

SEMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 October 2020 at 8.00pm – Virtual/Remote Zoom Meeting (as a result of COVID-19 ‘Lockdown’ restrictions).

Present.

Councillors P Smith (Vice -Chairman and Acting Chairman for the meeting), R Blake, V Bodman, R Oglesby, W Scott, C Wade, R Bruges, S Chown and the Clerk Roger Coleman.

Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended.

There were three members of the public present.

1. Apologies.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Cllr. Kasasian and accepted.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared by councillors.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 23 September 2020.

The Council **resolved** that the minutes were a true and accurate record. The Chairman agreed to sign the minutes.

The Council **resolved** to endorse the decision made following email consent from councillors and that decision is shown appended to these minutes.

4. Wiltshire Council Report.

Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed gave a report on the subject of the proposed new A350 Melksham Bypass.

Clerk's Note.

Cllr. Seed provided some of the following information during the Public Participation prior to the Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Seed explained that Wiltshire Council was presently engaged in the preliminary work associated with the construction of a new A350 Melksham Bypass that was likely to be east of the present A350. Cllr. Seed stated that no decisions had yet been taken regarding the intended route of the new A350 Melksham bypass road but funding circa £140m had been secured for its construction. He added that there was to be a public consultation from 4 November to 30 November and that the proposed scheme is to be ‘launched’ at the Melksham Area Board meeting on 4 November 2020.

Cllr. Seed commented that there was also to be a presentation on the project at the Seend Parish Council meeting to be held on 27 October 2020.

Councillors expressed an interest to attend that ‘Launch Meeting’ and the presentation at Seend Parish Council. Cllr. Seed agreed to send details of the latter to councillors.

Cllr. Seed’s Report was followed by a brief Question and Answer session.

Cllr. Scott enquired whether the Parish Council would have the opportunity to comment on the Wiltshire Council Gypsy and Travellers Plan and, if so, when. The Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to reply and Cllr. Seed stated that he would make enquiries and would advise the Parish Council.

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5. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman stated that he had sent all councillors a copy of his report – attached to these minutes – and he gave a brief summary of its contents.

6. Highways and Environment.

There were no matters raised.

7. Planning.

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

20/05482/FUL	Former Poultry Building, Paxcroft Farm, Devizes Road, Trowbridge	Conversion of agricultural building to General B Uses (B1, B2 and B8) and extension of car parking and associated works.	Approved
20/05710/FUL	17 Pound Close Semington BA14 6JP	4m single storey rear extension	Approved
20/06902/TPO	The Old Coach House Church Street Semington	TG1 – 2 x Lime trees (previously pollarded as part of their ongoing management. Repollarded at approx.. 3" above the previous pollard points.	Approved
20/07304/FUL	Entrance Hall, St Georges Court BA14 6GA	Proposed Conversion of Entrance Lobby into New Dwelling	Pending
20/07850/LBC	Entrance Hall, St Georges Court BA14 6GA	Proposed Conversion of Entrance Lobby into New Dwelling	Pending

b. There were no planning applications received after 14 October 2020.

c. Cllr. Scott confirmed that he had attended the Appeal Hearing (a virtual hearing) in respect of the following planning application:

20/01306/OUT	Land North of St Georges Road, Semington	Residential development of up to 26no entry-level affordable dwellings with associated car parking etc	Appeal Pending – APP/Y3940/W/20/3253180 (21 October 2020)
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Cllr. Scott stated that he had sent all councillors a written report on the conduct of the Appeal Hearing and that the decision of the Inspector is now awaited.

d. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council comments on the 'Planning for the Future' Government White Paper Consultation had been sent to Government and to other parties, including the local MP, Michelle Donelan. He added that the latter had responded but had failed to address any of the issues raised in the comments and a 'follow-up' letter had been sent to her seeking a considered response to the original comments. He stated that a reply from her was awaited. The Chairman added that following comments and support from Melksham Without Parish Council (Teresa Strange) in respect of the Semington Parish Council comments, the Melksham News was likely to contain an article based on the comments from Semington Parish Council.

e. The discussions relating to the Wiltshire Council proposal for the construction of a new A350 road are recorded elsewhere and the Parish Council noted reference in the plans for the new road to a 'Growth Corridor' planned for the east of Melksham and contained within the space between the existing and proposed A350 roads. Councillors commented that this was the first they

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had heard of a 'Growth Corridor'.

The Chairman stated that following the Melksham Area Board Meeting on 4 November and the 'launch' of the Melksham A350 Bypass project the Parish Council would summarise its agreed views and comments to be sent to Wiltshire Council and would send these to the parishioners of Semington for information. Parishioners would be invited to send their own comments regarding this project to Wiltshire Council. The decision regarding the exact comments to be sent to Wiltshire Council by the Parish Council would be made at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 25 November 2020.

Cllr. Wade stated that he would be attending the Area Board meeting and the Parish Council **resolved** that Cllr. Wade had the authority of the Parish Council to speak on its behalf at that meeting.

f. There were no other matters raised.

