

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 30 June 2015, at Seend Community Centre.

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

Also present: Cllr J Seed

Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr M Wiltshire.

Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Police and Local Councillor's Matters

Mrs A'Bear reported that she had met CBM PC Emily Thomas recently with her 9 day-old baby; Emily will be returning to work early in 2016.

Cllr Seed said that developers of the Sandridge Solar Farm had won their appeal, and it would now remain to be seen if the development would go ahead; the subsidy per unit paid by the Government for energy generated had been reduced. Cllr Seed advised that a public meeting is being held in the Community Centre on Thursday 16 July at 7.30, it will be co-hosted with the Chairman of the local Conservative branch.

Mr Murch, on behalf of the parish plan working group, asked about undertaking a housing survey. Cllr Seed advised thinking about what you want to come out of it, and to be careful about questions the council tell you to ask. For example, do you want social housing? If so, people have to qualify for it. Consider affordable housing and shared ownership development. People not eligible for social housing can go on to the open register and then be eligible for shared housing, this may be older people wanting to downsize. Councillors all agreed that, in principle, they are happy for the group to explore this.

Cllr Seed mentioned the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (email from Georgina Clampitt-Dix 30 June), and suggested asking for someone from Spatial Planning to come along and explain about the settlement boundary (response required by 12 August), and to bear in mind that the parish boundary is different to the settlement boundary. Mr Murch said that at the recent consultation villages unanimously did not want development to take place in one of the SLHAA sites to the north of The Lye, but did not have such strong feelings about the other highlighted area just off School Road. Cllr Seed confirmed that the yellow highlighted areas represented sites for over 50 houses.

Mrs A'Bear said that she had gone to the recent CPRE AGM, where they had a table with the number of houses still to be built in Wiltshire.

Cllr Seed reported that the work to the pinch point in Seend High Street should happen before Christmas, with the other half of the required funding coming from major transport grants.

Items for discussion from members of the Parish

Mrs Aldetha Raymond, the local Tree Warden, had come along to talk to Councillors about Ash dieback. She said there were no reports with DEFRA about the disease in the local area, and only one case reported in the West Country. She gave Councillors handouts, explaining the symptoms associated with the disease, and facts about reporting infected trees to the Forestry Commission, and managing infected trees and woodland. She explained that she had hoped to obtain free trees to plant, but there had not been sufficient community backing. The intention was to plant at Little Foxes, and for the trees to have identifying name plaques; this would enable children from the local school to understand about indigenous trees and the environment. Mrs Raymond confirmed that Ash seedlings should not be taken out of their local area and re-planted, and that there was currently a ban on importing Ash trees. Mr Rigg proposed that the PC support Mrs Raymond's efforts to obtain and plant trees locally, agreed by the other Councillors. Mrs Raymond also wanted to confirm that she had tried to contact the PC by email, following the March PC meeting, and had also telephoned and left a message.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2015 had been circulated to all Councillors, and were taken as read. There was one amendment:

Car parking, Rusty Lane – It was noted that there are two elements to Rusty Lane 1) the bridleway north beyond the Community Centre to the K & A Canal, and 2) the byway and car parking area. Any future reference should make it clear that the area to be re-surfaced is the byway and car parking area.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mr T James and seconded by Mrs G A'Bear, agreed unanimously.

Matters arising

Sandridge Solar – Following the upholding of Sandridge Solar Power's appeal, an email had been received from StJohn Hughes, Director, enclosing an agreement to be signed and returned. This related to the Community Benefit Fund to help support local community projects aimed at economic, social and environmental improvement in the area. Councillors discussed whether or not to accept monies from the Fund but felt that, as the percentage was undeclared and that there were other conditions that were too vague, they felt unable to commit the parish to the terms as presented, and needed time to consult on whether to accept. It was agreed not to respond straight away, but to put onto the agenda for the next meeting.

Canal bridge, Seend Cleeve – The Clerk confirmed that the potholes had now been filled in. Concern was again expressed about the state of repair of the bridge. The Clerk to get confirmation that the repair work would be undertaken, as agreed, in November, and also that a one-way system would be put in place through Seend Cleeve from the Pelch to The Stocks.

Vacancy for a Councillor – A notice advertising the vacancy is on the website and on notice boards, and has appeared in this month's Spotlight. There had been three expressions of interest so far: Anita Heatley (Dial Close), Mark Wood (The Lye) and Nick Vaux (Cooks Close). All have been asked to send a short resumé of what they feel they can bring to the PC, and asked to attend the PC meeting on Tuesday 28 July.

Winter Snow Preparations – Email from Felicity Price, Bulkington Clerk, to say that Bulkington is willing to join in the gritting scheme, and pay its share of the cost. The Clerk to ensure that Martin Wiltshire is registered with Wiltshire Council to undertake the gritting, and to investigate purchase of the gritter.

Neighbourhood Plan – Mrs A'Bear reported that the two consultation events had now taken place. About 60 people had attended the Wednesday event and there had been a lively atmosphere; a 20 minute presentation had taken place. On Saturday afternoon there had been a steady flow of visitors. The reaction had been very positive and there had been good feedback; everyone appeared engaged and interested. There was now a need to work out a budget to carry things forward. There is another meeting in about 3 weeks, and they will come back to the PC with costings. Mrs A'Bear said that Lizzie Symes, who had undertaken the landscape analysis, now had to stand down due to other work commitments. Steve Vaux had also done a very good job on the presentation.

