

## SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 January 2020 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present.

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

There were two members of the public present initially.

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Parish Councillor P Smith 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 11 December 2019.**

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

**4. 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 8 January 2020

**5. Community Policing.**

a. PCSO Ledbury of the Community Policing Team had sent the Clerk the January 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 January's Meeting 2020**  
**December's Figures**

**Steeple Ashton**

14/12/2019 NEWLEAZE

*Unknown suspect has cut four cable ties, which were holding a "beware of the guard dog" sign to the gate, leaving the cable ties and sign on the ground. Suspect has also moved a large heavy steel bin from the middle of the front garden next to the front door.*

24/12/2019 COMMON HILL

*Car left badly damaged.*

**Semington**

06/12/2019 LITTLETON

*Unknown person has trashed a caravan in a layby.*

25/12/2019 LITTLETON

*Known suspects have been keeping the IP at location and forcing him to work without being paid and badly treated. IP has worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week for 3 months with no pay.*

29/12/2019 A361

*Vehicle stopped and known male driver has provided a positive specimen for drugs. Arrested for drug driving.*

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29/12/2019 A361

Unknown suspect has entered the grounds of the IP's farm via climbing over a small fence and then climbing between barbed wire and hedges. The suspect has then knocked at the IP's cabin windows before causing damage to the IP's veh via throwing stones at it. Damage to the veh is a large stone dent to the passenger rear door and a couple of stone chips to the front windscreen, cost of damage unknown.

### Seend

21/12/2019

07/12/2019 SPOUT LANE

Unknown suspect(s) have entered the IP's unlocked motor home and taken her handbag. Some contents were later found in the nearby canal.

13/12/2019 INMARSH

Unknown persons have used an angle grinder to get entry onto the farm, travelled into the yard, forced entry into the Tool Store, again an angle grinder to cut the padlock on the door. Then gone to container within the Yard and used angle grinder to remove locking bar for the door of the container. Power tools taken from both locations.

Power tools – Husqvarna Chain saws x 2. Hedge cutter x1 – Compressor Portable. Possible other things not noted at this time. TVO £1000.00 plus

24/12/2019 DEVIZES ROAD

Unknown person(s) have thrown unknown object(s) from a vehicle that have caused two loud bangs in the RP's garden.

PCSO Ledbury concluded her report by stating that she was no longer a PCSO for the area and that a new PCSO –

PCSO 9876 Adam ALMOND - Email. adam.almond@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk Mobile **07825658345** now had that responsibility.

End of Report.

### 6. 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.

### 7. Wiltshire Council Report.

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

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

19/11589/VAR	Bay Tree Cottage 5A High Street	Variation of Condition 2 of planning application 18/08168/FUL – Proposed dingle storey rear extension & outbuilding.	New
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*The Council has no objections to this proposed development.*

c. There were no planning applications received after 31 December 2019.

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d. Cllr. Scott advised the Council that recently there had been a significant addition to the information relating to Planning application 19/07938/REM placed on the Wiltshire Council website.

It was noted by the Council that no date had yet been allocated for the Planning Appeal in respect of planning application 19/02147/OUT.

Cllr. Scott commented that it would be informative for parishioners if the Webmaster could put the latest planning applications/decisions on the Semington website. The Clerk stated that he would send the Weekly Lists from Wiltshire Council that he received each Monday for Cllr. Scott for him to select relevant items to send to the Webmaster.

### 9. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 8 January 2020 was as follows:

#### Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement	£	20,322.23
30 November 2019		
Total:	£	<b>20,322.23</b>

#### **Credits (1 December 2019 to 31 December 2019):**

HMRC PAYE Month 8	£	136.80
Total:	£	<b>136.80</b>

#### **Debits (1 December 2019 to 31 December 2019):**

Clerk's Salary (November) (Paid 1 December 2019)	£	341.90
Clerk's Expenses (November)	£	6.30
HMRC PAYE Month 9	£	136.40
Melksham Remembers (2 x Books)	£	32.00
S Rimmer (Sundries)	£	303.95
Southview Nurseries	£	185.00
Xmas Tree Sundries	£	51.50
Total:	£	<b>1,057.05</b>

#### **Balance at 31 December 2019:**

	£	<b>19,401.98</b>
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#### **Credits (1 January 2020 to 8 January 2020):**

