

## SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. This meeting was held in the Community Centre.

**Present:** Mrs Georgina A'Bear, Mrs Pam Akerman, Mrs Anita Heatley (Acting Chairman), Mr Terry James (Chairman), Mr William Lack, Mr Phil Springate and Mr Martin Wiltshire

**Also Present:** Sue Bond (Clerk), Philip Shone (Parishioner)

Agenda Item		Action
2022/18 Apologies	Councillor Tamara Reay, Mrs Jackie Hamblin and Mr John Williams	
2022/19 Declaration of Lobbying (i) Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests (ii) Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda (iii) Requests for Dispensation	<p>(i) There were no changes of declarations to the Register of Interests.</p> <p>(ii) There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda</p> <p>(iii) There were no requests for dispensations.</p>	
2022/20 Local Councillor's Matters	<p>Councillor Reay had sent her apologies, but sent the following report which was read out at the meeting.</p> <p>1. <u>Melksham Bypass</u> - Wiltshire Council has agreed to delay the submission of the Outline Business Case for the Melksham bypass until the Summer, whilst it waits for the initial results of the National Highways' M4 to Dorset Connectivity study. There will be a further public consultation later this year.</p> <p>2.1 <u>Budget</u> - At a marathon meeting on 15th February Wiltshire Council debated and agreed the 2022/23 budget and 10-year Business Plan. Over the next year the council will spend over £417m – with over 56% (£235m) on support and care for adults and children.</p> <p>2.2 £92m will be spent on the vital day-to-day services such as waste management, road maintenance, leisure and library services, as well as the council's carbon management and climate change work – which recently saw the council ranked as the fifth best unitary authority in the UK for its response to the global challenge. The council will also continue its commitment to invest £1m a year to support high streets across the county become vibrant places for shopping and leisure.</p> <p>2.3 One of the most debated parts of the budget was the proposed increases to car parking fees which help to fund rural public transport. Councillors made arguments about the impact on our high streets (but see the £1m per annum investment above). Our local charges are already competitive compared with neighbouring counties and it should also be noted that fees are not planned to increase for four years so that the costs of implementing the increase (car park signage and reprogramming machines) can be offset over this period.</p> <p>2.4 The Council's capital programme, which is spent on projects to improve and maintain the county's infrastructure, is confirmed to be £307m in 2022/23. This will be spent on many different projects including leisure services, council house building, schools maintenance, footpaths and highway improvements.</p> <p>2.5 The 10-year Business Plan ensures that the budget has a clear long-term focus. It outlines the council's key themes - prevention and early intervention; improving social mobility and tackling inequalities; understanding communities; and working together. It includes metrics ensuring the council can measure its performance and keep on track.</p> <p>2.6 This strategic focus is essential due to the current financial challenges facing public services, which includes the ongoing pandemic, rising inflation, and increased demand for support. More than half of the council's budget comes from council tax, and this will increase by 1.99%, with an additional</p>	

