

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 28th July 2015, at Seend Community Centre.

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

Also present: Mrs A Heatley, Mr N Vaux, Mr M Wood, Cllr J Seed, Dan Bennett (Aster Management) and a member of the public.

Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr T Murch, Mr D Nichols and PCSO Helen Wilson.

Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Co-option of new Parish Councillor

There were three candidates for one vacancy for co-option to the Parish Council – Mrs A Heatley, Mr N Vaux and Mr M Wood. All three candidates had supplied a short CV which had been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. All three candidates gave a short presentation to Councillors. Candidates then left the room whilst a discussion took place. Votes were then cast by paper ballot with the following result:

Mrs A Heatley	0 votes
Mr N Vaux	1 vote
Mr M Wood	7 votes

Mr Wood was declared duly elected to the Parish Council, he then signed the Declaration of Office, and was handed a copy of the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and information on declaring an interest. The Chairman thanked all three candidates for standing for co-option.

Police and Local Councillor's Matters

Post meeting note: An email report had been sent by PCSO Helen Wilson, but not received in time for the meeting, but is given below:

There were 4 incidents for the last month:

23/07/2015 – RTC – involving dog ran into road without lead. Bell Hill.

23/07/2015 – Theft - Bell Hill - Unknown Suspect(s) has removed battery-powered electric energiser and battery from damaged stable in field. Wires have been cut and metal pole to which energiser was fixed has been pulled out of the ground and thrown into the stable. Suspect(s) has also removed solar-powered electric energiser and battery from wooden fence. Solar panel left in situ.

26/07/2015 – RTC – Vehicle into field. No injuries.

27/07/2015 – RTC – Damage to vehicle, car scraped by another and drove off. Bollands Hill,

and 2 RTC in Bulkington on 19 July.

The Maxofest in Seend went well, it ran smoothly. Visit made by officers on the day out of courtesy and all was in order.

Request for everyone to be vigilant and keep an eye out for any suspicious vehicles/persons in connection with the theft of fencers etc, and to call in on 999 straight away.

Items for discussion from members of the Parish

Mr Conboy had requested that traffic measures for Seend High Street was placed on the agenda, but was not present to discuss. This subject is on-going, together with measures to improve matters, and had been discussed in full at earlier meetings in the year. Cllr Seed had advised at a pre-public meeting earlier in the evening that road safety in Seend had been discussed at the meeting held earlier in the month with the local Conservative branch. One of the things to come out of the meeting is that there is a strong belief that local road signage needs to be amended, however, these requests have to go through the CATG for funding.

J.P.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2015 had been circulated to all Councillors, and were taken as read. There were no amendments, acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mrs G A'Bear, seconded by Mr K Rigg, agreed unanimously.

Matters arising

Canal bridge, Seend Cleeve – Email from Paul Kelly, Senior Project Manager, Canal & River Trust, Gloucester, to advise they are planning to commence the works on 4th January 2016 and anticipate that the works will be complete by 15th April 2016. They acknowledge the requirement for a one-way system, and will discuss this with the highways authority when they submit the road closure application. The Clerk was asked to respond to confirm that the Cleeve to be 2 way traffic from The Barge to The Stocks and vice versa, but one way traffic up the Pelch from the Cleeve to the top (Bollands Hill), with no traffic allowed down the Pelch from the top of Bollands Hill, and resident access only on Perry's Lane.

Winter Snow Preparations - Email received from the Weather Team, to say that unfortunately Wiltshire Council would not pay for a volunteer to grit roads in Seend and Bulkington; Wiltshire Council will pay for farmers to plough routes, which will be discussed between the contractor and the control room in periods of adverse weather. The community support scheme is voluntary and is there to assist the parish to deal with the areas that Wiltshire Council is not able to attend. Whilst they can support by providing salt to each parish they will not be paying volunteers for spreading the salt. If equipment is purchased, then volunteers should register with the Council, they can then inspect the equipment to ensure it is suitable for highway use. They also run a training/refresher session for anybody using such equipment. They are hoping to run a similar session later this year around September/October; let them know if we would like them to add Martin Wiltshire to the invites when they organise the training. The Clerk to check with Cllr Seed about payment for volunteers.

Telephone box in Seend Cleeve – a notice has been placed in Spotlight, asking for a volunteer to renovate the box. It was agreed that if no-one could be found, then sale of the phone box should be considered.

Litter bins – the Clerk had contacted Abbi Gutierrez at the Area Board about purchase and service of two new litter bins. No response received to date, the Clerk has followed this up.