HMRC PAYE Month 9 (To be paid 2/1/20)	£	136.40
Total:	£	<b>136.40</b>

#### **Debits (1 January 2020 to 8 January 2020):**

Clerk's Salary (December) (Paid 2 January 2020)	£	341.90
Total:	£	<b>341.90</b>

#### **Balance at 8 January 2020:**

	£	<b>19,196.48</b>
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### Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement £ 7,634.38  
31-Mar-19

#### Credits

09-Apr-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.35
09-May-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.35
09-Jun-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.32
09-Jul-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.30
09-Aug-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.28
09-Sep-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.26
09-Oct-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.40
09-Nov-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.38
09-Dec-19	Interest (Approx)	£	0.36
		£	3.00

#### Debits

None		£	-
		£	-

**Balance at 8 January 2020:**

<b>£</b>	<b>7,637.38</b>
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**Total Balance in Hand at 8 January 2020:**

<b>£</b>	<b>26,833.86</b>
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#### Payments to be authorised (8 January 2020).

Clerk's Salary (January) To be paid 1 February 2020	£	341.90
Office Expenses (December)	£	19.95
HMRC PAYE Month 10 (Due 5 February)	£	136.80
SLCC Membership (£180) - Shared	£	60.00
Simon J White (Removing Hedging Heaps)	£	160.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>718.65</b>

b. The Council **resolved** to adopt the Proposed Budget for FY2020/21 as shown below:

ITEM (Description)	Budget FY19/20 Agreed	Estimated FY19/20 31-Mar-20	Budget FY20/21 Proposed
<b><u>Income:</u></b>			
Precept	13000	13000	13500
Grants	0	0	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	200	276	450
Donations	0	300	0
Tennis Court Maintenance Fund	0	0	0

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Total Income	13205	13581	13955
<b><u>Expenditure:</u></b>			
Clerk Salary	3940	4070	4509
Expenses	250	250	250
Office Allowance	175	175	175
Tennis Court Insurance	0	0	0
Chairman	0	0	0
Hire Hall	515	490	525
Audit	120	120	120
Subscriptions	76	76	140
Insurance	820	797	840
Community (Section 137)	3500	3500	4000
Projects (e.g. Tree/Bulb planting/Christmas Tree)	2500	2500	3000
Road Safety Improvements	0	0	0
War Memorial Project	0	0	0
Neighbourhood Plan	0	0	0
Training	0	0	0
Elections	2750	0	2750
Tennis Court	500	500	500
Ex-WC Functions	0	0	0
	<b>15146</b>	<b>12478</b>	<b>16809</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>13205</b>	<b>13581</b>	<b>13955</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>15146</b>	<b>12478</b>	<b>16809</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>-1941</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>-2854</b>

**Forecast Balance Carried Forward at 31 March 2020: £24,480.00**

Annual Return (31/3/19) + Income (FY2019/20) - Expend (FY2019/20)

**Forecast Balance Carried Forward at 31 March 2021: £21,626.00**

Forecast Balance (31/3/20) + Income (FY2020/21) - Expend (FY2020/21)

**NOTE**

**Tennis Court Fund = £4800 approx (included in Forecast Balances)**

The Council **resolved** to request a Precept of £13,500 for FY2020/21.

c. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised', including a payment of £50 to Cllr. Rimmer in respect of the donation that he had made to Dorothy House on behalf of the Parish Council for the collection of the Christmas Tree and a donation of £50 to Victim Support. The Council noted that the hedging cuttings had not yet been removed by Simon J White and **resolved** to withhold payment of £160 until confirmation had been received that this task had been completed.

### 10. Highways.

Cllr. Wade stated that he would address the subject of traffic calming/reduced speed limits under Agenda item 14.

Cllr. Smyth stated that he would organise a Litter Pick in the near future and would inform all parties of the details.

### 11. Environment.

a. Cllrs. Rimmer and Smyth explained the current and proposed grass-cutting programme for

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Semington that will be undertaken by Wiltshire Council during the current year and commented that it was premature to discuss any details regarding the possibility of establishing 'Wildflower Meadows/Areas' in Semington. Cllr. Rimmer commented that further discussions with Wiltshire Council were necessary regarding the grass-cutting regime and whether or not it would be sympathetic to such areas being established as 'Wildflower Meadow/Areas' in Semington. He added that this initiative by Wiltshire Council had been prompted by the desire of Wiltshire Council to reduce expenditure.

b. The Chairman and Cllr. Wade confirmed that the Christmas Tree had been removed and was awaiting collection by Dorothy House. The Chairman thanked all those who assisted in its removal.

c. Cllr. Scott reported that some of the supporting fence posts along the field owned by the Church in Pound Land were broken and needed repair/replacement in order to stop the brambles bushes that grow along the fence from falling onto the footpath. The Clerk was asked to contact St Georges PCC to request that action is taken.