	1% directly supporting adult social care. For a Band D property, that's an increase of 91p per week. Alongside this, the council has put plans in place to make savings of around £25m in 2022/23 while limiting the impact of vital services as much as possible.	
2022/21 Minutes of the Previous Meetings	<p>1.1 The Minutes of the meetings held on 25th January 2022 had been circulated to all Councillors.</p> <p>1.2 <u>Resolution</u>: Acceptance of the Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January as an accurate record were proposed by Mr Wiltshire and seconded by Mr Springate. All Councillors voted in favour.</p>	
2022/22 Matters Arising Not Already on the Agenda	<p>1.1 <u>Horse Signs</u> – The Clerk said that she had sought the advice of the Highway Engineer regarding the installation of horse warning signs on the A365 by Redstocks. He said that requests for horse warning signs would have to go through CATG. He was uncertain of their costs, but cited 2 similar signs that have been estimated at £1,000. Councillors felt this was rather expensive, but it was suggested that a way to get more certain costs would be to put in a HIR to CATG. There were discussions about where other locations in the parish would benefit from having such signs.</p> <p>1.2 <u>Resolution</u>: The Chairman proposed that we submit a Highway Improvement Request as a first step to finding out the cost. This was seconded by Mr Lack. All Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p>2. <u>Replacement Grit Bin</u> – Highways have ordered a replacement grit bin for Spout Lane.</p> <p>3. <u>The Lye Green space</u> – It looks as though Aster has put up some orange markers by the parking area ahead of replacing the posts to stop parking on the green.</p> <p>4.1 <u>Lye Field Mower</u> – The Chairman of the Lye Field Trustees thanked the PC for their offer of £5,000 to help purchase a new mower. However, he said that, following their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February, the trustees have decided to defer the purchase of a replacement mower until they have resolved both the right of way dispute, legal action and the Suez Communities Trust bid for the refurbishment of the Pavilion. In the interim the committee intends to use a local turf management contractor for a period of 1 year during which the grass quality will be improved through weed control and re-seeding.</p> <p>4.2 They have asked that the PC retains the earmarked funding for a mower purchase in a year's time, subject to grass management contract arrangements being satisfactory.</p> <p>4.3 The Parish Councillors agreed to keep the £5,000 earmarked for the Lye Field, and that the money would be listed as earmarked reserves in the end of year accounts.</p> <p>5. <u>Councillor Vacancies</u> – The Clerk reported that the one candidate had withdrawn, so there is no planned co-option. The 2 vacancies will continue to be advertised.</p> <p>6. <u>Inspection of Assets</u> – As Mr Williams was not at the meeting, it was not known if this task had been undertaken. The Clerk to check with Mr Williams.</p> <p>7. <u>MyWilts reports</u> – The clerk said she had submitted reports for the litter on the verge opposite The Three Magpies, a drainage issue in Spout Lane and a rights of way issue. Mr Lack had reported the raised and missing cats eyes on Bollands Hill.</p>	Clerk
2022/23 Items for Discussion from Members of the Parish	<p>1. Mr Philip Shone, a resident from the Stocks, spoke of his continuing concerns about speeding traffic at the Stocks/Seend Cleeve junction on the A361 and a number of near misses he has experienced here. He had spoken before to the Parish Council in July 2021 and at that time Councillors agreed to request a metro count with a view to getting the speed limit reduced from 50mph to 40mph. The metro count was undertaken in November 2021.</p> <p>2. Since his presentation in July 2021, and the results of the metro count which has proven that there is an issue with speeding, Mr Shone would like</p>	

