set.

d. There were no other planning matters raised.

8. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 14 November 2018 was as follows:

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 30 September 2018	£	19,259.90
Total:	£	19,259.90

Credits (1 October 2018 to 31 October 2018):

HMRC PAYE Month 6	£	141.50
Total:	£	141.50

Debits (1 October 2018 to 31 October 2018):

Clerk's Salary (September)	£	322.50
HMRC PAYE Month 7	£	128.80
R Robinson	£	21.10
W Scott (Yellow Rattle seed)	£	24.75
Total:	£	497.15

Balance at 31 October 2018:

£	18,904.25
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Credits (1 November 2018 to 14 November 2018):

HMRC PAYE Month 7	£	128.80
Total:	£	128.80

Debits (1 November 2018 to 14 November 2018):

Clerk's Salary (October)	£	322.50
Total:	£	322.50

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Balance at 14 November 2018: £ 18,710.55

Minus Semington War Memorial Monies Remaining: £ 395.99

Parish Council Balance at 14 November 2018: £ 18,314.56

Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement £ 7,627.14
30-Jun-18

Credits

9 July	Interest (Approx)	£	0.32
9 August	Interest (Approx)	£	0.31
9 September	Interest (Approx)	£	0.30
9 October	Interest (Approx)	£	0.32
9 November	Interest (Approx)	£	0.32
			£ 1.57

Debits

None £ -

£ -

Balance at 14 November 2018: £ 7,628.71

Total Balance in Hand at 14 November 2018: £ 25,943.27

Payments to be authorised (14 November 2018).

Clerk's Salary (November) To be paid 1 December 2018	£	322.50
Office Expenses (September) - To be paid November	£	1.83
Office Expenses (October)	£	12.74
R Heard (Remembrance Wreath etc)	£	38.50
HMRC PAYE Month 8	£	129.20
TOTAL:	£	504.77

b. The Clerk presented the following Financial Forecast:

ITEM (Description)	Agreed Budget FY2018/19	Actual Expenditure 31-Oct-18	Estimated Expenditure FY2018/19
<u>Income:</u>			
Precept	12750	12750	12000
WC Grant (Information Boards)	0	0	530
Lloyds A/C 7754288 (Ex. St Georges Fund)	5	3	5
Lloyds A/C 2149025	0	0	0
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0

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Clerk to Semington Parish Council

Chairman's Signature _____

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a Cllr. Robinson reported that the overgrown hedge at The Turnpike that was obstructing a footpath has now been cut back.

Cllrs. Scott and Smith stated that the hedge at Great Lees Field was very overgrown and needed pruning.

b. The Council **resolved** that it would request Wiltshire Council to provide an enforcement camera at the Bus Gate in order to deter and detect those motorists ignoring the No Entry sign. The Chair stated that he would speak to Cllr. Seed who had offered to assist and to Melksham Without in whose parish the camera was likely to be located.

Cllr. Smith reported that recently the CATG had been requested to provide additional signage for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance (WAA) site. The Council resolved that on the basis of the results of the recent metrocount that it had no objection because the number of vehicles actually going to the WAA site was small.

Cllr. Wade suggested that Wiltshire Council Highways be requested to provide full details and an analysis of the metrocount data obtained. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council accordingly.

The following unrelated matters were reported:

Cllr. Scott stated that the Wiltshire Air Ambulance had asked the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to construct a Community Garden at its site and that he had been requested to assist in its design.

Cllr. Robinson reported that the large Gun Emplacement/Pill Box nearby that had been constructed as part of a WW2 defensive line had significant historical importance but was in a poor state of repair and needed attention.

c. Councillors commented that there had been a ceremony to mark Remembrance Day at the newly planted oaks and that it may be appropriate to install a bench in that area to allow visitors to enjoy quiet meditation. It was agreed that Cllr. Rimmer is to speak to Wiltshire Council regarding the location of any such bench and, meanwhile, the design and cost of such a bench would be investigated.

d. Cllr. Wade confirmed that he had arranged for a 16ft Christmas tree to be delivered on 22 November and that he intended to erect and decorate the tree on Saturday 24 November commencing at 10am with the assistance of a Working Party. He added that the tree had cost £157 leaving a balance from the allocated £250 to purchase additional lights if required.

e. The Clerk confirmed that he had received details of the possible work that could be undertaken by 'Ask Me' in the village – a 'Village Handyman' – and the cost. The Council asked the Clerk to thank her for her interest and to state that although there were no immediate tasks to undertake the Council will bear her name in mind when the opportunity for work arose.

f. The Council **resolved** to consider commissioning a 'footpath map' for the village to be located in the telephone box at a later meeting. Meanwhile, the Clerk agreed to contact Wiltshire Council for a footpath map – preferably in digital form – that could be used.

10. War Memorial.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had received the Final Report from the parishioner regarding the case of adding two additional names to the War Memorial and stated that its contents would be addressed at the next meeting. Meanwhile the Chairman stated that he would encourage those directly involved in having researched this matter to meet up in order to resolve their differences regarding the conclusions reached. He added that he was also willing to attend any such meeting.

11. Melksham Community Area Board/Community Area Transport Group Meetings.

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There was nothing reported.

12. Wilts & Berks Canal.

The Clerk confirmed that there was to be a 'Canal and River Trust User Group' meeting at Bradford on Avon on 21 November.

14. Tennis Court and Wessex Close Play Areas.

Councillors reported that one of the play equipments in the Play Area – the spinning disk - was defective and needed either repairing or removing. The Council resolved that it would be prepared to meet the cost of its repair – subject to it not being excessive – if Wiltshire Council, who owned that area and the Play equipment was prepared to accept this approach. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council to seek their agreement. Councillors commented that Wiltshire Council had previously stated that it would not repair such defective equipment and that any defective equipment would be removed. The Parish Council wished to preserve the current Play Area.