### 12. World War 2 – End of Hostilities Commemoration.

Cllr. Rimmer proposed that this commemoration could be marked by the planting of five further oak trees alongside those that had been planted to commemorate the end of World War 1. Such a gesture, he argued, could also allow recognition for those fallen in the Korean War. Councillors commented that this was a possibility but that some parishioners had objected to the use of parish funds being used for the original oak tree planting and that local sentiment must be considered before a decision is made. Cllr. Rimmer was requested to produce a costed plan for this proposed planting and a planting scheme for consideration by the Parish Council.

### 13. Footpaths.

Cllr. Scott stated that a Database of Public Rights of Way in Semington was being created by the Footpath Working Group that detailed each path, its present condition and whether or not maintenance work was required and such records would include the condition of stiles/gates etc. He invited all councillors to add to that Database if they are traversing any of the Rights of Way. He commented that such a Database would identify where maintenance work was required. The Chairman added that it would be necessary to prioritise any actions because of the limited funding available.

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

Cllr. Wade confirmed that he had attended the CATG meeting and although the subject of speed limits/traffic calming in Semington was too late to be included on the Agenda he did have a conversation with the CATG Chairman after the meeting. Cllr. Wade was advised that it would be necessary to provide evidence of the need for traffic calming and such evidence could be accrued by implementing a Traffic Survey – a task undertaken by Wiltshire Council at no cost to the Parish Council – and that such a request could be made to Wiltshire Council now by the Clerk to the Parish Council. The Clerk and Cllr. Wade agreed to make further enquiries and the Clerk was requested to put this subject on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

### 15. Wessex Close Play Areas.

a. Cllr. Smyth stated that 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 is to take place on 13 January 2020. There ensued a discussion on the issues that needed to be addressed at that meeting.

b. Cllr. Blake stated that he would inform the Clerk when the hedging cuttings had been collected by Simon J White to enable the payment to be made.

### 16. Tennis Court.

Cllr. Wade stated that he had attempted to obtain a quotation for replacing two of the three

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tensioning wires on the Tennis Court boundary fence that had broken and needed replacing but had, so far, been unsuccessful in obtaining a quotation. The Chairman asked him to pursue obtaining a quotation and, if unsuccessful, an alternative contractor would be contacted.

### **17. Membership of Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership.**

The Council **resolved** that it would attend the next meeting of this Partnership and would advise the Council at the next Parish Council meeting whether or not it would be appropriate to join and whether or not there was an associated subscription payable.

### **18. Any Other Business.**

Cllr. Scott observed that the recent Primary School League Tables showed that St Georges Primary School was amongst those few schools topping the tables and that the Parish Council may wish to write a letter to the Headteacher congratulating those teachers and students involved in that success. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of congratulations to St Georges School.

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had undertaken their Annual Review recently

### **19. Date of Next Meeting.**

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

The meeting concluded at 10.05pm.

Brian Smyth  
Semington Parish Council

5 February 2020

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<b>ACTION TABLE 8/1/20</b>						
<b>Action Serial</b>	<b>Meeting Date Agenda Item</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Actionee</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>PCM 5/2/20 Agenda item</b>
52	13/11/19 10c & 11/12/19 11&16	Jan 2020	Cllr. Wade	Speed Limits/Traffic Calming at CATG	Complete	TBA
54	13/11/19 11c	11/12/19	Cllr. Rimmer	Wildflower Meadow progress	In Hand	TBA
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	Complete	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	Complete	TBA
60	11/12/19 18	8/1/20	Cllr. Wade	To obtain quotation - Tensioning Wires	In Hand	TBA
61	8/1/20 9b	24/1/20	Clerk	To send Precept request to WC	In Hand	TBA
62	8/1/20 10	5/2/20	Cllr. Smyth	To arrange and publicise a Litter Pick	In Hand	TBA
63	8/1/20 11c	5/2/20	Clerk	To contact PCC- Brambles/Fence	In Hand	TBA
64	8/1/20 12	5/2/20	Cllr. Rimmer	To produce costed plan for oak tree planting.	In Hand	TBA
65	8/1/20 14	5/2/20	Clerk	To investigate Traffic Survey application.	In Hand	TBA
66	8/1/20 18	5/2/20	Clerk	To write to School (Congratulations – Results)	In Hand	TBA