

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 29th September 2015, at Seend Community Centre.

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

Also present: Members of the public

Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr J Seed.

Declaration of Interests

Mr Wiltshire declared an interest with regard to Winter Snow Preparations (Matters Arising), and Mr Murch declared an interest in planning application no: 15/08291/FUL Manor Cottage, High Street.

Police and Local Councillor's Matters

The Clerk had not received any notification from our Community Police Officer.

No items received from Cllr Seed, however, his report had appeared in *Spotlight*.

Items for discussion from members of the Parish

None received prior to the meeting. However, Mr Crisp, a member of the public present at the meeting, issued members of the Parish Council with a report "Seend Road Safety Initiative" that had recently been carried out by members of Seend Community Speedwatch and Dr Knott. It was agreed that this subject would appear on the agenda for the October PC meeting. He said that a public meeting had been held on 17 July to garner the views of local people; a copy had also been sent to Claire Perry MP. He asked if Metrocam data and Speedwatch data for the High Street could be provided; the Clerk to endeavour to obtain this.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th August 2015 had been circulated to all Councillors, and were taken as read. There were no amendments, acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mr James, seconded by Mr Wiltshire, agreed by the majority present. Mr Murch abstained as he had not been present at the meeting.

Matters arising

Vacancy for Councillor – Wiltshire Council had been advised of the vacancy, and notices had been posted. An email had been received from Wiltshire Council on 22 September, to advise that no election has been requested, and the PC can go ahead with co-option. It was agreed that, to allow time for the vacancy to be advertised in *Spotlight*, the vacancy would be filled at the 24th November PC meeting.

Canal bridge, Seend Cleeve – An email had been received from Paul Kelly, Senior Project Manager, Canal & River Trust, Gloucester, with details of the proposed road/footpath closures and signage to be put in place. Councillors noted that the signage appeared to indicate that traffic would not be allowed to exit onto the A361 from Seend Cleeve at The Stocks, and this was not what had been agreed. The Clerk to contact Mr Kelly to point out the impracticality of the proposal, and that traffic must be allowed to both enter and exit Seend Cleeve at this junction. Also to reiterate that the layby on the A361 to the west of the junction should be partially coned off, to restrict parking at the junction. Mrs A'Bear said that she had been asked about the possibility of a convex mirror being placed at the junction, however, it is known that Highways does not approve of mirrors at junctions.

Winter Snow Preparations – Cllr Seed had emailed to advise that he had spoken with the Area Highways Manager. Highways will look over and agree routes to be gritted with the operator engaged by the PC. Highways will supply the grit and alert the operator by text when the weather will require gritted roads. Payment for the operator is a PC responsibility. The estimated number of turnouts is up to 40 per year. The Clerk to contact Bulkington PC to ask for their proposed route. Mr Wiltshire to supply a route for Seend and likely costs, and also check insurance cover.

Recording votes for co-option – The Clerk had contacted the SLCC to obtain information, and had been advised that there is a strong argument for transparency, and voting for a co-option should be recorded, as with other resolutions.

Telephone box in Seend Cleeve – The Clerk had now received a response from Mrs Kate Honeybone, Chapel Cottage, Seend Cleeve, who had offered her family's services to refurbish the telephone box. The Clerk had passed some information to Mrs Honeybone.

High Street crossing – The Clerk had now received a response from the PCC and Mr Clark. The PCC are in favour of a crossing, and also asked about installing a convex mirror on the north side of the High Street, opposite the end of Church Walk.

Mr Clark had indicated his agreement, subject to his approval of any decision made. The Clerk to now contact Highways as any proposal would have to go through the CATG.

Parking, Spout Lane – Mark Evans, C&RT, had indicated his agreement to attend the October meeting of the PC.

Allotments – The Clerk had now visited the allotments. There are currently two empty plots, although one is fairly small, overgrown and not well placed; the other plots are well used and in good order. The hedge along Bolland's Hill has been trimmed back, but the allotment holders would like the height of the hedge bordering the A361 to be lowered, and the inside of the hedges to be trimmed back. There was also a request for a communal compost site, and it was suggested the small unused plot at the top of the site would be suitable; Councillors agreed to this. The Clerk said that the water supply was working well, although allotment holders were also collecting water to recycle, which kept water usage lower. The Clerk to ask Jamie Hiscocks to undertake the hedge trimming.

Oriel House, Bolland's Hill – Clarification was sought from Wilts Council Enforcement Officer about the location of the garden encroachment. This was identified and will be reported back.

Inmarsh Lane, road edges and Row Lane potholes – these have been reported via MyWiltshire App on the Wilts Council website. Notification received that they had been dealt with.

Canal towpath potholes – these have been reported to the C & RT, and will be raised with Mark Evans at the October PC meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Mrs A'Bear asked whether Councillors supported a Neighbourhood Plan or Parish Plan, and explained the difference between the two documents. A Rural Housing Needs Survey should be undertaken, this could cost up to £750 if posted, but costs could be kept to a minimum by circulating the survey by hand or with *Spotlight*, and then collecting by volunteers. It was agreed that there should be some forward planning in terms of possible costs, and concerns expressed about the cost of funding the plan. Mrs A'Bear pointed out that the PC can obtain grants towards the cost of the plan, but it will also need a commitment for funding from the PC. Mr Murch suggested that the costs would be in the region of £4,000 over 3 years. Mrs A'Bear suggested that it would be best to wait until the report of the consultation was available next month.

Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan

Mrs A'Bear and Mr Murch had attended a meeting at County Hall on 22 September. They explained that Melksham is expected to build a further 661 houses between 2006 and 2026 (although this is probably an underestimate); 51 new houses have to be in 5 surrounding villages (approx 10 per village). The housing density is set at 30 dwellings per hectare; the two SHLAAS suggested for Seend could provide 72 dwellings in site 1081 behind The Lye, and 31 in site 3204 off School Road. The consultation form must be returned by Friday 2nd October. It was agreed that the response should indicate that site 1081 did not have the approval of villagers during the recent Neighbourhood Plan consultation, also it would affect visual amenity and the access was poor. Site 3204 was currently well screened by mature trees, and the access was better, although the density of 31 dwellings was felt to be too high. The PC would actively look at possible infill sites in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Community Governance Review

Email received from Wiltshire Council, outlining a possible proposed change in parish boundary to move part of the boundary with Seend in a southerly direction to meet the Kennet and Avon canal. This would mean that the path between Locking Close and the canal would become part of the Melksham Without parish. No residential properties appear to be affected by this proposal. Councillors discussed this proposal but were not in agreement with it. The Clerk to advise Wiltshire Council.

Freight Requests

Email received from Emma Painter, Transport Planning Technician at Wilts Council. This relates to requests for weight limits and restrictions on freight movement on the public highway. In Seend, the requests that are assessed as part of the FAPM are: Bolland's Hill, Seend and A365 Bowerhill/Seend Fork. It was unclear how this related to the two routes. The Clerk to obtain further information.

Planning Matters

Application No: 15/08291/FUL Manor Cottage, High Street
Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding into ancillary accommodation

Unanimous to approve.

Application No: 15/08778/TCA Wisteria Cottage, High Street
Eucalyptus tree – fell

Unanimous to approve.

Application No: 15/09056/FUL Seend C of E Primary School, School Road
Rear extension to provide servery area for UIFSM, hall storage and classroom extension

Unanimous to approve.

Application No: 15/09192/FUL 68 Pelch Lane
Removal of existing overgrown Leylandii hedge and replace with new 1800mm high Cotswold stone wall with cock and hen detailing

Unanimous to approve.

Correspondence

Email from Jane Scott, Wiltshire Council advising a series of meetings Wilts Council will be hosting to discuss the challenges they face in 2016 and into the future. Mrs A'Bear and Mr Wood indicated they will try to attend the one held on 20 October in the Atrium at County Hall at 5.30 pm.

Further agreement received from Sandridge Solar Power, including an additional paragraph relating to possible parish boundary changes. Councillors agreed to accept the additional clause.

Email from Stuart Renfrew at Wiltshire Council, to advise that any maintenance works required to be undertaken in parishes should be reported via the MyWiltshire App on the Wiltshire Council website. The works need to be described in detail, including size, depth of potholes, exact location and preferably a photo attached.

Email from Worton Parish Council regarding measures to make the C20 road safer. This included a list of 15 proposals. These were discussed by the Councillors. They did not agree with following:

Item 6 Remove central white lining along the length of the C20 – it was felt the central line was an important safety measure

Item 8 Double white lines from first turn signage to west side of junction

Item 10 Double white lines from just west of Seend Bridge to Bell Hill crossroads

Item 12 Double white lines from Bell Inn to first farm entrance on the right

Councillors did not agree that installing double white lines would assist matters, on the contrary, they felt it would increase traffic speed once motorists emerged from the area

Item 13 30 mph signs at Bell Hill junction – it was felt these should be taken further down the hill

Email from Worton Parish Council, inviting a representative from Seend PC to attend a meeting they are holding on Monday, 23 November in Worton Village Hall at 7 pm to discuss their possible Neighbourhood Plan. Mrs A'Bear would be attending.

Email received from Cllr Seed, including a map showing a potential fracking area that will affect Wiltshire.

Financial Matters

a) There were six cheques for signature:

Mrs R E Fisher	£348.47	Clerk's salary September
HMRC	£10.60	PAYE
Seend Community Centre	£75.00	Room hire July – September
Grant Thornton	£120.00	External Auditor's fee
C.P.R.E.	£36.00	Annual subscription
Mrs R E Fisher	£154.17	Clerk's expenses July – September
Mr J Tilley	£100.00	Grass cutting

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

b) A bank reconciliation to the end of August had been circulated to all Councillors, this showed that there is £15,699.87 in the Parish Council's accounts.

Any other business

Spout Lane, street light – it was noted that the street light near the old forge cottage needs repairing.

Posts by the green in The Lye – these appear damaged, to be reported to Aster Management.

Community Speedwatch statistics – these showed that on average 3-4% of vehicles exceeded the speed limit in the High Street. Post meeting note: Email received from Brian Crisp, Community Speedwatch - only those vehicles exceeding 35mph are logged; the percentage of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit is nearer 25%.

Accidents on C20 junction with Inmarsh – following a series of accidents, the road surface has now been water-jetted, and there is now 60% more friction.

Wiltshire Core Strategy – the PC now has a copy of this document.

Lye Field Committee – it was reported that £6,000 had been raised by the Fête. The Lye Field Committee Chairman has resigned.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 27th October 2015, at Seend Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

The date of the Precept Meeting was set for Tuesday, 10th November at 7.30 pm, the Clerk to book the Kennet Room at the Community Centre. Attendees Mrs A'Bear, Mrs Carr, Mr Murch, Mrs Savage and Mr Padfield.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20 p.m.



VICE CHAIRMAN