It was stated that there was still the cut bracken to be removed from the Play Area.

15. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Robinson stated that he had heard that there had been a family from Semington that had boarded the Titanic ocean liner and perished. He asked if any councillors knew who they were. There was a negative response.

16. Date of Next Meeting.

The Council noted the following meeting dates thus:

- 12 December 2018.
- 9 January 2019

The meeting concluded at 10.05pm.

Brian Smyth
Semington Parish Council

12 December 2018

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Friends of Great Lees Field Constitution

The **Friends of Great Lees Field** (“the Friends”) was established on May 27th 2016 by Steven Hall, Jon Jonik, William Scott, Peter Smith, and Diane Swaine, all residents in the village of Semington, Wiltshire.

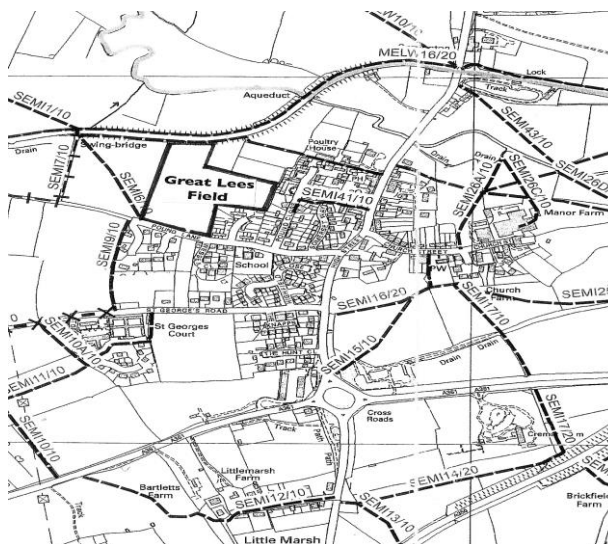
The sole purpose of the Friends is to work closely with Semington villagers and established community groups within the village and apply to Wiltshire Council to have Great Lees Field registered as a village green under Sections 15(1) and 15(3) of the Commons Act 2006 so that the villagers of Semington can continue to use Great Lees for lawful sports and pastimes as they have done so as of right – that is, without permission, secrecy or force – from the end of the second world war up to April 2016.

Following our application in 2016, Wiltshire Council agreed to set up a non-statutory public inquiry under an independent Inspector. We are currently waiting to hear the date of the inquiry.

Great Lees Field occupies about 3.9Ha.

It lies immediately to the west of the Semington village settlement boundary and is in easy reach of the centre of the village.

The field is located between Pound Lane (to the south) and the Kennet & Avon canal (to the north), with properties along Pound Close and Palmer Grove (to the east), and a similarly sized field (to the west). There are numerous access points into the field which lies wholly within Semington parish.



Up to April 27th 2016 Great Lees Field had been extensively used by villagers in the post-war period as of right for a range of lawful sports and pastimes that were carried out in tune with the agricultural practices of hay and silage making. On April 27th 2016 the field was ploughed. Following this, the gate into the field from Pound Lane was locked shut and a ‘Wiltshire gate’ was erected in the hedgeline between Great Lees and the field to its west. Notices were displayed saying that the land was private with no right of way across it. These actions stopped the as of right uses from continuing and prompted the formation of *the Friends*.

Correspondence address: Friends of Great Lees Field, 24 Pound Lane, Semington, Trowbridge, BA14 6LP

Contact: friendsofgreatleesfield@gmail.com

Membership: There are 5 members of the *Friends*, all of whom play an equal part in decision-making.

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Village Green application update: November 14th 2018

Process / Timeline

Wiltshire Council's Western Area Planning Committee decided on December 13th 2017 that there should be a public inquiry into our application to grant village green status for Great Lees Field.

Eleven months on, we are still waiting to hear from Wiltshire Council about when the inquiry will take place and who will be the inspector.

The inspector's role is to hear the evidence about the use of Great Lees Field and to allow the landowner to cross-examine those witnesses who give oral evidence at the inquiry.

The inspector will then make a recommendation to the Western Area Planning Committee as to whether village green status should be granted, or not. The committee will make its decision based on that recommendation.

Our activities

Although we are still waiting to hear about the date of the inquiry, we have been working on our arguments and documentation. We have:

- ...worked with villagers to prepare witness statements about their individual and family use of the field in the period up to April 2016. We now have a set of signed statements, the majority of which are from people who completed the original questionnaire enquiry about the use of the field. We will use all these statements to support our arguments at the inquiry.
- ... drafted a 'case' presenting our argument about why Great Lees should have village green status. This is a mixture of facts about the village and Great Lees Field, legal argument, evidence of use and tables of usage data, quotations from those who have provided evidence, and a set of appendices that include photographs. When complete, it will be around 160 pages long.
- ... identified people who have said that they are willing to provide oral evidence to the inquiry. A final list of oral witnesses will be agreed at a later date. None has been contacted yet as we are waiting to hear about timing and venue.
- ... made a number of very brief updates to the Parish Council over the last few months, and one presentation to the Village Hall Management Committee in October 2016. We have had informal discussions with Gerald Taylor about our wish to hold the inquiry in the village hall (although this is something that the inspector will decide).
- ... had discussions with a number of charitable foundations about the strength of our arguments and have had initial discussions about getting legal representation at the inquiry. Nothing can be decided about this until an inquiry date is known, and we have the means to pay for this.
- ... agreed a constitution for *The Friends of Great Lees Field* (overleaf) and are opening a bank account.