

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 26th September 2017 at Seend Community Centre.

Present: Mrs G A'Bear, Mrs P Akerman, Mrs A Heatley, Mrs J McManus, Mr T Murch (Chairman), Mrs C Vince, Mr J Williams, Mr M Wiltshire and Mr Wood.

Also present: Councillor Seed, and 15+ parishioners.

Agenda Item		Action
2017/88 Apologies for Absence	Mr N Haines and Mr T James	
2017/89 Declaration of Lobbying		
(i) Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests	(i) There were no declarations of changes to the Register of Interests. Mrs J McManus confirmed that she had completed her on-line Declaration.	
(ii) Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda	(ii) Mrs A'Bear declared at interest in Agenda Item 5 Items for discussion from members of the Parish.	
(iii) Requests for Dispensation	(iii) There were no requests for dispensations.	
2017/90 Police Matters	<p>1.1 The Chairman welcomed PCSO Janet Gould to the meeting. She reported that Maggie Ledbury would be our new PCSO, but that she had been unable to attend this meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Ms Gould reported on two crime incidents that had taken place in the village during August.</p> <p>1.3. Two rogue traders had attempted to con an elderly resident out of a large sum of money. The men had claimed that the resident required roof repairs that amounted to £4,000. They took him to his bank for him to withdraw the cash, but the bank staff became suspicious and contacted trading standards. The two men were later arrested in Westbury.</p> <p>1.4 The police work closely with trading standards on such incidents, and help to give out information packs "Door Step Crime Packs" to help prevent elderly residents from becoming a victim to such crimes.</p> <p>1.5. The second incident took place at The Barge pub where a fight broke out between two men.</p> <p>1.6. The Chairman reported that there had also been an incident of theft of agricultural equipment from a van that belonged to a parishioner, parked outside a house in Seend.</p> <p>1.7 The police have also highlighted a common crime in supermarkets where a person is distracted, whilst another person takes the person's purse. A recent incident in Asda in Melksham involved a person who had come from St Austell.</p> <p>2. Ms Gould outlined a new Community Policing initiative. The Community Policing team consists of a Detective Sergeant, nine Police Officers and two Local Crime Investigators. They are responsible for the Central Hub which covers the north and west areas of the county. Responsibilities include dealing with anti-social behavior and on-going crime. She stressed the importance of Intelligence provided by members of the public. This helps them prepare warrants in advance of arresting suspects, particularly useful in relation to drug offences.</p> <p>3. The Chairman raised the question of how the traffic accident information is collated. Ms Gould said that if there is an injury, then they get reported to the Force Control who then task a Trowbridge Officer to deal with the accident. Not all accidents are reported to the Police. Ms Gould did not know about the recent incident where a lorry and coach blocked Bollands Hill for over an hour. But as the police had not been called, they were not aware of the incident.</p> <p>4. The Clerk asked how we could get the driver details for the recent car crash where the bus shelter at the top of Bollands Hill was damaged. Ms Gould</p>	

