

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th July 2021. This meeting was held in the Community Centre.

Present: Mrs Georgina A'Bear, Mrs Pam Akerman, Mr Terry James (Chairman), Mr William Lack, Mrs Carole Vince, Mr John Williams and Mr Martin Wiltshire

Also Present: Sue Bond (Clerk), Councillor Tamara Reay, Mr Phillip Shone and Lady Carola Thorpe

Agenda Item		Action
2021/109 Apologies	Mrs Heatley	
2021/110 Declaration of Lobbying	<p>(i) Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests</p> <p>(ii) Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda</p> <p>(iii) Requests for Dispensation</p>	<p>(i) There were no changes of declarations to the Register of Interests.</p> <p>(ii) Mr Lack and Mr Wiltshire declared an interest in planning application PL/2021/06163.</p> <p>(iii) There were no requests for dispensations.</p>
2021/111 Local Councillor Matters	<p>Councillor Reay spoke of the Bus Back Better consultation. £3.6 billion pounds has been set aside by the government to be spent on increasing bus usage nationally through the national bus strategy In March 2020 Wiltshire Council was granted £671,000 as revenue support to help to improve the provision of local bus services. They have already undertaken consultations with town & parish councils seeking ideas of new routes and services and are now undertaking an informal consultation with the public and businesses to help shape their work to produce a bus service improvement plan in the Autumn. This is in the form of a on-line survey which will run until 23rd August and will give Wiltshire Council a better understanding of how bus services are used and how usage has been affected by the pandemic.</p> <p>The Clerk to put details of this survey on the website and mention it on Facebook.</p>	Clerk
2021/112 Minutes of the Previous Meetings	<p>1.1 The Minutes of the meetings held on 29th June had been circulated to all Councillors.</p> <p>1.3 <u>Resolution</u>: Acceptance of the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June as an accurate record were proposed by Mrs A'Bear and seconded by Mr Wiltshire. All Councillors voted in favour.</p>	
2021/113 Matters Arising Not Already on the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Back Better Consultation – the Clerk had sent in the Parish Council's suggestion that the bus service to Bath should occasionally divert to include a stop in Seend High Street. • Thank you letters sent to Mark Newman and Jamie Hiscocks regarding the verges that they had cut • Emailed clerks of Semington and Keevil ref footpath 37. Keevil PC has responded to say they have forwarded our email on to the Wilts C RoW team • Drain in Spout lane put on Parish Steward task sheet. • Hedge in The Lye – The Clerk got confirmation from Aster that this has now been cut. • Noticeboard – Still to be put up. 	
2021/114 Items for Discussion from Members of the Parish	<p>Parishioner, Mr Phillip Shone, spoke to Councillors about his concerns about speeding on the A361 at the Stocks to Littleton section of the road. This stretch of road is 50mph, but he strongly feels that it should be reduced to 40mph. He was disappointed with the responses given by the Highways Engineer to the points parishioners had raised in the recent Police Traffic survey. Many of the responses cited the DfT criteria for setting speed limits and did not take into account specific local needs. Mr Shone quoted from Steve Hammond MP, a former road safety minister, who stated "we want to see safe roads which meets the needs of everyone" and that "local councils should be able to set speed limits based on their local knowledge and on</p>	

