

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24th February 2015, at Seend Community Centre.

Present: Mrs G A'Bear, Mrs T Carr, Mr T James, Mr P Manning, Mr T Murch, Mr J Padfield (Chairman), Mrs J Savage and Mr M Wiltshire.

Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr D Nichols, Mr K Rigg, Cllr J. Seed and CBM PC Emily Thomas.

Declaration of Interests

Mrs A'Bear declared an interest in planning application 15/00937/FUL - Broad Lane Farm, Broad Lane.

Police and Local Councillor's Matters

Following last month's PC meeting, the High Street traffic management scheme was discussed at the CATG meeting held on 5th February. The CATG was advised that the Parish's preference is for intelligent signs that warn of oncoming vehicles (similar to West Lavington). Costs for 2 signs with sensors would be approximately £20K, including installation work. The CATG's proposal is for the Parish, CATG and Area Board to pay one-third of the capital cost of the signage (£8,500). Therefore the PC would be asked to fund £2,833. Councillors discussed this proposal and voted 7 in favour and 1 against.

PC Thomas was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a report by email. On 8 February a folding bike was taken from a barge moored outside the Barge Inn. On 9 February fence posts were pulled out and criminal damage to a field at Seend Park Farm, Semington. On 17 February there was an attempted break in at Poulshot Road in the late evening, unknown male scared off by the owner's dog.

Items for discussion from members of the Parish

None received.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2015 had been circulated to all Councillors, and were taken as read. There were no amendments, and acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mr T Murch, seconded by Mr M Wiltshire. Agreed unanimously.

Matters arising

Parking in School Road – Email received from head Teacher, Jackie Chalk, to advise that she is aware of the congestion outside the school and regularly reminds parents of the need to park without blocking driveways in both School Road and Dial Close. She will raise the matter again at the next governors' meeting and contact parents again.

Winter snow preparations – The Clerk had obtained some quotes on line for salt/grit spreaders. The most expensive spreader was £820 (ex VAT) and the less expensive was £519 (ex VAT). It was suggested that Poulshot and Bulkington Parish Councils may be prepared to share the cost and use of this item. However, Seend had received a £250 grant towards the spreader. The Clerk to contact the Area Board to check whether it was permitted to approach the other Parish Councils in this respect.

Canal bridge at The Barge – An order for repairs to the road surface was raised by Wiltshire Highways on 5th December, and it was noted that the road has been marked up ready for repair. This matter has been followed up with Stuart Renfrew.

Settlement boundary changes – Mrs A'Bear advised Councillors that the methodology for this has been changed. She will take it to the Neighbourhood Plan steering group at their meeting on 12 March.

Neighbourhood Plan - A Facebook page for Seend Parish Plan has been set up.

Car parking, Rusty Lane – Old correspondence relating to ownership of the lane and responsibility for upkeep has been located. It appears that the area in question is owned by three groups: Lye Field, WI and the Community Centre. It will be necessary to obtain agreement of the owners to improvements in the surface of the car park.

Noticeboard outside Post Office – this is undergoing renovation and will be replaced in due course.

Skateboard area – Mr Murch reported that the Lye Field Committee members are very busy at present dealing with Mr Macdonald's claim, and there may be financial implications for them; at present they don't feel they can be involved.

Footpaths 24 and 55 – The Rights of Way Warden asked if footpath 24 is a well walked footpath, and would it benefit from the broken stile being replaced with a kissing gate, subject to land owner approval? If so, would the Parish Council be able to part fund this? Councillors agreed to fund the kissing gate, however, they could not fund any further replacements in this financial year. Mr Wiltshire to check on permission of landowner.

The Rights of Way Warden advised that footpath 55 is an un-surfaced bridleway and whilst the ditches being dug out would help, the only way to improve the surface would be to lay road planings on it, would the Parish Council support this? Councillors agreed provided the landowner was in agreement, and there was no cost to the Parish Council.