8. Finance.

a. The Clerk reported that the current financial position at 21 October 2020 was as follows:

Lloyds A/C 2149025

Bank Statement 31 August 2020	£	28,044.73
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Total:	£	28,044.73
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Credits (1 September 2020 to 30 September 2020):

Wiltshire Council Precept (Part)	£	6,750.00
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Total:	£	6,750.00
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Debits (1 September 2020 to 30 September 2020):

Clerk's Salary August) (Paid 1 September 2020)	£	364.78
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St Georges PCC	£	550.00
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Total:	£	914.78
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Balance at 30 September 2020:

£	33,879.95
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Credits (1 October 2020 to 21 October 2020):

None	£	-
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Total:	£	-
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Debits (1 October 2020 to 21 October 2020):

Clerk's Salary (September) (Paid 1 October 2020)	£	364.78
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Clerks Expenses (August)	£	12.45
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Clerks Back Pay (1/4/20 to 30/9/20)	£	60.84
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Growganic (Bulbs)	£	48.00
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V Bodman	£	10.00
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Information Commission Fee	£	40.00
Total:	£	536.07

Balance at 21 October 2020:		£ 33,343.88
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Lloyds A/C 7754288

Bank Statement 31-May-20	£	7,650.08
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Credits

09-Jun-20	Interest (Approx)	£	0.32
09-Jul-20	Interest (Approx)	£	0.30
09-Aug-20	Interest (Approx)	£	0.28
09-Sep-20	Interest (Approx)	£	0.26
09-Oct-20	Interest (Approx)	£	0.28
		£	1.44

Debits

None	£	-	
		£	-

Balance at 21 October 2020:		£ 7,651.52
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Total Balance in Hand at 21 October 2020:		£ 40,995.40
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Payments to be authorised (21 October 2020).

Clerk's Salary (October) To be paid 1 November 2020	£	374.92
Clerk's Expenses (September)	£	5.86

	£	380.78
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HMRC PAYE Month 7 (Due 5 November) (includes PAYE on Back Pay)

	£	174.40
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(To be paid by the Clerk directly to HMRC)

b. The Council noted the comments from a parishioner that there may be a suitable tree available in the village but concluded that it may not be large enough to display once mounted in the ground and the Council **resolved** that should the village tree be too small to authorise Cllr. Wade to purchase a Christmas Tree at a cost not exceeding £250 and it requested Cllr. Wade to make the necessary enquiries.

c. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised'.

9. Strategic Framework Guiding Semington Parish Council Activities (16 September 2020).

The Chairman reported that this document had been published in the Village Newsletter and that there had been a response from some parishioners, although the number responding was quite small. He added that the Framework had support from those responding. Cllr. Wade stated in

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response to the comments received regarding measuring progress against the plan that the Annual Parish Meeting would be the best forum for reporting back to the village. Cllrs. Scott, Smith and Bruges agreed to edit the document for final approval by the Parish Council. Cllr. Bruges stated that it would be necessary to decide how to take the document forward.

10. Chairman/Parish Council Roles.

The Chairman explained that following the resignation of Brian Smyth, he had, as Vice-Chairman, taken over the chairmanship. He added that he was conscious that Semington enjoyed a full Council now and that it may be opportune to elect a new Chairman, although he was willing to remain as Chairman until the elections next May. After some discussions, the Council **resolved** not to elect a new Chairman and to invite Cllr. Smith to remain in post. The Council agreed to postpone the allocation of specific roles to councillors until the next meeting and following the agreement of the 'Framework' document.

The Council **resolved** to extend the meeting from 10.00pm to 1015pm.

11. Semington Website.

Councillors noted the discussions that had occurred during the Public Participation with the West Lavington webmaster following the invitation by Semington Parish Council for him to submit details of a possible, similar, website for Semington Parish Council. There ensued a lengthy discussion regarding the required nature of a website for Semington and whether it should include Village or Community information as well as Parish Council information. The Council **resolved** that the Parish Council would acquire a new website that served Parish Council needs and that an appropriate Domain name needed to be chosen. Cllr. Scott invited councillors to share their ideas for the new website with him and he would draft a list of requirements.

12. Village Hall Management Committee Representatives.

This item was deferred until the next meeting and it was suggested that it should be combined with the Agenda item addressing Parish Council roles.

13. Date of the next meeting.

The date for the next Parish Council meeting was agreed to be Wednesday 25 November 2020 and that it would be a remote/virtual (Zoom) meeting.

The Meeting ended at 10.25pm.

Acting Chairman
Semington Parish Council

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**Decisions taken remotely by Semington Parish Council – Subsequent to Contingency Plan
17 March 2020 and Post Parish Council Meeting held on 23 September 2020.**

1. Content of letter to MP in reply to her emailed response to the 'Planning for the Future' correspondence from Semington Parish Council.

R P Coleman
14 October 2020

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Vice Chairman's Report, 21st October 2020

Reviving village planters – the 9 concrete planters have been refreshed with new compost and planted with spring bulbs and some winter colour. The less battered half barrel, at the Ragged Smock, has been similarly prepared. Wiltshire Council has advised that raised beds are allowed subject to their approving possible sites. Photographs have been sent of sites and we are awaiting a reply.

Planting Daffodil bulbs – Robert has bought a large bag of bulbs that need planting. A start will be made on this on Saturday 24th October, meeting at 10 am at the St George's Road/High Street junction. Please come along: we need all the help we can get!

Wessex Close play area – the first informal meeting of the new play area group took place on 10th October. Nine immediate tasks were identified, and the working group will meet on 7th November to make a start. As with the daffodils, there is much to do, so please come and help if you can.

Cllr. P Smith (Vice-Chairman)

(Acting Chairman – Semington Parish Council)