

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Meeting – Tuesday 12th May 2015

Present: Mrs G A'Bear, Mrs T Carr, Mr P Manning, Mr T Murch, Mr D Nichols, Mr J Padfield, Mr K Rigg, Mrs J Savage and Mr M Wiltshire

plus Cllr. J. Seed and members of the public

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the coming year

Mr J Padfield was proposed as Chairman by Mr P. Manning, seconded by Mr D. Nichols. There were no other nominations. Councillors voted unanimously to elect Mr Padfield as Chairman for the coming year.

Mr T Murch was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Mrs T Carr, seconded by Mrs J Savage. There were no other nominations. Councillors voted unanimously to elect Mr Murch as Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

2. To confirm and sign the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting

The minutes were available for all those attending. There were no amendments. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record. Proposed: Mrs G A'Bear. Seconded: Mr T Murch.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2014, John Padfield was elected as Chairman for the coming year, with Terry James elected as Vice-Chair.

Following the last meeting, there is a currently a vacancy on the Parish Council, as Christopher Waylen is deemed to have resigned, having failed to attend the last six Council meetings. Wiltshire Council has been advised, and a notice will be displayed shortly once it is received from Electoral Services.

The PC sends a representative to Area Board meetings (Mrs Joan Savage) and the Lye Field (Mrs Thelma Carr); there is a small planning sub-committee consisting of Darren Nichols, Thelma Carr and Tony Murch. The Precept Committee, which sets the budget for the coming year, consists of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, GAB, Mrs Joan Savage and Mrs Thelma Carr. Mrs Carr also attends Community Area Transport Group meetings on behalf of the PC, and the PC is represented on the committee of the Community Bus, the Seend Shuttle. Paul Manning is the PC liaison with Wiltshire Highways.

Our **Community Police** attend most of our meetings and report on crimes or possible problems in our village and those surrounding, they usually consist of theft from outbuildings, a reminder that we should all be vigilant about security of garages, sheds etc.

Sandridge Solar Farm – this application was turned down but went to appeal, still awaiting the outcome. A further application for a solar farm on land at Bollands Hill was also turned down.

Neighbourhood Plan – this has been an on-going project, which GAB or T Murch can update.

Canal bridge by The Barge – Those who live in the Cleeve will be aware of the very poor state of repair of this bridge. The PC has been urging repair of the bridge and road surface for many months. A complete refurbishment of the bridge has been promised for November this year, but will result in the road being closed while it goes on, and some consequent disruption and inconvenience.

The PC was pleased to welcome **Simon Rowe, Weather & Emergency Services Officer**, Wiltshire Council to their meeting in October. Mr Rowe outlined the set of procedures Wiltshire Council follow in the event of heavy snow, and stressed that the first priority is clearing the main roads in the county, in order to keep traffic flowing. The PC has obtained a tonne of salt/grit and salt pots from Wiltshire Council, and also a grant towards a grit spreader to be used for areas off the main road such as The Lye, Dial Close and the Cleeve.

Traffic speed in the village – This is an on-going concern, especially with the number of large HGVs using the A361. The village now has a Community Speedwatch group who have been active along the High Street. At the January PC meeting, Mark Stansby from Wiltshire Highways Department was present. He outlined the background to two proposals for road markings to the narrow pinch point at the western end of Seend High Street. The original request from the Parish Council to the Area Board was for Vehicle Activated Signs, similar to those at West Lavington. He confirmed that the static signs have all been renewed in the last 2 years. The Area Board had come back with different proposals for a different coloured surface to the central area of the road, making the road appear narrower than it is. Members of the public present at the meeting expressed concern at the suggestion that School Road would be made permanently one way. A wider ranging discussion took place covering signage for the freight transport route to divert lorries from the A361 to the A365; whether there is any evidence that road colouring makes people drive safer; the number of traffic accidents and incidents on the roads around Seend. Cllr Seed pointed out that evidence is needed if changes are to be made to traffic flow. The Chairman asked all those present, and all villagers, to keep a log of any traffic accidents or incidents that are observed around the village. The Police only log accidents where personal injury is sustained, but there are other incidents that are never recorded. Following a lengthy discussion, it was

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apparent that no-one was in favour of option 2, to make School Road permanently one way. Mark Stansby is currently to investigating the available options for VAS, and the costs.