	asked to be sent the details and she would investigate. The Clerk had reported that Wiltshire Council would not be able to repair the bus shelter if they cannot recover the costs from the driver's insurance.	Clerk
2017/91 Planning Matters	<p>Due to the large number of parishioners who attended the meeting, Planning Matters were brought higher up the agenda.</p> <p>1. <u>Application Number: 17/07389/FUL</u> Site Location: Scotts Wharf, Spout Lane Seend Melksham Proposal: Continuation of Garage Pitch Roof Over Flat Roof Section.</p> <p>1.1 <u>Resolved:</u> Approval of this planning application was proposed by Mrs Heatley and seconded by Mrs Vince. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p>2. <u>Application Number: 17/08217/FUL</u> Site Location: Land at A361 Blossom Hill Trowbridge Road Seend Proposal: Change of use of land with associated ancillary development to single traveller pitch.</p> <p>2.1 The Chairman, in opening up the discussions on the planning application said that it needed to be considered on planning matters only.</p> <p>2.2 Councillor Seed outlined his experience of a similar planning application for a single pitch traveller site in Bromham 18 months ago. He urged the Parish Council and any parishioners who are minded to oppose the planning application to do so on planning grounds only and not emotional ones. In Bromham they enlisted the help of a planning consultant David Pearce who provided them with robust arguments to use to oppose the planning application. The planning application in Bromham was refused.</p> <p>2.3 Councillor Seed outlined a two prong attack for opposing the planning application for Blossom Hill based on need and suitability of the site.</p> <p>2.4 With regard to need, Councillor Seed had met with the Planning Officer and had established that there was already an adequate supply of traveller sites in the area. Spatial Planning had also confirmed that there had been an oversupply against the previous 5-year requirement (2011-16) and in monitoring terms that oversupply is carried over into the next five years (2016-21).</p> <p>2.5 However, if the site was considered to be suitable, this could override this argument.</p> <p>2.6 On the second issue of suitability of the site, it could be argued that with no running water, sewerage or electricity, the site was unsuitable. Access from the busy A361 was another possible argument but with Cleeve House on the other side, this was not a strong argument for refusal. There is also a pavement and gated entrance.</p> <p>2.7 The Chairman said that the site was surrounded on 3 sides by land with SSI status and Councillor Seed said it could be used as a valid argument to oppose the planning application, but would not necessarily stand on its own as argument.</p> <p>2.8 A parishioner spoke against the planning application and cited similarities with a site 5 miles from the village. He argued that whilst the planning application was for a single pitch, it was more than likely that this would increase to more pitches over the next 5 years.</p> <p>2.9 Another parishioner said that from landscape planning terms, the site is located on a green site that provides a gap between Seend and Seend Cleeve, and that any development on this site might set a precedent for further development.</p> <p>2.10 Another parishioner urged the Parish Council to enlist the same professional help that was used by Bromham. Councillor Seed said that the Parish Council and parishioners would need to prepare a very strong case, and recommended that they do speak with David Pearce who prepared the case for Bromham.</p> <p>2.11 Three other parishioners also spoke against the planning application.</p>	

	<p>2.12 The Chairman invited anyone who wished to speak in favour of this application but no one did so. The Chairman then drew the discussions to a close and summarised some of the points the Parish Council could use to oppose the planning application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Need</u>: There was already an over-supply of traveller sites in Wiltshire. Spatial Planning had confirmed this. Therefore there is no defined need for the site. • <u>Suitability of the site</u>: There are no utilities at the site, ie water, electricity of sewerage. Access from the busy A361 posed a problem. • <u>Location</u>: The site is also located in a green site providing valued space between Seend and Seend Cleeve. It is also surrounded by 3 SSSI's of natural and archaeological importance. <p>The Chairman asked for a proposal:</p> <p>2.14 <u>Resolved</u>: Mrs McManus proposed that the Parish Council oppose the planning application based on the main issues raised in the discussion that included the lack of need for further traveller sites in the area, and that the location was not suitable. This was seconded by Mr Williams. At a vote, all Councillors voted unanimously to oppose the planning application.</p> <p>2.15 The Clerk was asked to contact Mr David Pearce, planning consultant to get a quote for his help in preparing a case against the planning application.</p> <p>2.16 The Clerk to ask the Planning Department for an extension to the time for comments on the application.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>2017/92 Councillor Matters</p>	<p>1. Councillor Seed was asked for an update on the sign at Berhills Lane. He said that he had talked with the Enforcement Officer who had said that because the sign had been on private land and had been moved, but still remained on private land, it would be difficult and expensive to make a case for the sign to be returned to its original place. It had been noted that the house was now sold. There was no vehicular access onto the road from the newly made parking space.</p>	
<p>2017/93 Items for Discussion from Members of the Parish</p> <p>Parking Problems in Inmarsh Lane</p>	<p>1.1 The Clerk had circulated correspondence from residents of Inmarsh Lane who were experiencing problems of cars parking close to the A361 road junction and at the first bend on Inmarsh Lane. The parked cars were causing a hazard for the timber yard and farm vehicles by restricting the width of the road making it difficult to turn into the road. It was also causing problems for the other residents of Inmarsh Lane. One of the residents had cited near misses with oncoming traffic as they came around the blind bend. Notes had been put on the parked cars and owners, where known had been spoken to, but the problems had not abated.</p> <p>1.2 The residents have asked the Parish Council to find a resolution to the problem. Having spoken with the Police and Wiltshire County Council, they had been told to contact the Parish Council who could raise a Community Issue to be taken to CATG for the installation of yellow lines.</p> <p>1.3 Councillors suggested that it might be worth sending letters to the residents on the main road, and to put a report in Spotlight highlighting the problems.</p> <p>1.4 <u>Resolved</u>: Mr Wood proposed that the Parish Council raises a Community Issue in favour of the introduction of yellow lines. This was seconded by Mrs Vince. Mrs A'Bear did not take part in the vote as she is also a resident of Inmarsh. All other councillors voted in favour of this course of action. Clerk to raise a Community Issue.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>2017/94 Chairman's comments</p>	<p>1. The Chairman reported that he had received email correspondence from the Lye Recreation Field Committee meeting, which said that they had now voted in favour of the Lye Field being registered as a Community Asset. They had asked the Parish Council to take the lead on this on their behalf.</p> <p>1.1 <u>Resolved</u>: The Chairman to look into this.</p> <p>1.2 The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Parish Council had not fulfilled its promise to buy a bench and to plant a tree to mark the celebration of the Queen's birthday/anniversary. It was agreed that this should be</p>	<p>Chairman</p>

