

# Annual Parish Meeting

## Minutes of the Semington Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

### **PRESENT:**

Brian Smyth, Chairman, Semington Parish Council and Chairman for the meeting.

Roger Coleman, Clerk.

The following Parish Councillors were present: P Bowyer, M Kasasian, R Oglesby, S. Rimmer, W Scott and P Smith.

There was one member of the public present.

Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended.

### **1. Introduction and Welcome.**

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

### **2. To consider matters raised by those present.**

The following matters were raised by those present:

- The recent theft of vehicles from the village. It was agreed that the Chairman would discuss this matter with the Wiltshire Police Sector Inspector – Insp. A Fee.
- Litter Picking in the Village – Cllr. Robinson was thanked for his continued efforts to keep the village tidy over the years but a replacement is now needed noting that Cllr. Robinson is to move out of the area very soon.
- The village name signs at the entrances to a number of villages locally e.g. Steeple Ashton and Eddington include pictorial images. Is it possible to obtain similar such signs for Semington.
- Cllr. Seed was thanked by a parishioner and by the Chairman for his support to Semington over the year. In particular, he was thanked for his contribution to fighting recent predatory planning applications.
- Consideration should be given to naming the Canal Bridge Aqueduct after Thomas Hellicker – a local individual.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to give a report. His report is shown below (in italics):

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## Wiltshire Council - Annual Report to Semington APM

*Another difficult year for Wiltshire Council. Budget efficiencies of £23m.  
Some successes County and locally.*

*After terrible time over the past year Salisbury will host National Armed Forces week in early July and this event will be attended by the Princess Royal.  
Council entering era of change Leader Baroness Jane Scott stepping down as leader in July.*

*Recent Boundary review means the Council division which contains Semington will change in 2021 and Steeple Ashton, Keevil, Great Hinton, Berryfields and Broughton Gifford and stay in Melksham Community Area.  
The Melksham Area Board continues to support both the Town and local villages and has supported Semington well over the years.  
I am due to resume Area Board chairmanship next month.*

*In Semington I continue to attend your Parish Council whenever I can. Many of you here tonight know that I get involved wherever I can and also where I am asked.*

*Locally we are progressing the issue of illegal use of the canal bridge route to and from Melksham via the bus gate and hope to see an enforcement camera installed in the near future.*

*On a personal note I have been your councillor for ten years but have been selected to be the Conservative candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner for Wilts and Swindon for election next year. This means I will remain as your councillor until elections in 2021 but I am unlikely to stand for re-election at that time.*

*I really enjoy my connection with Semington and look forward to not only the next two years as your Wiltshire Councillor but also continued friendships in the village.*

*Finally I would also like to thank Brian as PC Chairman for his help to me over the past year and look forward to working with him and his Council in the forthcoming year.*

### **3. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2018.**

The Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

### **4. Annual Report of the Parish Council (including Financial Report).**

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):

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## Annual Report from the Parish Council - Year 2018 – 2019

Currently a full Council - 9 councillors. Welcome to Mike Kasasian.  
Cllr. Robinson to resign – New councillor will be sought.

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

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

Consideration of Planning Applications – Around 15 (10 last year).

- Richborough/Framptons applications – Went to Appeal in 2017 and Appeal refused. Substantial involvement of PC – Thanks to all concerned including parishioners.
- Continuing pressure from Developers for housing e.g. St Georges Road. New application for 26 houses, which will be called in and discussed at the WC Planning Committee. Although it caused less harm to the village it remains in contradiction with the approved WC housing plan, Comments to be in by 24 May 2019. The Developers are Pegasus & Greystoke Land Ltd.
- Village Green application.
- Hannick Homes progressing.
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance – ‘No Entry’ gate relocation.
- Attending WC Planning Committee and meetings and Appeal Hearings.

Community Policing Team Activities

PCSO Maggie Ledbury – has attended a couple of meetings.

General disappointment with lack of Community Policing Team engagement – Representations made to Police & Crime Commissioner/Chief Constable.

Village Environment/Expenditure:

- A361 Road Safety Improvements (£5000 contribution from PC). Comments of appreciation have been received from parishioners.
- A361 Road (opp. Crematorium) Tree Planting/Memorial Bench.
- Telephone Box - Information Centre.
- Village Hall Donation (Doors/Windows) - £2000.
- St George’s PCC – Churchyard & Grass Cutting.
- St George’s PCC – Village Newsletter.
- Christmas Tree/Christmas Lights.
- Semington Village Website.

Donations/Subscriptions:

- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
- Carer Support.

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

Highways issues:

- ‘No Through Road’ Watch.

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- 'Bus Gate' Enforcement Camera.
- Looking at footpath improvements in High Street.

## *Other Matters:*

- *Melksham Community Area Board involvement.*
- *Community Area Transport Group (CATG)*
- *Consideration/Consultation on numerous WC Documents.*
- *Local Government Boundary Changes.*
- *War Memorial Discussions – work undertaken by Ray Heard and another parishioner is working hard to get two additional names added.*

## **Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2019.**

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

*The balance brought forward from FY2017/18 had been £24740 and, allowing for the payments and receipts during the year, the balance carried forward at the end of FY2018/19, is £23377 The total receipts for the year to date are £14616, payments for the year to date total £16979 and the value of the fixed assets owned by the Council is £25402. Latest Governance guidance has been used in the valuation of assets – New guidance was issued.*

*Out of the balance of £23377 carried forward some £434 represents the remaining donations from the War Memorial Fund and £7635 represents the St George's Development Fund which includes the Tennis Court Fund.*

## Main Receipts in the year were:

<i>Precept:</i>	<i>£12750</i>
<i>HMRC VAT Refund:</i>	<i>£229</i>
<i>HMRC PAYE</i>	<i>£1530</i>
<i>Bank Interest/Other Receipts:</i>	<i>£8</i>
<i>Healthcare 2000 Donation</i>	<i>£100</i>

## Main Payments in the year were:

<i>Staff Costs:</i>	<i>£3825</i>
<i>Office Expenses:</i>	<i>£379</i>
<i>Wiltshire Council</i>	<i>£5000 (A361 Road Safety improvements).</i>
<i>Donations:</i>	<i>£2711 - £550 (St George's PCC – Newsletter/Grass Cutting, £36 (Wiltshire Wildlife), £125 (Carer Support). £2000 (Village Hall).</i>
<i>Website:</i>	<i>£120</i>
<i>HMRC PAYE:</i>	<i>£1530.</i>
<i>Insurance</i>	<i>£777.</i>
<i>Subscriptions</i>	<i>£128 (Wiltshire Wildlife £36, SLCC £52, Info. Comm. £40)</i>
<i>Audit Fees:</i>	<i>£120</i>

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Roger Coleman

Clerk to Semington Parish Council

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

# Annual Parish Meeting

Hall Hire: £490  
Christmas Tree etc £200

*The Annual Return has been completed and the Internal Auditor has undertaken the Internal Audit and the Annual Return will be submitted to the Parish Council for approval. It will then be sent to PKF Littlejohn, the Government appointed 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. I intend to keep it that way!!*

**5. Any Other Business.**

There was no other business.

**6. Close.**

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Chairman