	<p>the views of the local community”.</p> <p>Mr Shone gave examples of other villages where there was a 40mph despite the section of road being distinctly rural with limited housing and therefore there was no good reason why the speed limit couldn't be reduced from 50mph to 40mph on the A361 in the section of The Stocks junction and Baldham Bends.</p> <p>Mr Shone also expressed concern that the recommended freight route (A365) was not being enforced. The Chairman said that there was a freight study currently ongoing and if there became an opportunity for the PC to comment, it would do so.</p> <p>Mr Shone had received a letter from the Melksham Area Highway Engineer that stated that Wiltshire Council had adopted the DfT's circular regarding the assessing and setting of local speed limits. The letter said that all highway improvement requests should first go through the Parish Council before being submitted to CATG, and that a traffic survey should be asked for to establish current speeds.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Shone for raising his concerns. He said that it was very difficult to get changes to speed limits. But it was correct that any Highway Improvement Requests must be approved by the Parish Council before going to CATG.</p> <p>Councillor Reay said that the biggest issue that her constituents complained about was speeding. With the Police & Crime Commissioner elections, it was high on the candidates manifestos. She said that community speedwatch was good and enabled parishioners to feel that they were taking action and making a difference. However community speedwatch and SIDs can only be implemented where there is a proven issue with speed, and these would not be allowed in areas of 50mph and 60mph, but would be possible in Seend High Street.</p> <p>The Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should request a metro count for the Stocks junction area. Mr Shone to advise the best location. The Clerk would apply for this, but because it was in a 50mph speed limit area, the metro count would have to have the approval of the Highways Engineer. The next CATG meeting was not until November. The Clerk also stated that there was a back log of traffic surveys as they had all been put on hold during the lockdown. The one in the High Street was not likely to take place until the Autumn.</p>	Clerk
2021/115 Highways	<p><u>CATG – Crossing Point</u> - The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting. Our request for a high friction surface and a pedestrian warning sign where the dropped kerbs were between Spout Lane and Inmarsh Lane was approved. However, it may be some time before the work is carried out as there were a lot of other projects ahead of ours to be done.</p> <p><u>Bus Shelter</u> – The Clerk reported that she had confirmed with GW Shelter Solutions that we wished them to carry out the repairs. However, before they can begin, the electricity for the light has to be disconnected for safety reasons. The Clerk has contacted Wiltshire Council to see if this can be arranged. It is hoped the work will be carried out in September. The Clerk confirmed that the grant money had now been paid into our bank account.</p> <p><u>The Bell safety barriers</u> - Councillor Reay said she was no further forward with her discussions with highways about protecting the former Bell pub. To be further discussed with the Parish Council and the owner.</p>	Councillor Reay & Councillors
2021/116 Melksham Bypass	<p>The Chairman read out the draft response prepared by the Clerk, so that the Councillors could give feedback. It had also been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. The response had been based on the comments made at the recent on-line meeting the PC had organised. It also included comments made in the PC's first response.</p> <p>Subject to a few minor amendments, the Councillors were happy with the response. Mrs Akerman to revise one of the paragraphs.</p> <p><u>Resolution</u>: The Chairman proposed that, subject to the minor amendments, this be approved and sent in to Wiltshire Council. This was seconded by</p>	Clerk

	Mrs Vince. All Councillors voted in favour.	
2021/117 Planning	<p>1. <u>Applications between PC meetings decided by planning sub-committee:</u> PL/2021/05040 – 7 The Stocks, Seend and PL/2021/06508 – The Hatch, Seend. Both these applications were approved by the planning sub-committee.</p> <p><u>New Applications:</u></p> <p>2. <u>Application Ref: PL/2021/05283</u> Site Location: Land at A361, Trowbridge Road, Seend Proposal: Change of use of regraded agricultural land to create an additional Gypsy/Traveller Pitch consisting of a Static Mobile Home with hardstanding for parking, a septic tank, together with the Retention of a 'Portacabin' storage unit.</p> <p>2.1 This application was discussed at some length by the Councillors. The Councillors were annoyed at a point under 'The Need' in the Design & Access Statement. <i>"Wiltshire Council have the ideal opportunity of providing additional Gypsy/Traveller accommodation on an existing site without the usual local resident resentment incurred on virgin sites"</i>. This statement brushes aside the huge amount of opposition there was to the 2017 planning application from the Parish Council and parishioners and the feeling that their concerns were not listened to at the planning committee meeting that made the decision to approve the application. This resulted in both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman's resigning from the Parish Council for loss of faith in the fairness of Wiltshire Council's decision making.</p> <p>2.2 <u>Resolution:</u> Mrs Vince proposed that the Parish Council objects to the application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition placed on the 2017 approval that the site be restricted to one static caravan should not be overridden. • The site was in open country, outside the settlement boundary of Seend where there is a presumption against development. • Highway safety concerns – with additional caravans there would be more traffic movements in and out of the site onto the busy A361. <p>Mrs Akerman seconded the motion. All Councillors voted in favour of objecting to the application.</p> <p>3. <u>Application Ref: PL/2021/06163</u> Site Location: Seend Park, High Street, Seend SN12 6NZ Proposal: New indoor pool building as an amenity to main house.</p> <p>3.1 Councillors discussed this application at length. There was some consternation at the description of Seend Park being a 'working farm' when it was in reality a 'grand' house with gardens. It had never been a working farm and it would be wrong to argue that it was. The statement also made no mention of it being in a Conservation Area and made no reference to the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>3.2 <u>Resolution:</u> Mrs Vince proposed that the Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds that it was inappropriate development for the location, it was not in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan, it was in a Conservation Area, and that it could be viewed from the footpaths. This was seconded by Mr Williams. Mr Lack and Mr Wiltshire did not take part in the discussions and did not vote. All other Councillors (5 in total) voted against the application being approved.</p> <p>4. <u>Application Ref: PL/2021/05701</u> Site Location: Toad Hall, Park Lane, Seend Cleeve SN12 6PT Proposal: Ground floor extension with balcony over.</p> <p>4.1 <u>Resolution:</u> Mr Lack proposed that this application be approved. Seconded by Mrs A'Bear. All Councillors voted in favour.</p>	

