

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 December 2019 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present.

Councillors B Smyth (Chairman), R Blake (from Agenda item 3a), M Kasasian, R Oglesby, W Scott, C Wade and the Clerk Roger Coleman.

Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended part-time.

There were two members of the public present initially.

1. **Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Parish Councillors P Bowyer, S Rimmer and P Smith and from PCSO Maggie Ledbury.

2. **Declaration of Interests.**

There were no interests declared by councillors.

3. **Co-option of New Member.**

- a. The Council **resolved** to co-opt Richard Blake as a member of Semington Parish Council.
- b. The new member signed the Declaration Form which was countersigned by the Clerk. The Clerk explained the need to register Interests in accordance with current legislation and he provided details of the process for registering interests and the Semington Code of Conduct to the new member.

4. **Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13 November 2019.**

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

5. **Actions.**

The Actions in accordance with the Action Grid were addressed during the course of the meeting and the current state is recorded on the attached Action Grid dated 11 December 2019.

6. **Community Policing.**

- a. PCSO Ledbury of the Community Policing Team had sent the Clerk the December monthly report that he had subsequently sent to all councillors. The Clerk read out the report shown below.

This report is reproduced below (in italics):

ED13 Beat Code Monthly Report for December's Meeting 2019

November's Figures

Poulshot

- 02/11/2019 *MANOR FARM*
Someone has driven to the location and taken a chainsaw from the public yard.
- 02/11/2019 *MILL LANE*
HERITAGE CRIME - Unknown suspect has used unknown means to remove a royal mail collection post box from its pedestal and has stolen the box and its contents.

Bulkington

No reports

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Keevil

05/11/2019 MAIN STREET

Unknown offender has caused permanent damage to the post box.

Steeple Ashton

No reports

Great Hinton

No reports

Semington

07/11/2019 LITTLETON

Unknown suspect has stolen IP'S van using Keys taken from IP's caravan.

08/11/2019 POUND CLOSE

Unknown suspect has called the RP a large number of times in bursts over the last six weeks. The calls are from a withheld number and are always either silent or contain heavy breathing. No words have been said by the suspect.

14/11/2019 LITTLETON

Known male has forced entry into the IP's house and stolen two sets of car keys from within. Keys later found at the location. IP also reported the suspect had flicked her breasts earlier in the evening.

27/11/2019 CROSSROADS

Unknown male has shouted out from a vehicle that "WE KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE AND WE WILL COME BACK AND SORT YOU OUT LATER" after the IP followed them after noticing them fly tipping close to his property.

27/11/2019 MAIN ROAD

Unknown suspect has taken the RP's lost debit card and used it to make fraudulent purchases.

Seend

01/11/2019 SELLS GREEN

Dog seen chasing a hare and being controlled by unknown persons in off road car.

10/11/2019 SEEND BRIDGE

JUSTICE TRAFFIC- RTC INJURY Female driver has collided with bridge causing her to crash.

18/11/2019 STONEY GUTTER

Justice traffic three vehicle rtc injury sustained

20/11/2019 CAAN HILL MARINA

Known male suspect has threatened to burn IP's vehicles and assault him.

End of Report.

7. Adjournment.

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

8. Wiltshire Council Report.

Cllr. Seed commented on the status of the Wessex Close Play Area and suggested that the history of this site be investigated, especially in relation to the ownership and maintenance of the play equipment and recreational area. He added that there is to be a meeting between Wiltshire Council, the Parish Council and him at County Hall on 13 January 2020 at 3pm to discuss this particular issue and to examine the nature of the Wiltshire Council 'Transfer of Assets' initiative that may be applicable to this Play Area and equipment.

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Cllr. Oglesby enquired whether the level of Community Tax had yet been decided by Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Seed replied in the negative, although indicating that it could be around 3% with a similar increase for the additional Social Care element.

Cllr. Seed added that there had recently been enforcement of the No Entry sign at the Bus Gate with a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued.

9. Planning.

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

19/07938/REM	Land at St Georges Road	Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, pursuant to outline permission 16/01678/OUT for the erection of 24 dwellings and associated works.	Pending
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b. There were no planning applications received after 4 December 2019.

c. The Council noted the Village Green (Great Lees Field) Hearing had been held 22 to 24 October 2019 at Semington Village Hall but that it had been extended to include two further days – 4/5 December - to complete the Hearing. Cllr. Scott had sent the following report to all councillors (shown in italics) prior to the Parish Council meeting and he summarised the main points.