	<p>the Parish Council to support a request that the speed limit be reduced to 30mph, and not 40mph as previously requested. He suggested that a driver is more likely to slow down if the speed limit reduction is more significant, ie from 60mph to 30mph and that they are more likely to comply with the speed limit. Mr Shone gave examples of St Ediths Marsh, Bromham where the speed reduces from 60mph to 30mph in a rural area with limited residential properties similar to the Stocks. And a similar situation in Chirton (A342). So there is a precedent of sorts for having a reduced speed limit in a relatively lowly populated rural area.</p> <p>3. The metro count was carried out in November 2021 and the results do show a prevalence of speeding. Table of results below under Highways.</p> <p>4. Mr Shone also requested that double white lines be painted to prevent cars from overtaking when a car is slowing to turn into the Seend Cleeve junction. This would help to reduce the risk of a car being rear-ended when it had slowed to turn into Seend Cleeve.</p>																															
2022/24 Police Matters	<p>1. <u>Incidents:</u> Fri 28 Jan around 0900 – accident at top of Bell Hill at crossroads. Police attended.</p> <p>Fri 28 Jan around 5pm – accident at Seend Head.</p> <p>2. Wiltshire Police are urging dog owners to keep their pets under control after ewes have been killed in sheep-worrying attacks. As lambing season begins, police remind dog owners that livestock worrying is a criminal offence and farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs if they are endangering or threatening their animals.</p>																															
2022/25 Highways and Rights of Way	<p>1. <u>Metro Counts</u></p> <p>1.1 <u>The Stocks</u> - The metro count was undertaken in November and does suggest that there is a proven issue with speeding traffic.</p> <table><tr><td>Direction</td><td>7 day ave speed mph</td><td>85<sup>th</sup> percentile</td><td colspan="3">On a 7 day average</td></tr><tr><td>Eastbound</td><td>52.1</td><td>60.0</td><td>64.9%</td><td>28.6%</td><td>5.0%</td></tr><tr><td>Westbound</td><td>48.4</td><td>57</td><td>43.8%</td><td>14.4%</td><td>2.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Bi-directional</td><td>50.3</td><td>59</td><td>54.8%</td><td>21.7%</td><td>3.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Speed limit is 50mph</td><td>Mph</td><td>mph</td><td>Percentage of vehicles over speed limit</td><td>10%+2 over the speed limit (57mph)</td><td>15mph over the speed limit (65mph)</td></tr></table> <p>1.2 <u>Resolution:</u> Mr Lack proposed that we submit a Highway Improvement Request to reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 30mph. This was seconded by Mr Springate. All Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p>2. <u>High Street.</u> The metro count is now going to take place sometime in March.</p> <p>3.1 <u>CATG</u> – The Clerk reported that the design work for the high friction surface at the crossing point between Spout Lane and Inmarsh was being prepared. The next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> April. The Chairman to attend.</p> <p>3.2 Three Highway Improvement Requests to be submitted: Bell crossroads further small scale safety improvements (agreed at January PC meeting), horse warning signs at Redstocks, and a request to reduce the speed limit to 30mph at the Stocks and install double white lines to restrict overtaking close to this junction.</p> <p>4. <u>Rights of Way – Rusty Lane.</u> There has been no progress update from the Rights of Way Warden on Rusty Lane, despite an email being sent from the Clerk saying that the PC would be willing to pay the majority of the cost for the repairs. Councillors suggested that we ask Councillor Reay to chase this up as we want to get the path repaired as soon as possible as it is getting quite dangerous to use.</p>	Direction	7 day ave speed mph	85 <sup>th</sup> percentile	On a 7 day average			Eastbound	52.1	60.0	64.9%	28.6%	5.0%	Westbound	48.4	57	43.8%	14.4%	2.4%	Bi-directional	50.3	59	54.8%	21.7%	3.7%	Speed limit is 50mph	Mph	mph	Percentage of vehicles over speed limit	10%+2 over the speed limit (57mph)	15mph over the speed limit (65mph)	
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2022/26 Neighbourhood Plan	<p>1. <u>Website</u> - Mrs A'Bear reported that all the Neighbourhood Plan documents had been migrated on the Parish Council website.</p> <p>2.1 <u>WALPA</u> – Further meetings had taken place between the group and the Strategic Planning Team. The aim being to develop additional practical proposals that can be put to government to address the current issues</p>																															