Accidents on the C20 - Mr Manning advised that information had been sought from Wiltshire Police on accident statistics for the C20, and they are duty bound to respond within 20 days. There have been 4 accidents on the C20 since the beginning of this year.

Risk Register

The last review had taken place in February 2013. Copies had been forwarded to all Councillors who had reviewed and agreed they did not wish to make any amendments at this review.

Planning Matters

15/00621/FUL Church of the Holy Cross, High Street
New toilet facility, path and relocation of oil tank

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of this application.

15/00937/FUL Broad Lane Farm, Broad Lane
Replacement dwelling with garage (re-submission of E/11/0295/FUL to amend design)

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of this application.

15/01002/FUL 15 The Lye
Dropped kerb with driveway over verge

Councillors commented that they were generally in favour, provided this was used as access to parking at the property, and not used for car parking.

Councillors voted 7 in favour, 1 against.

Wiltshire House, High Street – Councillors were concerned at the number of vehicles parking on the verge outside this property that is currently undergoing renovation. The Clerk to try and contact the owners of the property or speak to the site manager.

Correspondence

Email from Sian Ferry, Canal & River Trust, in response to an enquiry about winter moorings. As with last year, there are no specific fixed winter mooring sites on the K&A this year. Instead, a 'general towpath permit' is available, which allows boaters to moor for up to 5 months at a valid towpath location anywhere on the canal network (restrictions do apply: Boats can't stay for more than the signposted time on visitor moorings, within 1km of a private marina/mooring or within 500m of a CRT long term mooring site, and some other specific localised restrictions). Info on the general towpath permit and restrictions available on line at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/boating/mooring/winter-moorings>

Regarding the K&A specifically, we have created a map which shows stretches where boaters cannot moor (marked in orange here: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/7505-k-and-a-local-plan-area-general-towpath-winter-mooring-exclusion-areas.pdf> based on the 1km/500m rule – Please note that visitor moorings are not marked on the map, but the above-mentioned restriction re stay times applies. It seems, from the K&A maps that Seend does not fall within an exclusion zone, so boaters would be able to moor along the towpath for extended periods in the area with a general towpath permit. However, if there is a specific towpath location you wish to query, please do let me know and I can consult with my colleagues local to that area.

Councillors queried whether people resident on boats on the canal were subject to Community Charge, the Clerk to check with Wiltshire Council. Also, which months are considered the five winter months, the Clerk to check with the Canal & River Trust.

The Clerk had been contacted by Wessex Water, who would like the speed limit from Seend Fork west to the village gateway to be reduced from 50 mph to 30 mph, to make exiting from the entrance to the sewage works on Seend Hill safer. They had contacted local residents and also Wiltshire Council, who advised that the Parish Council should ask for the speed limit to be assessed and reviewed through the CATG. Councillors agreed with this proposal. The Clerk to contact the Area Board.

Financial Matters

a) There was one cheque for signature:

Bath Building Society £2,500.00 Business Savings a/c application

On a proposal by Mr James, seconded by Mr Wiltshire, which was unanimously approved, the cheque was duly signed.

b) A bank reconciliation to the end of January had been circulated to all Councillors, this showed the current bank balance standing at £15,838.58.

Any other business

Overgrown hedges – it was noted that hedges in the High Street were again impinging on the pavement. The Clerk to write to householders asking them to cut them back level with the wall.

Springs in Seend Cleeve – it was noted that these are again running across the road, but there is little that can be done to prevent.

Flood defence – Mr Wiltshire reported that the ton of sand and sand bags had been delivered by Wiltshire Council.

Seend Shuttle – the old bus had been sold to Melksham Area Youth Group for a nominal fee.

Parish boundary at Bowerhill – Melksham Without PC had been in contact to advise that they had installed a bench near the picnic area on the canal. This item to go on the agenda for the next meeting.

Sandridge Solar Farm – it was reported that the Planning Inspector had visited 10 days ago.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 31st March 2015, at Seend Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m.


CHAIRMAN