

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Tuesday 29th September 2020. This was undertaken using ZOOM with all Parish Councillors attending remotely from their respective homes.

Present: Mrs A'Bear, Mrs P Akerman, Mrs A Heatley, Mr Terry James (Chairman), Mr W Lack, Mr B Nicholls, Mr J Williams and Mr M Wiltshire.

Also Present: Sue Bond (Clerk), Mrs Janet Giles and Councillor Jonathon Seed.

Agenda Item		Action
2020/127 Apologies	Mr John Padfield, Mrs Carole Vince and due to technical difficulties Mr Paul Manning	
2020/128 Declaration of Lobbying		
(i) Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests	(i) There were no declarations of changes to the Register of Interests,	
(ii) Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda	(ii) There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.	
(iii) Requests for Dispensation	(iii) There were no requests for dispensations.	
2020/129 Local Councillor Matters	<p>1. Councillor Seed said that he was aware that concerns had been raised by some landowners and parish councils about the land surveys that were being undertaken by Atkins on a number of sites in connection with the proposed Melksham Bypass. He said these were simply exploratory surveys and that they did not necessarily indicate any specific route, as this was still undecided. What is firm is that a bypass will be built. The government (DoT) had granted the funding.</p> <p>2. Mrs Janet Giles of Seend Park Farm, said that she had been contacted by Wiltshire Council requesting permission for surveyors to enter her land south of the canal. She was alarmed by the request, as her land had not been part of any of the 3 possible route options put forward by Wiltshire Council. Any plan to build the bypass that crosses the canal would have a huge impact on the landscape in Seend Parish. She also felt that with the current pandemic and changes to peoples working lives, Wiltshire Council should reconsider it plans, particularly in the light of its commitment to become carbon neutral by 2050. She asked for the Parish Council's support to oppose the building of the bypass.</p> <p>3. Councillor Seed suggested that should the Parish Council wish to consider a response, it should be an agenda item for further discussion at a future meeting. He offered to ask Mr Peter Binley, Head of Major Highway Projects, if he would be willing to speak at the next meeting. Councillors agreed that this would be a good idea.</p>	
2020/130 Minutes of the Previous Meeting	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th August had been circulated to all Councillors.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> Acceptance of the Minutes as an accurate record was proposed by Mrs Heatley and seconded by Mr Lack. All Councillors agreed the minutes were an accurate record.</p>	
2020/131 Matters Arising Not Already on the Agenda	<p>1. <u>Allotment Deeds</u> – these have been retrieved, photocopied and scanned and returned to the bank. There were no surprises in them. They all relate to allotment land and no other.</p> <p>2. <u>New Website</u> – The Clerk reported that the new Parish Council website was up and running. Although, it does not quite meet all of the accessibility regulations yet, it does have some accessibility function and is a continuing work in progress.</p> <p>3. <u>Circular bench</u> – This has been installed by Jamie Hiscox and Andy Waylen.</p> <p>4. <u>Milestone</u> – Clerk has spoken to Stuart Renfrew, Highways, and he is happy for the Parish Steward to do the work. It is really up to us what we ask the Parish Steward to do in his allotted time. The Parish Steward confirmed that he is happy to do the work. The Clerk said that she would</p>	