	<p>5. <u>Application Ref: PL/2021/06066</u> Site Location: Carn Marth, 29 Seend Cleeve SN12 6PU Proposal: Enclosed porch to front, plus extension to and conversion of the garage to form a granny annexe.</p> <p>5.1 Councillors said the quality of the drawings of the plan was extremely poor and therefore hard to read on the planning portal. Concern was expressed about the size of the proposed annex and it was noted that the neighbour had raised concerns about the overbearing impact it would have on his property.</p> <p>5.2 <u>Resolution:</u> Mrs Vince proposed that the application be objected to because of the size of the extension, access and parking concerns. If it were to be approved then the annex must remain ancillary to the main property. This was seconded by Mr Williams. All Councillors voted in favour of objecting to the application.</p> <p>6. <u>Miscellaneous Planning Issues</u></p> <p>6.1 <u>The Bell Louver shutters</u> – The Clerk said that she had received a request from the property owner that councillors attend a site visit to discuss the re-instatement of the louvers which was a condition of planning consent. The planning sub-committee said they would be willing to attend. The Clerk to contact the owner.</p>	Planning sub-Committee
2021/118 Police Matters	<p>1. <u>Incidents:</u> 1st July – bicycle stolen from Rusty Lane.</p> <p>2. Wiltshire Police are taking action against speeding as part of a national campaign led by the National Police Chief Council. During the campaign which ends on 8 Aug, officers will be speaking to drivers to highlight the risks of speeding, informing them of the consequences that driving above the speed limit can have and enforcing the law. Funding has been given for a new Traffic Enforcement Officer and camera equipment to improve the way roads in Wiltshire are policed.</p> <p>3. <u>Heritage Crime</u> tampers and/or destroys our history. It includes graffiti (costs incurred for cleaning), flytipping (costs incurred for clearing it away), theft from historic property (eg. lead roofing, post boxes, items from churches), hare coursing which is now regarded as organised crime due to it being connected to on-line betting with big money involved.</p> <p>4 Report suspicious activity – Phone 999 if you see any criminal activity happening. Phone 101 if you think it can be dealt with in slow time. Report online via the Wiltshire Police website or phone Crimestoppers 24/7 anonymously.</p> <p>5. <u>Metal Detecting</u> – Remember to always seek permission from the landowner. Follow the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting. Join a local Metal Detecting Club and carry a Membership Card and seek Agreement with the landowner. Always report what is found to the landowner, get a proper valuation and contact the Finds Liaison Officer if there is one at the Council. Magnet fishing is also Metal Detecting so the same guidance applies.</p>	
2021/119 Neighbourhood Plan	<p>1. Mrs A’Bear said that she had got confirmation from their NP Examiner Michael Kilminster that there had been no public objections to the Referendum result in the 6 week grace period for complaints to be submitted.</p> <p>2. Mrs Vince said she had not yet got further quotes for the cost of laminated copies of the Neighbourhood Plan to be made.</p>	Mrs Vince
2021/120 Electoral Boundary Review	<p>1.1 The Clerk said that she had found it difficult to find any written information about the review to fully understand the implications of it for Seend. Councillor Reay explained what the recommendations were. She said that the proposals would most affect Devizes as it would split the town through the middle and into different divisions. There would be a new Devizes/Melksham Ward which Seend would become part of. Devizes Town Council was particularly unhappy with the proposals.</p> <p>1.2 As Seend had been part of Melksham Area and just recently moved into</p>	

