

## SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This meeting was held in the Community Centre.

Present: Mr Terry James, Mrs Bridget Johnstone Mrs Pamela Akerman, Mr Jamie Halliday Mrs Jackie Hamblin,  
Mr Phil Springate, Mr John Williams, Mr Martin Wiltshire

Also Present: The Clerk, Cllr Tamara Reay and 5 Parishioners

Agenda Item	Detail	Action
2023/163 Apologies for Absence	Paul Manning, William Lack	
2023/164 Declaration of Lobbying (i) Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests (ii) Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda (iii) Requests for Dispensation	(i)-There were no changes of declarations to the Register of Interests. (ii) – There were no other declarations of interest in items on the agenda. (iii)- There were no requests for dispensation.	
2023/165 Local Councillor's Matters	<p>Cllr Reay provided the following updates on local matters:</p> <p><b>Highways</b> Wiltshire Council has been able to provide an additional £10m over two years for highways preventative measures. Work is currently being planned ready for Spring 2024 and will focus on priority routes</p> <p><b>Wiltshire's Local Plan</b> Wiltshire's Local Plan review goes live on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The Plan will shape our county until 2038 and is available via a portal on Wiltshire Council Website. Under the current plan Seend is currently treated as a 'large' village with the parish other settlements not included. Councillors agreed that Seend Parish should be treated as a whole in that the number of houses required for both Seend village and its Settlements (Seend Head, Seend Row, The Stocks, Seend Cleeve, Sells Green and Martinslade) should be added together to give a figure for the whole Parish.</p> <p>Members of the Planning Subcommittee are to make a representation to Wiltshire Council. Bridget Johnson to meet Tamara Reay at the 'Drop-In' session at Melksham Community Campus, Market Place, Melksham that will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October between 3pm &amp; 7pm.</p> <p><b>Tree Wardens Scheme</b> Following a successful bid for almost £300,000 from a government fund, Wiltshire Council is relaunching the national Tree Warden scheme.</p> <p>The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative led by the Tree Council, and Wiltshire Council is looking to recruit volunteer Tree Wardens in each Wiltshire town and parish area. Tree Wardens will work with Wiltshire Council Woodland Officers and act as local tree champions who help plant, promote and protect trees in appropriate locations in their local area.</p>	Planning Subcommittee

Agenda Item	Detail	Action
	<p>Projects that Tree Wardens can be involved in may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arranging local tree planting days</li> <li>• Watering and caring for local trees</li> <li>• Working with community groups to plant and care for street trees</li> <li>• Rejuvenating local woodlands</li> <li>• Raising funds and finding land for tree planting projects</li> <li>• Going into local schools to talk about the value of trees</li> </ul> <p>If you are interested in getting involved, information about the scheme can be found at <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/trees-and-woodland-in-wiltshire">www.wiltshire.gov.uk/trees-and-woodland-in-wiltshire</a>.</p>	
2023/166 Minutes of the Previous Meeting	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were circulated to all Councillors.</p> <p>Acceptance of the Minutes of this meeting as an accurate record was proposed by Jamie Halliday and seconded by Pamela Akerman. With the exception of Paul Manning who was not present at this meeting, all remaining Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>A shortened version of these minutes to be placed in Spotlight.</p>	Clerk
2023/167 Matters Arising Not Already on the Agenda	<p><b>On-Line Banking</b></p> <p>The Clerk has looked at two options for the Council to move to on-line banking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option 1 – Remain with Lloyds</li> <li>• Option 2 – Move to Unity Trust Bank</li> </ul> <p>Several local parishes have elected to move to Unity Trust as they are more focussed on the public sector and local councils. Atworth Parish Council has recently moved to Unity trust and are really pleased with their service. The Clerk has been offered a demonstration. However, there is a monthly charge of £6.</p> <p>Lloyds Treasurers accounts are to remain free (for now) and would require all signatories to sign up for Lloyds on-line banking. Signatories would require access to the Lloyds banking webpage from their own device.</p> <p>This to be an agenda item for the November meeting. It was noted the Chairman was in favour of remaining with Lloyds Bank.</p>	Clerk
2023/168 Items for Discussion from Members of the Parish	None	
2023/169 Local Highways & Footpath Infrastructure Group (LHFIG)	<p><b>Local Highways &amp; Footpath Infrastructure Group (LHFIG)</b></p> <p><b>The Bell Crossroads / Bollands Hill</b></p> <p>Tamara Reay has raised the need for a formal review of the junction layout and infrastructure at the Bell Crossroads along with a review of traffic management on Bollands Hill. A face-face meeting is being arranged with representatives of Wiltshire Highways and the Parish Council.</p> <p>Tamar Reay met with members of the Horse-Riding Community to see what steps could be taken by Wiltshire Council to help improve horse rider road safety</p>	Cllr Reay