	<p>actioned.</p> <p>1.3 <u>Resolved</u>: Mrs A'Bear to contact Mr Manning who had got the original quotes for a bench.</p> <p>1.4 <u>Resolved</u>: The Clerk was asked to contact the two tree surgeons in the village to ask if they could source an appropriate tree.</p>	<p>Mrs A'Bear</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>2017/95 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th August</p>	<p>1. The Minutes of the previous meeting on 29th August 2017 had been circulated to all Councillors. Subject to a small amendment to Minute 73/1.2 amending the sentence to read: "<i>Mrs Akerman emphasized the requirement to refer to the methodology used by Wiltshire Council in commenting on each of the proposed changes</i>", they were taken as read.</p> <p>1.2 <u>Resolution</u>: Acceptance of the Minutes as an accurate record was proposed by Mrs A'Bear. Seconded by Mr Wiltshire. Agreed Unanimously</p>	
<p>2017/96 Matters arising not already on the agenda</p>	<p>1. <u>Church Crossing</u> (Minute 2017/57) – Email received from Mr Stansby with preliminary drawings for the crossing and estimated cost of £5,200. This would be discussed at the next CATG meeting.</p> <p>2. <u>Seend Settlement Boundary Response</u> (Minute: 2017/73.3) The Clerk reported that she had submitted the Parish Council's response, and had confirmation of receipt given.</p> <p>3. <u>The Bell</u> (Minute 2017/77.1) – The Clerk had written to Wadworth regarding the louver shutters. Wadworth had written saying that the letter had been passed to their Head of Property for a response.</p> <p>4. <u>Broughton Gifford meeting with a Highways Consultant</u> (Minute: 2017/79.1) Mrs Akerman and the Clerk attended the meeting. It was an extremely interesting presentation given by Ben Hamilton Baillie, Urban landscape designer. The talk illustrated how small changes could lead to motorists viewing roads as community spaces and driving with more care. Rather than wage war on motorists, he suggested simple traffic calming measures that would encourage drivers to drive more slowly. Mrs Akerman said there were a lot of ideas that could be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>4.1 Mrs McManus was willing to look into ways some of the ideas could be used in Seend.</p> <p>5. <u>C&RT – (Minute: 2017/)</u> The Clerk reported that she had finally received a response from the Canal & Rivers Trust regarding the parking issues. The letter stated that <i>whilst they were sympathetic to the problems, parking on the highways is the concern of the local highways authority and there is no legal obligation on the C&RT to provide parking for canal users. Any problems that the Parish have with anti social behaviour should be reported to the police.</i></p> <p>6. <u>Metro Count, Seend High Street</u> ((Minute: 2017/57.1) The Clerk had contacted WYG/Aster. They confirmed that their highways team had not initiated the metro count.</p> <p>7. <u>Trees to commemorate WW1 soldiers who died</u>. Mrs Vince reported that 25 soldiers from the Parish died in WW1. The Clerk to ask for 25 trees to be ordered, but it is still not known where these will be planted.</p>	<p>Mrs McManus</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>2017/97 Aster Homes</p>	<p>1.1 The Chairman reported that he and Mrs A'Bear had received an email from a resident that was critical of the approach the Parish Council and NPSG were taking to the threat of the Aster Housing development.</p> <p>1.2 The Chairman said that there was nothing further the Parish Council could do on the Aster proposed housing development until an actual planning application had been submitted.</p> <p>1.3 Councillor Seed said that whilst Wiltshire Council had met its housing supply targets, he thought it would be unlikely that a planning application would be submitted by Aster in the immediate future, as it would be likely to be thrown out at this time. He cited successful oppositions to housing developments in Semington where they were waiting for a final decision and at Chippenham where a planning application was thrown out.</p>	

