

## SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015, at Seend Community Centre.

**Present:** Mrs G A'Bear, Mrs T Carr, Mr T James, Mr P Manning, Mr T Murch (Vice-Chairman), Mr K Rigg, Mrs J Savage and Mr M Wood.

Also present: Cllr J Seed and members of the public

Mr T Murch was in the chair, in the absence of Mr Padfield.

### Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr J Padfield, PCSO Helen Wilson and Mr M. Wiltshire.

### Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

### Police and Local Councillor's Matters

The Clerk had received an email from PCSO Wilson with the following information: Road traffic incidents on 21 September, 7 & 20 October. Theft of red diesel from Broad Lane Farm between 9 & 20 October. Recent report that traffic lights at Seend Fork were not functioning correctly (timing), however there were no reports of RTCs at this junction.

Cllr Seed said that he had two issues; firstly the road signage at the pinch point in the High Street, the work should commence after Christmas, the funding and order are both in place. Secondly, the proposed parish boundary change whereby Melksham Without want to take possession of land currently in Seend parish, adjacent to the canal, part of which is used as a picnic area. Seend residents living near the area are not in favour of the change (email from Mrs Giles to PC). The final decision will be taken at a full Council meeting at the end of November. There is a consultation meeting on 4 November at Melksham Assembly Hall. Several Councillors indicated that they would attend.

### Items for discussion from members of the Parish

None received.

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 had been circulated to all Councillors, and were taken as read. There was a post meeting note: The "Seend Road Safety Initiative" report circulated at the meeting had been carried out by Dr N Knott, Mr B Talmage and Mr B Crisp. There were no other amendments; acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mr Manning, seconded by Mrs Savage, agreed by all present.

### Matters arising

**Vacancy for Councillor** – The vacancy will appear in the next issue of *Spotlight*.

**Canal Bridge, Seend Cleeve** – a further meeting with Paul Kelly (C&RT), Andy Cadwallader, representatives of the contractors and parishioners took place on Thursday, 22 October to discuss the road diversion during the work on the bridge.

**Winter Snow Preparations** – An email was sent to Bulkington PC on 5 October, no response received to date, and email re-sent.

**Telephone box in Seend Cleeve** – There was a further volunteer to help refurbish the box – Andrew Stott, Cooks Close; details passed to Kate Honeybone (original volunteer).

**High Street crossing** – Email now received from Mark Stansby, Senior Traffic Management Engineer, who had now taken a look at the proposal. He advised that the sightline is much improved when crossing further east, close to the milestone. A footpath of approximately 30m would need to be constructed to provide a proper link to Church Lane and dropped kerbs at either side of the crossing point on High Street. Land ownership will need to be established and agreed. He said it is difficult to provide estimates at this time as Wilts Council has yet to appoint a new contractor and they have no rates available on which to base any quotes. However, to help with discussions he suggests a ball park cost of between £4,500 to £5,000 might be anticipated. Part-funding might be available from the Area Board and CATG but it will need to be raised as an Area Board Issue to take this further forward. Mr Rigg proposed that the PC should earmark £2,000 for the project, seconded by Mrs A'Bear, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would fund a share of the work when we had a definitive quote from the new Wiltshire Council contractors. Vote: 5 in favour, 2 against.

**Parking, Spout Lane** – Cllr Seed said that he had met with Mark Stansby at Spout Lane to consider the parking problems, especially between the caravan park entrance and the back wall of the Three Magpies. The solution could be plastic bollards on either side of the lane at a cost of a few hundred pounds.



**Allotments** – The empty plot at the allotments has now been filled – David Bridges, Cooks Close. Jamie Hiscocks has been asked to trim the hedge.