	<p>councils are facing with the undermining of their Neighbourhood Plans by planners and developers. Some local MPS were taking the plight of Neighbourhood planning to Westminster and some of the right questions were now being asked of government by them and Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>2.2 Mrs A'Bear said that Seend's membership of this group was a way of supporting its work, but that she was not taking an active part in the discussions.</p> <p>3. <u>SPNPSG</u> – Mrs A'Bear said that since the Neighbourhood Plan was made group members had dwindled, such that there is not really a committee at the moment. When a review of the Plan was needed in the future, there would be a need to recruit new members from the Parish.</p>	
2022/27 Planning	<p><u>Planning Matters</u></p> <p>Mrs A'Bear expressed disappointment that neither applicants for the two planning applications for new dwellings had not undertaken in any pre-app community engagement with the Parish Council before submitting their applications. This is recommended in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><u>Application Ref: PL/2022/00333</u>  Site Location: Land adjacent to 16 Sells Green, Seend, SN12 6RW  Proposal: Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of a single storey detached dwelling.</p> <p>The consensus from the Councillors was that this application for a new dwelling could be regarded as infill, in the countryside but within an existing development. As a single storey, it would not be overbearing and would cause no harm to residential amenity and is keeping with the character of the area. The track way is owned by the applicant. Highways have objected on the grounds of unsuitability and the risk of setting a precedent. But Councillors felt that as there were similar trackways to other properties where planning permission had been approved, so this should not be an issue.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> Mrs Heatley proposed that this application be supported subject to the Wessex Water's request that all guidance on surface water be adhered to. This was seconded by the Chairman. There was one objection, but all other Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p><u>Application Ref: PL/2021/11736</u>  Site Location: Woodpeckers, Berhills Lane, Seend SN12 6RR  Proposal: Erection of two dwellings</p> <p>Councillors felt that whilst this was outside the settlement boundary, it was in an existing garden, and utilising a brownfield site. One Councillor did not like the design and layout. There was a concern that the access into the drive should be adequately splayed to ensure good visibility.</p> <p><u>Resolution</u> – Mr Lack proposed that this application be approved. Seconded by the Chairman. There was one objection but all other Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p><u>Application Ref: PL/2022/00869</u>  Site Location: Mary Ann Cottage, 51 Seend Cleeve SN12 6PU  Proposal: Erection of Single Storey Garden Room and Raised Deck Area to Rear Garden, Complete with Associated Works</p> <p><u>Resolution</u> - Mrs Heatley proposed this application be approved. Seconded by Mr Springate. All Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p><u>Planning Portal</u> – The Clerk reported that each parish and town council now had a username and login so that any submitted planning comments would be directly loaded onto the planning portal comments page.</p>	
2022/28 Constitution Updates	<p>1.1 <u>Code of Conduct</u>  All Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the Code of Conduct. No changes had been made.</p> <p>1.2 <u>Resolution:</u> Mrs A'Bear proposed and Mr Springate seconded the re-adoption of the Code of Conduct. All Councillors voted in favour.</p>	

	<p>2.1 <u>Governance and Management Risk Register</u> All Councillors had been circulated with a copy. This has not been changed since last year.</p> <p>2.2 <u>Resolution</u>: Mrs Akerman proposed and Mrs Heatley seconded the adoption of the Governance and Management Risk Register. All Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p>3. <u>Asset Register</u> Re-adoption of the Asset Register was put off till next month, as the Clerk reported that she just taken delivery of a newer reconditioned laptop which would need to be added to the Asset Register.</p>	
2022/29 Correspondence	<p>1. <u>CPRE Best Kept Village Competition</u> – the Clerk has forwarded the application form to Mr Williams.</p> <p>2. <u>Climate Strategy</u> - Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy has been adopted at full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> of February.</p> <p>3. <u>Lock Open Day</u> – Invitation from the Wales &amp; South West team of the Canal &amp; Rivers Trust to attend their Lock Open Day on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 4pm. This year it will be at Seend Lock 17.</p> <p>3.1 <u>Wild About Wiltshire - help us identify wildflower areas</u> Wiltshire Council initiative for town and parish councils to nominate any grassed areas or public open spaces that could be designated as wildflower meadow, for reduced cutting or left for rewilding. This initiative is in response to an increased level of interest in improving existing flora and fauna to benefit wildlife, and will give you an opportunity to improve biodiversity and increase the aesthetic appeal of your area.</p> <p>3.2 Councillors could not think of anywhere in the parish that would be suitable and that would meet the criteria required to qualify.</p> <p>4. <u>Devizes Area Neighbourhood Area Designation</u> As a neighbouring parish, Seend PC are being consulted on a request to amend the boundary of the original Devizes neighbourhood area. The Councillors agreed that there was no need to send in a response.</p>	
2022/30 Parish Steward	<p>The Parish Steward from the Bradford Area had visited the Parish earlier this month and undertaken the jobs on the task sheet including the cleaning of the traffic bollards. It is hoped that we will have a new assigned parish steward in the coming weeks.</p>	
2022/31 Sandridge Solar Community Benefit Payment	<p>1.1 <u>CPR training</u> – The Clerk reported that she had received another quote from a first aid trainer in the Parish in addition to the one suggested by a parishioner last month. She had also contacted Mark Wood, former Councillor, who had given some basic training a few years ago, using the BHF audio visual aids and practice dummies supplied with the first defibrillator purchased by the PC. He was willing to do them again.</p> <p>1.2 The consensus was that it was probably not the remit of the Parish Council to finance professional certificated courses for individuals, but rather to raise a more general awareness of what to do if faced with someone having a heart attack. Some knowledge being better than no knowledge. Some of the Councillors had attended Mr Wood's presentations in the past and agreed that the audio visual presentation was really informative.</p> <p>1.3 <u>Resolution</u>: The Chairman proposed that Mr Wood be asked to run a couple of sessions, one evening and one daytime, subject to the level of interest. This was seconded by Mr Lack. All Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p>1.4 The Clerk to put a note in Spotlight and Facebook to find out what level of interest there would be before setting a date.</p> <p><u>Bicycle Lock ups</u> - A parishioner had suggested that the Solar money be used to purchase bicycle racks to be installed by the Community Centre and the Pavilion. Councillors thought this an excellent idea.</p> <p>Mrs Akerman was asked to research costings and the Clerk was asked to write to the Community Centre and Lye Trustees to ask if they would approve a location. To report back at the next meeting.</p>	