2017/98 Neighbourhood Plan	<p>1. Mrs A'Bear reported that Liz Simes had produced a comprehensive overview of the work done to date and made some useful comments, and she had also provided the NPSG with a brief for appointing consultants.</p> <p>2. Mrs A'Bear thanked Mrs Carole Vince who had agreed to become a full member of the NPSG committee.</p>	
2017/99 Highways. Bollands Hill and Bell Hill Crossroads	<p>1.1 <u>Bollands Hill</u> – Mr Wood said that he had reported through My Wiltshire that the Give Way signs needed clearing of hedge growth, and that the faded white lines needed repainting at the top of Bollands Hill. Whilst the hedging has been cut, the response from Wiltshire Highways with regard to the white lines was that: <i>“these give way signs, whilst faded, remain currently within acceptable parameters. Both the C20 and A361 are Group 1 Primary routes and subject to a routine monthly safety inspection with repair instructions, raised for all defects, including give way and stop lines, that meet intervention specifications.”</i></p> <p>1.2 Councillors felt that this was a very unsatisfactory answer. Mrs A'Bear said that the lines are not very visible at night. It was suggested that a number of people report the problem on My Wiltshire to see if they would take the matter more seriously.</p>	
2017/100 Defibrillator	<p>1. Mr Wood reported that of the two grant applications he had submitted to the British Heart Foundation for the funding of a defibrillator, only one had been successful as the BHF only accepts one application per grant year. A defibrillator had now been ordered through the BHF. The Parish Council has to pay the balance of £600.</p> <p>2. The Clerk reported that she had spoken with the Regional Area Manager of Enterprise about putting a Defibrillator on the outside wall of The Brewery. They had agreed saying it was a good idea. The Clerk to get the electrician to do a quote for installing on the wall of the pub.</p> <p>2.1 <u>Resolved:</u> The Clerk to now speak with the landlord and the electrician to work out how this could be fitted.</p> <p>3. Mr Wood was asked to produce a costings spreadsheet so that the Parish Council could find out how much the Parish Council would need to fund two defibrillators and cabinets for Seend Cleeve and Sells Green.</p> <p>4. The Clerk reported that she had heard from Sandridge Solar Farm Ltd and that the Parish council would again be receiving a Community Benefit grant of £1026.49. This could be used, as last year, to fund the Defibrillators.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Mr Wood</p>
2017/101 Bus Shelter	<p>1.1 <u>Bus Shelter at top of Bollands Hill.</u> The Clerk reported that she had asked Wiltshire Council how we could go about getting the bus shelter that was damaged following a car accident repaired. Highways had reported that because the damage was caused by a hit and run driver they had no way of recouping funds from the driver, and therefore they could not finance its repair.</p> <p>1.2 <u>Resolved:</u> The Clerk said she would try to find out from the Police if they had any contact details for the driver, which could then be given to Highways to follow up.</p> <p>2. <u>Bus Shelter at The Lye</u> – A resident has requested that a seat be placed in the shelter. <u>Resolved:</u> the Clerk to follow up.</p> <p>3. <u>Bus Shelter Light at The Stocks</u> – the Clerk reported that the flickering light has now been fixed following her report on MyWiltshire.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2017/102 Area Board/CATG	<p>1. The Chairman reported that several Councillors and the Clerk attended the Area Board meeting on 6th September.</p> <p>The Chairman had put a piece in the October issue of Spotlight explaining how the funding for Highway projects was organized through CATG.</p> <p>2. The next CATG meeting is on: 16th October. Mrs McManus to attend.</p>	
2017/103 Parish Steward	<p>The Clerk reported that she had submitted the task sheet for September, and would be meeting the Parish Steward on site on 27th September to discuss</p>	