**Oriel House, Bollands Hill** – Email received from Steven Jenkins concerning the property and in particular the use of the adjacent paddock. He had now visited the site and managed to speak with Mrs Axford who informed that it is their intention to re-submit an application for a stable block and access track following the refusal of the last one. Irrespective of this they have constructed steps down in to the paddock area from the main house and have also constructed the top bit of the access track. The land is also being used to store building rubble for the renovation works which are currently being undertaken in the house. Mr Jenkins has now formally written to them requesting that they submit an application for the change of use or return the land to its former condition, and has given them a certain amount of time in which to carry this out.

**Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan** – Response form submitted.

**Freight Requests** – Email from Emma Painter, advising that according to their records, Seend PC had requested that appropriate signing was installed at Bollands Hill to deter HGV's via the Area Board in 2013. Mark Stansby had informed us that the route would not qualify for advisory 'Unsuitable for HGV' signing but part of the request also mentioned restrictions being put in place on Bollands Hill. She had no further details regarding the request for A365 Bowerhill/Seend Fork as this request was dated prior to 2007.

**Wilts Council Challenges meeting 20 October** – Mark Wood had attended the meeting, he said there had been a presentation and then a question and answer session. Their priorities are vulnerable people, jobs, schools and apprenticeships. The biggest challenge is the cut in government funding by £110m in the last three years, and the impact on housing and infrastructure. There will have to be greater use of volunteering, e.g. libraries. Questions included the contracting out of recycling and consultancy costs. Cllr Seed summarised by saying that the Council does not have the same amount of money available, and funding will be reduced by 25% over the next two or three years. Mr Wood said that the operation of some services will be passed over to town and parish councils; it was agreed to place this as an item on the agenda.

**Sandridge Solar Power** – Have been advised that Seend PC accepts the additional clause.

**Worton PC and C20 proposals** – Worton Council advised by email on 1 October. It was suggested that a meeting could take place with Worton PC, the Clerk to contact them.

**Spout Lane** – The broken street light has been removed.

**Post in The Lye** – Aster Management have advised that they will repair.

### **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Mr Murch outlined that a Neighbourhood Plan for Seend would include strategic planning on housing, business and employment, environment and conservation, green living and well-being, community assets and traffic. Mrs A'Bear had put together a report on projected costs, and advised that the Planning Group consider £4,000 will be sufficient. Mrs Carr questioned whether £4K would be sufficient, and whether the PC is being over-enthusiastic in considering a Neighbourhood Plan rather than a Parish Plan. Mrs A'Bear explained that a Parish Plan has very little weight in law, but a Neighbourhood Plan gives the village more control over what happens. Mrs Savage also said that she was concerned about the cost, although she could see the merits of the Plan. Following further discussion, Mr Manning proposed that the Neighbourhood Plan should go forward and the PC should allocate the required funding; seconded by Mr Rigg, agreed unanimously. The Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council to advise them formally that Seend is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Seend Road Safety Initiative**

Mr Murch invited Dr Nigel Knott, Brian Crisp and Bruce Talmage to join the Parish Councillors and take part in the discussion. Mr Murch thanked them for the report that they had compiled, and a copy of the 1990 document written by Frankie Goddard and John Smallshaw for the Seend Trust; these contained a lot of useful information and data. He also wanted to take the opportunity to thank members of Community Speedwatch for their volunteering work on behalf of the village, and would be sending them letters of thanks. Mr Murch noted that the report did not cover all areas of Seend parish, and asked if they would consider widening it to include Seend Cleeve and Sells Green. He commented that if heavy goods traffic were to be limited on the A361 and re-routed to the A365, this would make problems in that area; and reminded them that any highway proposals have to come via the PC, to the CATG and then to Wiltshire Council. Mr Murch assured them that highways and traffic in the village have been discussed at every PC meeting since 2013, and the PC has been looking at ways of making things work; it also has to be borne in mind that costs sometimes limit what can be achieved.

Dr Knott replied that the report that had compiled should be seen as a catalyst, and is in no way a comprehensive document. Mr Talmage said that it was an attempt to address the traffic problems in Seend in a more holistic way. Mr Crisp commented that the A365 contains fewer houses than the A361 passing through Seend.