	<p>purchase the particular paint that the Milestone Society had recommended. Mrs Heatley asked if the Parish Steward could also look at the Milestone at the top of Bollands Hill to see if it could be renovated in any way.</p> <p>5. <u>Parking on the Lye Green</u> – this issue was mentioned in Spotlight, requesting that residents do not park on the green. It seems to have caused some discussion on the village Facebook page. A resident has asked for assurance that access would be allowed for building works on their house behind the green. The Councillors agreed that as the land was owned by Aster, the resident should contact them for permission, but that from a PC point of view, they would not see any problems with this. Clerk to respond to the resident.</p> <p>6. <u>Replacement Noticeboard</u>, Rew Farm - Chairman and Clerk to look at replacing the backing board.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk/Chairman</p>
2020/132 Police Matters	<p>7 Sep - unknown person entered insecure car parked on drive - searched car and glove box - nothing taken. (This was in Dial Close.)</p> <p>There is a new rural crime team which was launched on 18 September, to further protect our isolated communities in Wiltshire and Swindon. This has been made possible with the precept increase and additional central funding. The team will focus on agricultural, environmental, wildlife and heritage crimes and it has been brought together to increase confidence and encourage reporting through preventing crime and carrying out more intelligence-led operations. It is made up of 1 x Sgt, 2 x PCs and 35 community policing team officers working with Wildlife and Heritage Crime Officers across the county. An Inspector will act as a tactical lead in addition to members of the Special Constabulary.</p>	
2020/133 Neighbourhood Plan	<p>Mrs A'Bear reported that all the Regulation 15 material had been submitted to Wiltshire Council. They had responded very quickly with a letter saying they were satisfied that the Neighbourhood Plan proposal has met all the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. They are now arranging appropriate publicity of the plan proposal in accordance with Regulation 16 of The Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012. The consultation period will last 6 weeks and so should be done before Christmas.</p>	
2020/134 Highways	<p>1. <u>CATG</u> - The Chairman gave a report of the recent CATG meeting that he attended. A number of Highway Improvement Requests that the Parish Council had submitted were discussed:</p> <p>1.1 <u>Church Crossing high friction surface</u> - Work complete and final account agreed at £690.03, an underspend of £104.97. The CATG had previously agreed to contribute £600 (the previous underspend on Phase 1). Parish to be invoiced for £90.03.</p> <p>1.2 <u>Seend High Street Pedestrian crossing warning sign</u> on eastern side of "new" crossing point. Work complete, no charge to the Parish Council.</p> <p>1.3 <u>Village Gateways</u> – Following a site visit last January with Mr Stansby, the Parish Council agreed that they no longer wish to pursue white gates as they feel that the cost outweighs the potential benefits. Instead the Parish wish to pursue a new nameplate with road safety message at New Buildings. This could also feature a SLOW marking or faux cattle grid painted on the carriageway. CATG agreed to this request</p> <p>1.4 <u>Speed Limit Review for Bollands Hill</u> - A site for a Traffic Survey has been identified and the survey has been ordered. Survey has been delayed due to lock-down restrictions.</p> <p>1.5 <u>Seend Bell Hill</u> – concerns that drivers are failing to give-way at crossroads (northbound). At a site meeting it was agreed that a SLOW marking could be provided by the Advance Give Way sign. Cost of SLOW would be £100 including temporary traffic management. CATG agreed to this request.</p> <p>1.6 <u>Seend Bollands Hill</u> – request for junction warning signs on approach to the Seend Cleeve turning. Ball park estimate for 2 signs, plus temporary traffic management = £600. The Parish Council would have to pay half the cost, namely £300.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council agree to pay</p>	

	<p>half the cost of this initiative. Mr Nicholls seconded the motion. All Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p><u>1.7 Seend High Street</u> – request for access protection markings. Residents of Nornour House and no 3 High Street have raised concerns about PO/Shop customers parking inconsiderately and blocking their driveway or causing visibility problems when they try to exit their driveway onto the High Street. CATG agreed to pursue this with a site visit to see if white lines will be suitable in the location. The Clerk to liaise with Mr Stansby to arrange a site visit and to include the residents. If approved, the road marking to be done at the same time as the road markings on Bell Hill</p> <p><u>1.8 Highways Response to Covid-19 – Re-allocation of road space.</u> Under this initiative, the Parish Council had requested improvements to the Stocks to Seend footpath. This did not meet the criteria. CATG said that if the Parish Council wanted to pursue this then it would have to be done as a separate issue.</p> <p>1.9 Next CATG virtual meeting is on Thursday 3rd December at 16.30.</p> <p>2. Letter from Resident re pedestrian safety on Bell Hill</p> <p>2.1 The Councillors had been circulated with a letter from a resident on Bell Hill who wanted to reiterate his concerns about the danger to his young family of having to walk up Bell Hill in order to reach the village amenities. The resident had contacted the Parish Council in November 2019. At that time the Parish Council had said that <i>“there was little that could be done to improve pedestrian safety along this stretch of road. The road width could not accommodate a pavement and the narrow grass verge could not be converted to pavement.”</i></p> <p>2.2 The Clerk recalled that at a site meeting last January on another matter, she had mentioned the resident’s concerns to the Senior Traffic Engineer. He had said that it would not be feasible to install any pedestrian walkway as the road was too narrow. The practice for road walking is to walk towards the traffic and that would mean two marked off lanes and this would just not be feasible.</p> <p>2.3 The latest letter from the resident made a number of suggestions to improve road safety, but all were deemed unsuitable by the Parish Councillors. The Chairman said that the new signage agreed by CATG may help reduce the speed of traffic approaching the hill.</p> <p>2.4 Mention was made of a historic, but not definitive access route between no 1 and 2 Bell that went through the grounds of the Bell Pub. This had been formerly used by residents of Bell Hill to cut through the Bell pub land to reach the A361, but was no longer in use. As this also related to the Bell planning application, it was suggested that further investigation should be made to find out if this was an actual right of way.</p> <p>2.5 The Clerk was asked to respond to the resident along the above lines.</p>	Clerk
2020/135 Planning Applications	<p><u>Planning application updates</u></p> <p><u>1. Application Number: 20/07533/TCA</u> Site Location: Church Lane Corner High Street Seend Proposal: T1 Spruce Tree – Fell</p> <p>1.1 As this application’s deadline for comments was before the Parish Council meeting, the planning committee agreed that this application should be supported. Wiltshire Council has now approved this application.</p> <p><u>2. Application Ref: 20/06741/FUL and 20/07243/LBC</u> Site Location: The Bell, Seend SN12 6SA Proposal: Alternations and subdivision to form 3 dwellings.</p> <p>2.1 This application is for both Full and Listed Building Consent. It was noted that the Conservation Officer of Wiltshire Council had objected to the application as it did not provide enough detail on how the proposed works will impact on the heritage features of the building.</p>	Clerk