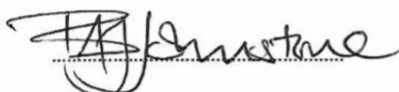
Agenda Item	Detail	Action
	<p><b>Bradley Lane &amp; Rusty Lane</b> Cllr Reay agreed to continue to chase the Rights-of-Way Team for an early engagement.</p> <p>The next LHFIG meeting is confirmed as being <b>Wednesday</b> 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The Chairman to attend. The Clerk to forward the LHFIG and meeting details to the Chairman.</p>	<p>Cllr Reay</p> <p>Clerk Chairman</p>
2023/170 Speedwatch	<p><b>Speedwatch</b> John Williams advised that the Police Liaison Officer is assessing the proposed Speedwatch locations to establish which ones can be used by the Speedwatch Team.</p>	John Williams
2023/171 Neighbourhood Plan	None	
2023/172 Planning Matters	<p><b>Planning Matters</b></p> <p><b>PL/2023/07372</b> - The Bell Inn, Seend - Variation of condition on PL/2022/07574 to allow for design changes.</p> <p>Resolution: Jackie Hamblin proposed this application be supported. This was seconded by Phil Springate. With exception of one councillor who voted against the proposal, all remaining Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p><b>PL/2023/07690</b> – 21 The Lye, Seend, Proposed Rear Extension</p> <p>Resolution: Terry James proposed that the parish council had no objection to this application. This was seconded by John Williams. All remaining Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p><b>PL/2023/07617</b> - Ridgeway, Row Lane, Seend - Replace septic tank with new sewage treatment plant in different location</p> <p>Resolution: Jamie Halliday proposed that the parish council had no objection to this application. This was seconded by Phil Springate. All remaining Councillors present voted in favour.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2023/173 Sandridge Solar Benefit Payment	No update this month	
2023/174 Devizes Area Board	<p>Pamela Akerman provided the following update from the last meeting:</p> <p>Wiltshire police are making progress with local priorities which includes increasing police visibility in villages. Police are available to support community Speedwatch teams.</p> <p>PCC, Philip Wilkinson, reported they are doubling the team to support rural crime and focusing on hare coursing, burglaries and speed enforcement activities. Chief Constable, Catherine Roper, reported on progress with the 3 priorities as actions in response to Wiltshire police being placed in 'special measures' in 2022.</p> <p>Unemployment and especially Youth unemployment is recognised as a problem for Devizes as its one of the highest areas of unemployment in Wiltshire. A working group is being created.</p>	Pamela Akerman



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	<p>Seend Tennis Club was successful in its bid for an Area Board Grant to resurface the courts. Up to £5k was approved with £3k to be paid now and the remainder at the year-end if sufficient grant funding is available.</p> <p>The next Area Board meeting is 20<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm.</p>													
2023/175 Items of Correspondence	<p><b>Church Wall</b></p> <p>Len Murray gave a presentation regarding the collapse of the church wall and the need for its repair. Historic ownership of the wall is unclear and hence it is not insured by either the church or the owner of the adjoining property. This needs to be resolved before the Parish Council can consider contributing towards the rebuild.</p> <p>In good faith, the owner of the adjoining property has instructed a local builder to commence the repair. The church and the owner of the adjoining property to establish legal ownership and the associated responsibility of ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>Len Murray offered to provide an update to the council at a future meeting.</p> <p><b>Local Rights of Way</b></p> <p>Correspondence has been received from a local landowner regarding the use of the footpaths on his land. Costs associated with any move of rights of way are the responsibility of the landowner not the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed to place a notice in Spotlight regarding the importance of footpath users not deviating from the formal route of the footpath and taking shortcuts.</p>	<p>Len Murray</p> <p>Clerk</p>												
2023/176 Parish Steward	<p>The Clerk to request the Parish Steward undertake the following work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check and clean where necessary all key road signs within the Parish</li> </ul>	Clerk												
2023/177 Councillor Vacancies	The Parish Council has one vacancy.													
2023/178 Financial Matters	<p><b>a. 2024-25 Initial Draft Precept</b></p> <p>Councillors have been sent an initial copy for review</p> <p><b>b. Clerks Holiday Pay</b></p> <p>It was noted the Clerk has unused holiday pay (28 days) owing, hence despite taking annual leave his October salary can be paid in full.</p> <p><b>c. Cheques for Signature</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque Payee</th><th>Amount</th><th>Reason</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mr C Stirland</td><td>£693.59</td><td>Clerks Salary</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mr C Stirland</td><td>£23.99</td><td>PC Website Monthly Subscription</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mr C Stirland</td><td>£60.45</td><td>Expenses (July – Sept)</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Resolution: John Williams proposed acceptance of the cheques, seconded by Pam. All Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p><b>d. Hugofox Direct Debit Mandate</b></p> <p>Hugofox have offered a direct debit option that would negate the need to make monthly payments.</p>	Cheque Payee	Amount	Reason	Mr C Stirland	£693.59	Clerks Salary	Mr C Stirland	£23.99	PC Website Monthly Subscription	Mr C Stirland	£60.45	Expenses (July – Sept)	
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	<p>Resolution: John Williams proposed a monthly direct debit mandate be used to pay Hugofox initially £23.99/month. This was seconded by Jackie Hamblin. All Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>e. Bank Reconciliation at end of August 2023, circulated to Councillors was <b>£37,539.67</b></p>	Clerk												
2023/179 Items for Note	<p><b>Meeting Date for Precept 2024-25</b> The Precept Committee agreed to meet on 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in Kennet Room. Clerk to Book the room.</p> <p><b>Parish Council Agenda</b> The October agenda has been drafted.</p> <p><b>Lye Field Mower</b> John Williams advised that no mower buying decision was made at last meeting of Lye Field Committee.</p> <p><b>Defibrillator Spares</b> Defibrillator Spares are being held by Bridget Johnstone</p> <p><b>Email Scam</b> A Councillor has received an email pertaining to be another member of the Council. Councillors are advised to check the email address of the Sender before replying to unusual requests.</p>	Clerk												
2023/180 Date of next meeting	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for coming &amp; closed the meeting at 8.32 pm.</p> <p>The next Parish Council meetings are:</p> <table><tr><th>Meeting</th><th>Date</th><th>Time</th><th>Venue</th></tr><tr><td>Parish Council Meeting</td><td>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct</td><td>7.00pm</td><td>Community Centre</td></tr><tr><td>Parish Council Meeting</td><td>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov</td><td>7.00pm</td><td>Community Centre</td></tr></table>	Meeting	Date	Time	Venue	Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	7.00pm	Community Centre	Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	7.00pm	Community Centre	
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Bridget Johnstone (Vice Chair)  
Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