Cllr Seed responded that they had done a good job in putting together an interesting document. There are a number of issues, firstly that Seend is located on a major A road and, as a small village, Seend will not attract a lot of funding. Some initiatives had not been successful, for example the rumble strips installed at the eastern end of the village were taken out after complaints from Dr Jackson that they were noisy. Other engineering solutions had been installed in Seend, such as taking down the old railway bridge and installing a parking area in Spout Lane. The problem at the pinch point has now been funded and new signage will be installed shortly.



A general discussion took place with other members of the public present about the safety aspects of traffic in the vicinity, including the railings at the pinch point in the High Street, where a section had been removed and not replaced. Cllr Seed said that the railings should be reinstated if they had not been properly replaced. The narrowing of the A365 by Melksham Oak School and widening of the pavement. Overgrown hedges in the High Street which force pedestrians to walk closer to the road; the Clerk to write again to householders reminding them of the need to keep hedges clipped back. Mr Manning said that he felt a lot of the problems could be overcome by driver education. Mr Wood said that he thought the report was excellent, and commented that he thought signage for the preferred HGV route (via the A365) should be improved. An email had also been received from Mr D Bartholomew expressing his concerns about traffic issues, particularly in the vicinity of the Bell crossroads. The Clerk to forward his email to members of the Road Safety initiative group (with his permission).

Mr Murch summarised by saying that he hoped that the PC and the safety group could work together, and Mrs A'Bear invited them to join the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

**Planning Matters**

Application No: 15/09451/FUL      Melton House, 7 Seend Cleeve  
Ground floor side extension, first floor rear extension, dormer window, internal alterations and new parking area

Agreed unanimously.

Application No: 15/09651/FUL      Clematis Cottage, High Street  
Demolition of garage and erection of ground floor extension, with alterations to existing window opening on east elevation at ground level.

Agreed unanimously.

Application No: 15/09992/TPO      Linden House, Spout Lane  
Lime trees x 4 – reduce height and spread by 30% and the Ivy

Agreed unanimously

Application No: 15/09930/FUL      Baileys Barn, Bath Road  
Provision of track to provide access to barn

Agreed unanimously

**Correspondence**

Email from Carola Thorpe, suggesting installing a defibrillation unit in the village. The Clerk to obtain costings and ask the opinion of doctors living in the village.

**Financial Matters**

a)      There were six cheques for signature:

Mrs R E Fisher	£348.27	Clerk's salary October
HMRC	£10.80	PAYE
Seend Link	£850.00	Donation
Seend PCC	£350.00	Donation - Spotlight
Seend PCC	£300.00	Donation - Churchyard
Seend PCC	£200.00	Donation – Church restoration
Age UK	£200.00	Donation
Seend Shuttle	£400.00	Donation

Acceptance proposed by Mrs A'Bear, seconded by Mr James, agreed unanimously.

b)      A bank reconciliation to the end of September had been circulated to all Councillors; this showed that there is £19,926.72 in the Parish Council's accounts.

**Any other business**

**Meeting start times** – Mr James complained that the meeting should commence at 7.15 for Councillors to view planning applications. He had arrived at 7.15 to find the room needed to be set up, and no applications available to view.

**Bollands Hill** – Mrs Savage suggested a sign be installed to inform pedestrians on the tow path of approaching traffic when crossing Bollands Hill by Lock Cottage; also what was the outcome of the request for lines on Bollands Hill by Lock Cottage.

**Roadside edges, Seend Park** – it was noted that there is a lot of grass on the roadside edges in this area. The Clerk to request they are cleared on the MyWiltshire App.

*J. I.*



**Oriel House** – the Clerk to request that the hedges are cut back on Bollands Hill.

**Notice board, Post Office** – the lock on the right-hand side has been forced and broken. The Clerk to get a different method of locking, perhaps a hasp and small padlock.

**Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015, at Seend Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30 p.m.

  
CHAIRMAN