	the new Devizes Rural West ward and become part of the Devizes Community Area, Councillors felt that the proposed changes would have no great impact on Seend, and therefore it was felt that was no need to respond to the review.	
2021/121 Privacy Policy And Information & Data Protection Policy	<p>1. The Parish Council's Information & Data Protection policy and Privacy Policy had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The clerk said that there were no revisions from the previous year.</p> <p>1.1 <u>Resolution</u>: Mrs A'Bear proposed that these two policies be re-adopted. Seconded by Mrs Vince. All Councillors voted in favour.</p>	
2021/122 Parish Steward	<p>At the last meeting, it was suggested that there should be a regular agenda item for the Parish Steward so that Councillors were reminded that they needed to keep an eye out for jobs that could be done by the Parish Steward.</p> <p>The Clerk said that this month he had painted the Milestone which Councillors agreed looked good. He had also done a lot of strimming of verges/hedges where visibility was poor and some pavement weeding. The Clerk said she had asked parishioners on Facebook to let her know if they spot anything that needs doing that could be put on the monthly task sheet</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the increasing amount of ragwort that was growing in the verges, towpath and private grounds. This is poisonous to horses and a skin irritant for humans. It was suggested that an article be put in Spotlight.</p>	
2021/123 Councillor Vacancies	The Clerk reported that the vacancies were now advertised on the village noticeboards, website and will be periodically mentioned on the PC's Facebook page. There were so far two people interested in becoming councillors. It was hoped that there would be more applicants. The co-options to take place at the September meeting.	
2021/124 Correspondence	<p><u>School grounds access</u> – a parishioner had asked if the PC could write to Seend School to request that with the easing of lockdown, could the back gate to the school grounds be unlocked out of school hours. Prior to lockdown, the gate was left unlocked out of school hours so that parishioners could use it as a safe way to walk from School Road to the High Street. The Councillors agreed to write to the headteacher, school governors and FOSS.</p> <p><u>Wiltshire Council Draft Climate Change Strategy Consultation</u> – Wiltshire Council is consulting on its draft Climate Strategy from 1st September for six weeks, as it aims to meet its pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030. The consultation is a chance to help shape the future of Wiltshire in its journey to becoming a carbon neutral county and more resilient to climate impacts. The council will be asking for your views on how you think residents, communities and businesses in the county can all play their part to achieve this. The full consultation documents and information will be available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy from 1 September.</p> <p>The Clerk to advertise this on Facebook and the PC's website.</p>	Clerk
2021/125 Financial Matters	<p><u>Financial Matters</u>:</p> <p>1. <u>Cheques for signature</u> Camelot Media Ltd £ 15.00 NP Website update Mrs S Bond £ 686.87 Clerk July salary</p> <p>1.1 <u>Resolution</u>: Mr Lack proposed acceptance of the cheques. Seconded by Mr Wiltshire. All Councillors voted in favour</p> <p>2. <u>Bank Reconciliation</u> to end of June 2021 - £ 31,200.52</p> <p>3. <u>Banking checks</u> – Mrs A'Bear confirmed that this has now been done and all is correct with the bank reconciliation and bank statements.</p>	
2021/126 Items for Note	<p>1. <u>Rusty Lane</u> – Mrs Vince said that she had reported this path through MyWilts, as had the Clerk who had also sent in photographs. The raised issue was shown as “in progress” Mrs Vince to keep an eye on this, as it was agreed that the path was becoming very bad.</p> <p>2. <u>CLT Park Farm</u> – Mr Williams reported that work on the housing development will begin in September.</p>	Mrs Vince

	<p>3. <u>Manholes</u> – Mrs Vince said she had reported on MyWilts noisy manholes on Bollands Hill and in the High Street. The one on the High Street had already been replaced with a smaller one, but was still causing problems. It was going to be replaced with a resin one in the hope that this would be quieter.</p> <p>4. <u>Queen's Platinum Jubilee</u> – Mrs Heatley had requested that this celebration be put on a future meeting agenda so that it can be discussed how to celebrate this major milestone. For past celebrations a beacon had been lit in the grounds of the Community Centre. Mr Lack suggested a flag pole which he will investigate. To be further discussed at a future meeting.</p> <p>5. <u>Phone Box – Sells Green</u>. The Clerk asked if someone could sweep the cobwebs out of the phone box where the defibrillator is installed. She also asked if someone could cut the vegetation around the grit bin at the entrance to The Lye.</p> <p>6. <u>Zoom Subscription</u> – The Clerk asked whether she should cancel the subscription to Zoom now that the meetings had resumed in public. Councillors agreed that the subscription should be cancelled.</p> <p>7. <u>Row Lane</u> – Mr Wiltshire said that the hedging was becoming overgrown and vehicles were being scratched by the overgrowing branches. The Clerk said that she had put spoken to the Parish Steward about it and he was going to mention it to the Highways Maintenance Engineer.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>2021/127 Date of next meeting</p>	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.52pm</p> <p>The date of the next meeting is 31st August 2021</p>	

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Terry James, Chairman, Date: 31st August 2021