Village Green Inquiry Ends

The 5 day public inquiry into whether Great Lees Field should be designated as a village green came to an end on December 5th. The Inspector's report will be submitted to Wiltshire Council in the New Year and will then be considered by the Western Area Planning Committee (probably in March). We can expect that the Inspector's recommendation will be accepted. The Inspector expressed his appreciation to both sides for the courteous manner in which the inquiry had been conducted.

The Friends of Great Lees Field would like to thank everyone who came to the village hall during the inquiry to show their interest and support. Most thanks, however, must go to the 105 people who supplied witness statements setting out their use of the field, and to the 15 villagers who gave oral evidence. All this allowed an effective case to be well presented.

Thanks are also due to the Wiltshire Council team for its excellent organisation, to the Parish Council (and many individuals) for their financial support, to the village hall for providing such a splendid venue, and to everyone else who helped along the way.

We will update this information when we know the Inspector's recommendation.

The Friends of Great Lees Field.

End of Report.

Cllr. Scott thanked all those parishioners and other individuals who had assisted in the Enquiry and commented that "they did the village proud".

d. In response to a question from Cllr. Blake, the Chairman stated that no date had yet been allocated for the Planning Appeal in respect of planning application 19/02147/OUT.

10. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 11 December 2019 was as follows:

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement

£ 20,706.89

12 December 2019

Roger Coleman

Clerk to Semington Parish Council

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31 October 2019

	Total:	£ 20,706.89
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Credits (1 November 2019 to 30 November 2019):

HMRC PAYE Month 7

	£	136.80
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	Total:	£ 136.80
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Debits (1 November 2019 to 30 November 2019):

Clerk's Salary (October) (Paid 1 November 2019)

	£	341.90
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Clerk's Expenses (October)

	£	17.76
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HMRC PAYE Month 8

	£	136.80
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Clerk's Office Allowance

	£	25.00
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	Total:	£ 521.46
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Balance at 30 November 2019:

	£	20,322.23
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Credits (1 December 2019 to 11 December 2019):

HMRC PAYE Month 8

	£	136.80
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	Total:	£ 136.80
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Debits (1 December 2019 to 11 December 2019):

Clerk's Salary (November) (Paid 1 December 2019)

	£	341.90
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S Rimmer (Xmas Tree Lights/Sundries)

	£	303.95
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	Total:	£ 645.85
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Balance at 11 December 2019:

	£	19,813.18
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Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement

	£	7,634.38
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31-Mar-19

Credits

09-Apr-19 Interest (Approx)

	£	0.35
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09-May-19 Interest (Approx)

	£	0.35
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09-Jun-19 Interest (Approx)

	£	0.32
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09-Jul-19 Interest (Approx)

	£	0.30
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09-Aug-19 Interest (Approx)

	£	0.28
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09-Sep-19 Interest (Approx)

	£	0.26
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09-Oct-19 Interest (Approx)

	£	0.40
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09-Nov-19 Interest (Approx)

	£	0.38
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09-Dec-19 Interest (Approx)

	£	0.36
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	£	3.00
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Debits

12 December 2019

Roger Coleman

Clerk to Semington Parish Council

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None	£	-
	£	-
Balance at 11 December 2019:	£	7,637.38
Total Balance in Hand at 11 December 2019:	£	27,450.56

Payments to be authorised (11 December 2019).

Clerk's Salary (December) To be paid 1 January 2020	£	341.90
Office Expenses (November)	£	6.30
HMRC PAYE Month 9 (Due 5 January)	£	136.40
Christmas Tree	£	185.00
R Heard (Melksham Remembers)	£	32.00
TOTAL:	£	701.60

- b. The Council **resolved** to accept the quotation for clearing the cut vegetation from the Tennis Court area subject to it not exceeding £200.
- c. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised', including a payment of £51.50 for additional Christmas Tree decorations and Carol Song Sheets.

11. Highways.

The Chairman stated that the Council had noted the response from parishioners regarding the introduction of a reduced speed limit in the village and that there was no correspondence received in support of the proposal. He thanked the parishioners for writing to the Parish Council especially noting the response from a parishioner that presented a well-argued case for other, arguably, more effective speed calming measures. Cllr. Wade commented that any reduction in the speed limit must be evidence based and, to date, that evidence was lacking. Cllr. Scott explained the difference between, and the respective qualifying criteria for, a 20mph Zone and a 20mph Speed Limit. Cllr. Wade added that it may be possible to receive guidance from the forthcoming CATG meeting and that he would seek to try and place it on the Agenda for that meeting.