	<p>2.2 Mrs Heatley said that she would not object to The Bell being converted into 3 separate dwellings in a way that would enhance and preserve the heritage of the site. She said that it is imperative that consideration is given to listed building regulations and any building works are carried out in accordance with them. As there is insufficient information as to what or how exactly the proposed works will impact on the historic interest of The Bell or if the works will impair or impact on the significance of the heritage asset which could cause substantial harm, she felt that the Parish Council should object to this application. Further information is needed on the assessment and significant areas of change and/or impact of these proposals on the listed building.</p> <p>2.3 Councillors agreed with Mrs Heatley's viewpoint. Mr Wiltshire mentioned that prior to sale, Wadworth had been asked to put back the Louvre windows that had been taken down and consequently lost. This had not been done. These were important architectural features of the building and should be mentioned in the Parish Council's response.</p> <p>2.4 On the planning portal there was a resident's letter that mentioned a mutually agreed access route for the properties behind The Bell to reach the A361. It is understood that for many years those residents had used the footpath by agreement with the owners of the pub, but this had not been the case in recent years. Councillors felt that this footway should be mentioned in our formal response.</p> <p>2.5 <u>Resolution</u>: Mrs Heatley proposed that the application be opposed citing the above reasons. The Chairman seconded the motion. All Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p>3. <u>Application Ref: 20/07725/TCA</u> Site Location: Dial House, High Street, Seend, SN12 6NR Proposal:- Cherry Tree – Remove</p> <p>3.1 <u>Resolution</u>: Mrs Heatley proposed that this application be approved, seconded by Mr Wiltshire. All Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p>4. <u>Application Ref: 20/07550/FUL and 20/07937/LBC</u> Site Location: Hill Farm House, Seend Hill, SN12 6RU Proposal: Demolish 1950s rear ground floor link, replace with new lean-to, repave courtyard and alter entrance drive.</p> <p>4.2 Mrs A'Bear and Mrs Vince had carried out a site visit. They concluded that the all the proposed changes were sympathetic to the historic features of the grade II listed farm house, and the new lean-to and alterations to the driveway and courtyard would greatly improve the setting of the house, thereby supporting its long term conservation. They recommended that the application be approved.</p> <p>4.3 <u>Resolution</u>: Mr Lack proposed that the application be approved, seconded by Mrs Akerman. All Councillors voted in favour.</p>	
2020/136 Tree Matters	<p>1. <u>Avon Needs Trees</u> are in the process of purchasing three plots of land off Bollands Hill/Rusty Lane that go down to the canal. Their aim is to plant woodland and a community orchard. The land is crossed by several footpaths. Whilst they have some financial support from businesses and trusts, they are hoping to raise the remainder of the money through crowdfunding. They have organised an open day on 4th October so that parishioners can see the land and understand their vision. Several councillors and the Clerk have booked a visit.</p> <p>2. 1 <u>Dial Close Copse</u> – following the letter from Mr Steve Vaux tabled at last month's meeting recommending that tree work be carried out on the Copse at the entrance to Dial Close, the Clerk had contacted Wiltshire Council to find out who was responsible for the maintenance of the trees and to seek their advice. Their response is as follows: <i>"the trees between the path and the carriageway are on the public highway and are looked after by the local highway arborist consultant. The trees on the streetscene maintained open space is looked after by the council tree and woodland officers. A visual inspection was made of the trees and none appeared to represent a risk to the travelling public or property, so they will</i></p>	