	priorities.													
2017/104 Allotment	<p>1. The Clerk reported that she had got a quote from local contractors for the hedge alongside the allotment to be cut. Mr Wiltshire reported that Wiltshire County Council had already cut the outside, but that the top and inside still required cutting.</p> <p>1.1 Mr Wood proposed that the quote be approved. This was seconded by Mrs A'Bear. Mr Williams and Mr Wiltshire abstained from the vote. All other Councillors voted in favour of accepting the quote and for the work to be done.</p>	Clerk												
2017/105 Correspondence	<p>The Clerk reported that she had several items of correspondence:</p> <p>1. <u>Wiltshire County Council Waste Strategy Consultation</u>. The consultation document are open for the public to give a response. The Clerk has put the details on the website. The Melksham Household Recycling Centre would be closed for refurbishment from 30th October to 11th November. The list of all the closures has been put on the website.</p> <p>2. <u>Wiltshire Mobile Library service</u> was undertaking its two yearly review. Whilst there were some changes to the timetable, the Seend and Seend Cleeve times have not been changed.</p> <p>3. <u>Wessex Water</u> have announced that they will be replacing the existing water mains through Seend Cleeve which will take place over the Winter. There will be road closures during this period, but they will do their best to keep access open for residents. It will begin in November in Perrys Lane with further works through Seend Cleeve from January. Details will be put on the website and in Spotlight when known.</p> <p>4. <u>Best Kept Village Competition 2018</u>. Mr Williams agreed to take the lead on this competition.</p>	Mr Williams												
2017/106 Financial Matters	<p>1. There were 4 cheques for signature:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>The Community Centre</td> <td>£ 99.00</td> <td>Meeting Room Hire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Lye Rec Field</td> <td>£112.00</td> <td>NPSG Meeting Room Hire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs S Bond</td> <td>£366.29</td> <td>Clerk Salary for September</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs S Bond</td> <td>£162.19</td> <td>Clerk expenses July-to-September</td> </tr> </table> <p>1.1 <u>Resolved</u>: Acceptance of the cheques was proposed by Mr Wiltshire and seconded by Mrs Heatley. All Councillors approved.</p> <p>2. Bank reconciliation to end of August 2017 - £15,258.16</p> <p>Mrs A'Bear asked if an amendment could be made to the details of what sort of things were in the Contingency budget. There were some items that now had their own budget. Clerk to make the necessary amendments.</p>	The Community Centre	£ 99.00	Meeting Room Hire	The Lye Rec Field	£112.00	NPSG Meeting Room Hire	Mrs S Bond	£366.29	Clerk Salary for September	Mrs S Bond	£162.19	Clerk expenses July-to-September	Clerk
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2017/107 Items for note	<p>1. Mr Wiltshire reported that the hedge at the top of the Pelch required cutting, as did a hedge in Rusty Lane. The Clerk to contact the owner with a request for them to be cut</p> <p>2. Mrs Akerman to attend the "Superfast Broadband" talk in Devizes on 28th September.</p> <p>3. Mrs A'Bear said that the October issue of Spotlight had a letter from Dr Knott that was critical of the way Seend Parish Councillors were not properly elected. The Chairman said that the Parish Council should respond with an article in the next issue that outlines the statutory procedure for electing councillors, and that when a vacancy occurs, if there are not enough candidates for an election to be held, then co-option is the only way to get new councillors. There will only be an election, every time there is a vacancy, if fifteen or more parishioners request one and there is more than one candidate, by contacting Wiltshire Council Electoral Services. If not, the Parish Council can fill the vacancy (vacancies) by co-option. The cost of having an election would be £2,100.</p> <p>4. The Chairman will be doing the Clerk's appraisal later this month.</p> <p>5. The Clerk asked if it would be okay to set up a contract for the Clerk's mobile phone as the pay as you go was proving to be very expensive.</p>	Clerk												

	Councillors agreed. 6. Mr Wiltshire and Mrs Vince to set up the meeting room for the next meeting.	
2017/108 Date of next meeting	Tuesday 31st October 2017 There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.35pm.	

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CHAIRMAN

Date: 31st October 2017