12. Environment.

a. Councillors confirmed that the Christmas Tree had been erected and that it had been decorated and that its presence had been appreciated by villagers. Cllr. Wade stated that he would inform councillors (date and time) when the tree was to be removed and additional help on that occasion would be appreciated – although it would be a far easier task compared to erecting the tree.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked all those who had assisted in erecting the tree and decorating it.

- b. In the absence of Cllr. Rimmer the subject of the 'wildflower meadow' was deferred until a subsequent meeting.
- c. There were no other matters raised.

13. World War 2 – End of Hostilities Commemoration.

In the absence of Cllr. Rimmer, this item was deferred until the next Parish Council meeting.

14. Footpaths.

Cllr. Scott confirmed that he had passed the results of his Footpath Survey to the Chairman commenting that his survey also identified contiguous public rights of way that crossed the major roads in the area and whether or not they were adequately way-marked. It was noted that the Footpath Working Group is to meet early in the New Year and Cllr. Wade stated that it is intended

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to identify those paths that needed work, including repairing or replacing stiles, and that prioritisation of the identified work will be necessary.

15. Semington Village Website.

Cllr. Scott reported that the webmaster had changed the website in line with the agreement reached at the recently held meeting and it was now necessary for local organisations and others to provide content for the website.

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

Refer also to Agenda item 11.

Cllr. Wade confirmed that he would raise the subject of speed limits/traffic calming at the forthcoming Melksham CATG meeting to be held on 16 December 2019 and that he would attempt to ensure that it is an Agenda item or discussed under Any Other Business. He added that he would seek to establish the process for achieving a lower speed limit or traffic calming measures and the evidence necessary to support such road safety improvements. This approach was supported by councillors and Cllr. Blake emphasized that the success of any road safety measures such as reduced speed limits, traffic calming measures or even existing speed limits was entirely dependent of the degree of enforcement possible

17. Wessex Close Play Areas.

Refer also to Agenda item 8.

The meeting between Wiltshire Council, Semington Parish Council and Cllr. Seed to discuss the issues arising out of the concern for the poorly maintained Wessex Close Play Area was confirmed and that it would take place on 13 January 2020.

18. Tennis Court.

Cllr. Wade stated that it was necessary to obtain a quotation for replacing two of the three tensioning wires on the Tennis Court boundary fence that had broken and needed replacing. He agreed to obtain such a quotation.

Councillors noted that a parishioner had reported that youngsters were congregating at the Tennis Court late in the evening when it was clearly too dark to play tennis and they suggested that the Community Policing Team might wish to investigate the report.

19. Any Other Business.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received requests from Victim Support and St John Ambulance for donations. The Clerk was asked to put these requests on the Agenda for the next meeting.

20. Date of Next Meeting.

The Council noted that the dates of the next Ordinary PC Meetings were 8 January 2020, 5 February 2020, 4 March 2020, 15 April 2020, 13 May 2020, 17 June 2020 and 15 July 2020.

The meeting concluded at 9.56pm.

Brian Smyth
Semington Parish Council

8 January 2020

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ACTION TABLE 11/12/19						
Action Serial	Meeting Date Agenda Item	Completion Date	Actionee	Action	Progress	PCM 8/1/20 Agenda item
52	13/11/19 10c & 11/12/19 11&16	Jan 2020	Cllr. Wade	Speed Limits/Traffic Calming at CATG	In Hand	TBA
53	13/11	20/12/19	Cllr. Wade	Christmas Tree arrival details	Complete	
54	13/11/19 11c	11/12/19	Cllr. Rimmer	Wildflower Meadow progress	In Hand	TBA
55	13/11	11/12/19	Cllr. Scott	Footpath Survey results	Complete	
56	13/11/19 16	11/12/19	All Cllrs.	WW2 Anniversary commemorations	In Hand	TBA
57	11/12/19 10b	8/1/20	Cllr. Rimmer	To arrange for cuttings to be removed	In Hand	TBA
58	11/12/19 8 & 17	13/1/20	Cllr. Smyth	Meeting WC/PC/Cllr. Seed 13/1/20	In Hand	TBA
59	11/12/19 12a	31/12/19	Cllr. Wade	Christmas Tree Removal Date/Time	In Hand	TBA
60	11/12/19 18	8/1/20	Cllr. Wade	To obtain quotation - Tensioning Wires	In Hand	TBA