At the March PC meeting, Cllr Jon Hubbard – Chairman of Melksham Area Board attended. He spoke about the change of the community led youth model and how it will affect members of public. He thanked Seend for donating their old community bus, and said that it will be used it after Easter, running a service on evenings of youth club meetings, providing free transport to young people attending, although it will be dependant on volunteers. There are three youth clubs, in Atworth, Melksham and at Bowerhill in the new Pavilion. This will be co-ordinated so that meetings take place on different evenings. Cllr Hubbard mentioned LYN (Local Youth Network) that organises trips for young people, who don't need to pay, but take part in volunteering activities. Cllr Hubbard went on to say that for 2014/15 a number of new networking groups have been set up; the community has to deliver what happens for three groups. The area needs to be more attractive for employers. The CATG will look at feedback from the economy group about roads. The wellbeing group will be looking at health and how they can improve services. Cycling and transport will be considered by the sustainable transport group. He said that the Area Board has ability to influence these issues. Anyone can attend Area Board meetings, they are advertised on the PC website; the next one is on Wednesday 17th June.

Allotments – The allotments are now flourishing. Further work was undertaken during the year to improve the fencing at the entrance and trim the hedges.

Small improvements – The Parish Steward makes regular visits to the village, and does a good job of clearing paths and generally tidying up. Any damage to or blockage of footpaths has been notified to the Rights of Way Warden, and the PC has purchased kissing gates to replace broken stiles on footpaths.

Planning – Some 39 applications were considered by the PC during the year, slightly up on the previous year. Plans are passed initially to a small planning sub-committee before consideration by the PC at its monthly meeting.

4. Statement of the Parish Council's accounts to 31st March 2015

The PC increased its precept by just £135 in 2014. Income for the year to the end of March 2015 exceeded the expenses by £1,745.44, this was due to allotment rents coming on stream, interest from a Nat West bond and the Council's deposit account with Lloyds. Compensation of £50 was obtained from Nat West for poor customer service. HMRC refunded overpaid National Insurance and Wiltshire Council gave a grant of £250 towards the purchase of a grit spreader. There was a small amount of capital expenditure on a new kissing gate and purchase of the telephone box in Seend Cleeve (£1!). The accounts are now with the auditor, but a simple income and expenditure sheet is available for this meeting.

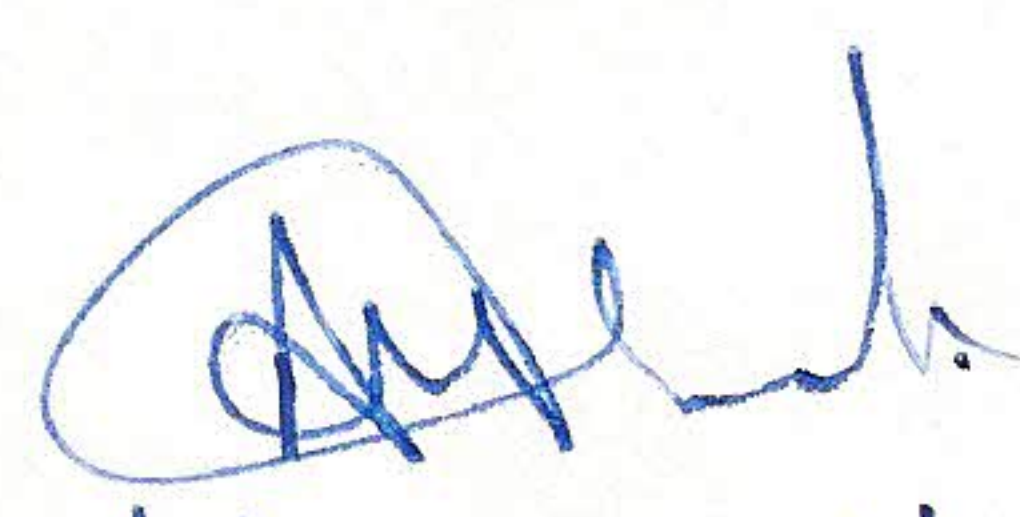
5. Reports from village organisations

Reports were given on behalf of:

Holy Cross Church
Seend Trust and Community Centre
Seend Fawltly Players
Poetry Club
Seend Fund
Seend WI
Lye Field
Seend Link
Seend Theatre Club
Seend Historic Houses Club
Seend Fawltly Players
Seend & Bulkington Spotlight
Seend Poetry Group

6. Any other business

There were no other items for discussion. The chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20 pm


10 May 2016.