High Street crossing – the Clerk to write to The Manor and the PCC to ask about the viability of creating a safe crossing area close to Church Walk.

BT Openreach – their website confirms that the service cabinet in Seend is now enabled for fibre broadband although, in a minority of instances, this doesn't guarantee availability. Parishioners should contact their preferred communications provider for their home or business to order.

Parking, Spout Lane – the Clerk had contacted the C&CC, who advise that people using their site always park on site, not the lane; inconsiderate parking in the lane affects their visitors trying to access the site. It was acknowledged that problems mostly stem from people using the canal. The Clerk to contact the new Manager in Devizes, to ask if he can come along to speak to the Parish Council. It was noted that there are 16 non-holiday barges moored between Giles Wood and The Barge.

Sandridge Solar Power – Community Benefit Fund – Draft agreement

This matter was returned to the agenda from the last meeting. Councillors now, reluctantly, agreed that the solar farm was likely to go ahead, and that the offer of a share of the Community Benefit Fund should be accepted for the village. Proposed: Mr J Padfield, seconded: Mr T James. Agreed unanimously. The Chairman signed the draft agreement, the Clerk to advise Sandridge Solar Power.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Mr Rigg had given a presentation about the Neighbourhood Plan at the recent meeting with the local branch of the Conservatives. A large map is available downstairs in the Community Centre, and members of the group will have information available at the Fete on 8 August. There is a further meeting on 10 September with Cllr Seed, who was going to help with questions for a rural housing survey. Mrs A'Bear had been in touch with Community First who advise that figures for similar size communities was in the region of £10-15K, with funding grants available of up to £8K for the cost of the plan. There was a possibility of attending workshops jointly with Rowde and Worton to save costs. Mrs A'Bear to supply costs for the Parish Council by the end of October, prior to the Precept meeting in November.

Planning Matters

Dan Bennett, Land Manager at Aster Management, was present and spoke to the PC about a parcel of land at the top of Pelch Lane, next door to number 3 Pelch, it is currently being used for parking, but does not form part of the tenancy. A housing needs survey would be undertaken, funded by Aster Management, but shared with the PC. The proposal was to build two, 3 bedroomed houses on the site for letting to local people. Councillors were in favour of the proposal, but specified they would like the houses to be for local families with young children.

Application No: 15/06544/TCA Grafton House, (was Wiltshire House), High Street
Work to Trees in a Cons Area - Fell Ash leafed Maple

S.P.

Application No: 15/06943/TCA Grafton House (was Wiltshire House), High Street
Fell Indian Bean Tree (Catalpa)

The Clerk to contact the Tree Warden to ask about these applications.

Application No: 15/06662/FUL 12 Sells Green
Proposed first floor rear extension, dormer windows and front porch
No objections, but comment that the WC arrangement leading off from the kitchen is not liked.

Application No: 15/06909/FUL Somner Place, High Street
Alterations and extension to convert store and garages into annexe accommodation
No objections.

Application No: 15/06691/FUL Linden House, Spout Lane
Single storey extension to the rear
No objections.

Correspondence

Email from a resident of Row Lane, to draw the Parish Council's attention to the amount of objects, structures and litter that has been left around the Thatched Cottage at Baldham, following the recent Maxofest. He has already reported this to the Enforcement Officer online asking that action be taken to return the meadow and roadside verges to their original state. The Clerk to write to the owner of the Thatched Cottage.

Financial Matters

a) There were five cheques for signature:

Mrs R E Fisher	£348.27	Clerk's salary April
HMRC	£10.80	PAYE
Wessex Water	£43.61	Water rates – allotments
Miss E D Simes	£83.91	Seend Parish Plan – stationery
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	£36.00	Annual subscription

b) A bank reconciliation to the end of June had been circulated to all Councillors, this showed that there is £16,677.95 in the Parish Council's accounts.

Any other business

Elm Cottage, Seend Hill - The hedge on the front boundary of Elm Cottage, Seend Hill was very overgrown and was obstructing the pathway, the Clerk to ask the occupants to trim hedge back and clear the path.

Spout Lane – Vehicles parking in Spout Lane were causing an obstruction, and there was concern that they could impede the access of an emergency vehicle. To be discussed with the Canals Manager when he came to a meeting. The Clerk to see if Spout Lane could be taken off sat nav routes.

Spiderweb Paddock, bonfires – It was noted that recently there have been several bonfires producing thick black smoke at Spiderweb Paddock. The Clerk to report to Environmental Health at Wiltshire Council.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 25th August 2015, at Seend Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 p.m.


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CHAIRMAN