	<p><i>not be passed through for expert inspection at the present time..... If the Parish Council wish to carry out cosmetic work, then this would be possible using an accredited tree surgeon. The Council would require details of the contractor and the work intended and reasoning behind the work."</i></p> <p>2.2 After some discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should get some quotes from local tree surgeons for some of the work suggested by Steve Vaux. The Councillors could then discuss at the next meeting whether the work should be undertaken and financed by the Parish Council.</p> <p>2.3 Mention was made of a seemingly redundant electricity pole in the middle of the copse. Mrs Heatley was asked to find out whether the wires were still connected to a particular property or not. If not, then a request be made to SSEN for the pole to be taken down.</p> <p>3. <u>Trees Planted by Seend Parish Council</u> - The Clerk mentioned that trees that had been planted by the Parish Council in the distant past, may still be their responsibility and there may be public liability issues should any of the trees fall in bad weather. She said it would be extremely helpful if a list of all trees planted by the Parish Council was collated. The Councillors were asked to help in this task.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Mrs Heatley</p> <p>All Councillors</p>
2020/137 Melksham Area Board Updates	<p>Mr Williams attended the recent Melksham Area Board meeting on 4th September. Subjects discussed: Wiltshire Council's Area Board Boundary review, a number of youth projects, drug problems in Melksham and improvements being made to Melksham Station.</p> <p>The next Melksham Area Board will be on 4th November.</p>	
2020/138 Wiltshire Council Area Board Boundary Review	<p>1.1 Following the Electoral Boundary review carried out by the Boundary Commission in 2018/19, changes had been made to a number of wards. These would come into effect in May 2021 in time for the local government elections. Seend Parish will be moved into a new ward with other parishes and known as Devizes Rural West. Wiltshire Council are now undertaking a review of the Area Board boundaries. Currently, Seend is in the Melksham Area Board. They are now recommending that Seend should be moved into the Devizes Area Board along with a number of other parishes.</p> <p>1.2 The consultation period for the review is from 10th September to 31st October. On line surveys have been prepared for people to respond to the proposals. The Clerk to advertise this on the website.</p> <p>1.3 Mrs Heatley asked whether these changes would mean our post code would change and whether our community neighbourhood policing team would come under Devizes. Councillor Seed said that the postcode will not change, but he was unsure whether the policing team would change.</p> <p>1.4 Councillor Seed said that Seend Parish had done well in the Melksham Area Board, and had got a lot of highway improvement requests through CATG and grant funding. Moving to a larger Area Board, may mean that Seend is less well represented. The Clerk asked for advice on how we should respond to the consultation and whether there was any likely chance that Seend could remain with the Melksham Area Board. He said that the chances were slim, but that the Parish Council should send in a carefully worded response.</p>	Clerk
2020/139 Correspondence	<p>1. <u>Planning Correspondence</u> – the Clerk reported that a planning applicant had contacted the Parish Council to complain about the comments made about their application. This letter had been circulated to all the Parish Councillors and a response, approved by the Councillors, had been sent.</p> <p>2. <u>Community First AGM</u> – 14th October. The Clerk asked if there were any councillors wishing to attend the virtual meeting.</p> <p>3. <u>Planning Application Hills Waste for an incinerator near Westbury</u>. The Green Party have sent a letter alerting parish councils to this application. Whilst it is too late for the PC to submit a response, it may be worth keeping an eye on the application's progress, as it could impact on our surrounding environment.</p> <p>4. <u>Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch and Wiltshire Police letter to Parish Councils</u> – to raise awareness of strategic developments introduced to</p>	

Date: 27th October 2020