2022/32 Platinum Jubilee	<p>1. <u>Beacon Lighting</u> - There will be a beacon lighting and a barbeque at the Community Centre on the evening of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. This is being organised by the Community Centre.</p> <p>2.1 <u>Trees Planting</u> – It was noted that there had been some discussions on the village facebook page about the Queens Green Canopy Project, with some villagers expressing willingness to plant trees on their land.</p> <p>2.2 The Councillors discussed the difficulties they had had in 2018 in trying to secure land to plant 25 trees to commemorate the 25 soldiers who died in WW1, and were therefore reluctant to take a lead in a tree planting project in the Parish.</p> <p>2.3 Councillors suggested that the Parish Council could put a note in Spotlight and Facebook to find out what the likely interest would be from parishioners if the PC agreed to purchase a number of trees to give to individuals who wanted to plant trees on their land. The trees could be purchased from The Woodland Trust who is a partner of the Queen's Green Canopy Project. Councillors agreed this course of action. Clerk to action.</p>	
2022/33 Clerk Vacancy	The Chairman announced that following interviews, Mr Chris Stirland had been offered the position of Clerk and RFO. He will start on 7 <sup>th</sup> March to begin the handover with the current clerk who will be stepping down at the end of April.	
2022/34 Financial Matters	<p><u>Financial Matters:</u></p> <p>1. <u>Cheques for Signatures</u>  Camelot Media Ltd £15.00 Further migration of NP docs to PC website  Camelot Media Ltd £130.00 Renewal of Councillor email addresses  Mrs S Bond £636.87 Clerk February Salary</p> <p>1.2 <u>Resolution:</u> Mrs Heatley proposed acceptance of the cheques. Seconded by Mr Springate. All Councillors voted in favour.</p> <p>2. <u>Bank Reconciliation</u> to end of January 2022 - £33,283.61</p>	
2022/35 Items for Note	<p>1. Annual Parish Council meeting and Annual Parish Meeting – Councillors agreed that 5<sup>th</sup> May would suit and to have both meetings on the same night, one proceeding the other.</p> <p>2. Mr Lack reported that 7 new trees (wild cherry, bird cherry and crab apple) will be planted at his property to replace the leylandii that were taken out in January following planning approval last November.</p>	
2022/36 Date of next meeting	The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting 9.29pm The date of the next meeting is 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	

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**Terry James (Chairman)**  
**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022**