Car parking Rusty Lane – Emails have been sent to Steve Cubberley (Lye Field) and Fiona Johnson (WI). Emails have also been received from Steven Vaux about excess water from heavy rain and ensuring adequate drainage for the area, and from Jo Vaux about traffic speed in Rusty Lane should the surface be improved.

Telephone box in Seend Cleeve – Mr James has spoken with Tessa Doe, who is unable to assist. A note to be put in Spotlight asking for a volunteer to undertake refurbishment of the box.

Litter bins – two sites suggested, at the top of Spout Lane (High Street) and top of Row Lane (Seend Cleeve).

School Road, Street light – email sent to Stuart Renfrew. He advises that the problem is a mature horse chestnut tree which the Parish Steward is incapable of addressing. It was passed to the Highway landscaping engineer for assessment and action. He has also copied in street lighting section so that they are aware of local concerns.

High Street crossing - Email sent to Andy Cadwallader. He advises that any requests for dropped kerbs need to go through the Area Board CATG meeting for approval and funding. He has inspected the area and visibility from Church Lane is very restricted and it may be more suitable to encourage pedestrians to cross further east of the lane. If the parish want to progress the project then Mark Stansby should be approached to look at the site; also bear in mind there may be land ownership issues to overcome.

Dial Close, bonfires – a letter had been sent to the occupiers in question.

BT Openreach – their website currently advises that Seend is enabled for Superfast Fibre, but the cabinet is not ready yet, so orders can't be placed. It is in their plans to be upgraded and info is updated weekly on the website.

Planning Matters

Application No: 15/043948/FUL Seend School, School Road
Erection of a temporary structure for use as a canopy for an outdoor play area

Councillors discussed and voted unanimously in favour of this application.

Application No: 15/05351/FUL Rowbarns, 1 Seend Cleeve
Proposed front extension

Councillors discussed and voted unanimously in favour of this application.

Application No: 15/05885/FUL Home Farm, Bell Hill
Non load bearing agricultural building

Comment from a Councillor that she would like to see solar panels installed on the roofs of new farm buildings. It was pointed out that it depended on the location of the building, as it was not always practical to keep panels clean in some areas on very high buildings. The Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council, to ask what their policy is with regard to solar panels on new buildings.

Councillors discussed and voted unanimously in favour of this application.

Financial Matters

a) There were ten cheques for signature:

Mrs R E Fisher	£348.47	Clerk's salary April
HMRC	£10.60	PAYE
Community Centre	£75.00	Room hire April to June
Socy of Local Council Clerks	£103.00	Annual subscription
Mrs F Johnson	£16.00	Plants
Mrs S J Phillips	£26.00	Plants
Auditing Solutions	£288.00	Auditing fees
Mrs R E Fisher	£207.64	Clerk's expenses
Mr M E Smith	£211.47	Notice board repairs
Community First	£36.00	Annual subscription

On a proposal by Mrs Carr, seconded by Mr James, which was unanimously approved, the cheques were duly signed.

- b) The internal auditors had now completed the Annual return, and this was agreed and signed off by the Chairman and Clerk. This will now be forwarded to Grant Thornton, the external auditors.
- c) A bank reconciliation to the end of May had been circulated to all Councillors, this showed that there is £17,999.74 in the Parish Council's accounts.

Any other business

Right of reply, Mr Hawkins – Mr Hawkins' email concerning his application for holiday accommodation at Wych Elm had been circulated to all Councillors, together with a link to details of the application on the Wiltshire Council website. Councillors discussed and agreed that the comments they had made in response to this application at the 28 April meeting were made in the light of information available to them at the meeting, but acknowledged that the speed limit on Seend Hill outside Wych Elm is 50 mph, not 60 mph.

Parking, Spout Lane – Email received from Mr Martin, a resident of Sells Green, to advise that he is finding it increasingly difficult to park safely as visitors to the caravan and camp site use the road, although there is parking available on site. The Clerk to write to the caravan site to ask them to draw this to visitors' attention.

Ownership of Rusty Lane – Mr Bryan (Lye Field Committee) was present, and asked to draw some facts to the attention of the Parish Council. He advised records indicate that the land over which the green lane (Rusty Lane) runs was given to the parish in 1928 by Major Bell; unfortunately the deeds could not be found. He had ascertained that Wiltshire County Council had claimed ownership of the lane at the time that the 'new' Dial Close had been built, as they wanted to run services to the houses. The Parish Council maintained this green lane from 1928 until the building of 'new' Dial Close. In the February minutes set out in the April 2015 edition of Spotlight it is asserted that the Lye Field, the WI and the Community Centre own the land over which Rusty Lane runs. This is not the case, and it is not in the interest of any group that this statement in the Parish Council minutes (a public document) goes unchallenged.

Tree felled at 4 Dial Close – Mr Murch said that special rules pertain to trees in a conservation area, and there should be 6 weeks notice in writing before trees are felled. The tree at 4 Dial Close had been felled without comments from the PC. The Clerk to check with Cllr Seed what are the current regulations pertaining to trees.

Meeting room – Mrs Carr said that it was not possible to look at planning applications at 7.15, prior to a PC meeting, because time was taken up preparing the room for the meeting. The Chairman to speak to the Community Centre to request that the room was prepared in advance of the meeting.

Foxhangers – In a recent conversation with Foxhangers, the Chairman had learned that there is a new manager for the K & A canal, based in Devizes, and it was hoped that something could be done about the congestion caused by the large number of people now resident on the canal.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 28th July 2015, at Seend Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m.


CHAIRMAN