

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2025. This meeting was held in the Community Centre.

Present: Mr Terry James (Chairman), Mrs Bridget Johnstone (Vice Chair), Mrs Pamela Akerman, Mrs Jackie Hamblin, Mr William Lack, Mr Paul Manning, Mrs Helen Robinson-Gordon, Mrs Debbie Savage, Mr Phil Springate, Mr John Williams

Also Present: Cllr Tamara Reay, more than 20 Members of the Public & The Clerk

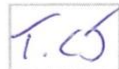
Agenda Item	Detail	Action
2025/001 Apologies for Absence	Mr Martin Wiltshire	
2025/002 Declaration of Lobbying (i) Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests (ii) Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda (iii) Requests for Dispensation	<p>(i) - There were no changes of declarations to the Register of Interests</p> <p>(ii) - There were declarations of interest from Paul Manning regarding PL/2024/01868 and PL/2024/01541</p> <p>(iii) - There were no requests for dispensation.</p>	
2025/003 Local Councillor's Matters	<p>Cllr Reay provided the following updates on local matters:</p> <p>2024/25 Council Tax Wiltshire Council Budget is about to be finalised. Despite financial cuts from Central Government to the Rural Services Grant and increased Employer National Insurance charges, the Council is expected to increase Tax's by ~3.5% which is below the maximum Wiltshire could demand.</p> <p>English Devolution Bill The Bill creates a new framework for English devolution, moving power from Westminster back to those who know their areas best. One of the first steps in the process is for regions to form Mayoral Authorities. Once formed these Authorities will receive additional government funding. Wiltshire Council is exploring the opportunity of such a partnership with Devon, Somerset, Bournemouth & Christchurch. Public services such as Police, Fire & Ambulance will be shared between these councils.</p>	
2025/004 Minutes of the Previous Meeting	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2024 were circulated to all Councillors.</p> <p>Acceptance of the Minutes of this meeting as an accurate record was proposed by William Lack and seconded by Paul Manning. Except for John Williams & Terry James who were not present at this meeting, all Councillors present voted in favour. A shortened version of this month's minutes to be placed in Spotlight.</p>	Clerk
2025/005 Matters Arising Not Already on the Agenda	<p>Parish Litter Bins Helen Robinson-Gordon raised the issue of the potential lack of waste bins within the Parishes outlying settlements. Wiltshire Council's policy regarding waste bins is that whilst no more bins will be provided, the Parish Council could request under-utilised bins to be relocated to more heavily littered areas.</p> <p>Councillors were asked to report any bins that are being under utilised within the Parish.</p>	All

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Agenda Item	Detail	Action
	Blocked Road Drain Seend Cleeve Despite reporting the issue via MyWilts more than two months has elapsed since Wiltshire Council surveyed and acknowledged that maintenance is required. Cllr Tamara Reay agreed to escalate the issue on behalf of the Parish Council.	Cllr Reay
2025/006 Items for Discussion from Members of the Parish	None	
2025/007 Local Highways & Footpath Infrastructure Group (LHFIG)	<p>The LHFIG meeting 14th January, agreed the following:</p> <p>Barge Bridge Parking Restrictions New Parking Restrictions either side of the Barge Bridge are due to be implemented Spring 2025.</p> <p>Spout Lane Parking Restrictions Wiltshire Council will not consider a Residential Parking Scheme at this location. Although waiting restrictions could be considered, the Parish Council and Local residents would need to agree what they could accept. One option would be for a 'staggered' 2-hour restriction during the middle of the day on opposite side of the road. i.e. (10.00 – 12.00 west side) (13.00 – 15.00 east side). This would deter those wishing to park continually for 24 hours.</p> <p>Bell Hill Crossroads More substantial Bollards to be deployed. A Works Order has been issued. Installation date to be confirmed but expected within the next 4 months.</p> <p>An incident at the Bell Sunday 26th January involved a White Van leaving the road. Police were in attendance. The Clerk to request the Police Log reference.</p> <p>High Street Railings between School Lane and Dial Close. The Parish Council has been asked to confirm it would like to progress this requirement on the understanding that it will reduce the available pedestrian width of the footpath making it potentially difficult for Wheelchair and pushchair users. A Feasibility study will be required (estimated cost c£4.5k) of which the PC would need to fund 25% (~£1.2k)</p> <p>Councillors decided not to progress the feasibility study but wish to ask LHFIG consider bollards at set intervals along the stretch. The Clerk to liaise with LHFIG.</p> <p>The Stocks – Northside Layby It has been suggested that the layby on the North side of the A361 should be reduced in size as it could help improve the line of sight for cars turning from the Cleeve onto the main road. Clerk to raise a HIR for review.</p> <p>The Stocks – Request for a review of the 50mph Speed limit Highways advised that under current guidance The Stocks would not be eligible for a reduction in the current speed limit. However, it is believed that due to the Bus Stops and Right-Hand turn into Seend Cleeve being within 50m of the 50mph envelope there may be an opportunity to request a review. The Clerk to review current Highways Guidance with Cllr Tamara Reay.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Reay/ Clerk</p>
2025/008 Earmarked & General Reserves	LHFIG has invoiced for works carried out at the Bell Crossroads and, The Stocks during 2023-24. In addition, charges were presented for the new SID Sockets for totaling £3,718.03 ~ 50% less than expected. In addition, our forecast	

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	<p>expenditure for the year was higher than our actual costs. Overall, it means the Parish Council has ~ £6,500 that we can allocate to new projects.</p> <p><u>Resolution</u></p> <p>William Lack proposed the Earmarked Reserves should be amended to include the provision for a new SID and Sockets (£5,500) with a further £1000 added to a fund for Outdoor Gym equipment that may lead to a larger project. This was seconded by John Williams. All remaining Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>The Clerk to update the Earmarked & General Reserves to reflect these changes.</p>	Clerk
2025/009 Speedwatch	<p>The team was pleased to announce they have some new members and would welcome further volunteers</p> <p><u>Resolution</u></p> <p>Paul Manning proposed that as the current Solar Panels installed with the Speed Indicator Devices (SID) are insufficient during winter months a spare SID Battery should be purchased. This was seconded by Pamela Akerman. All remaining Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>The Clerk to order a spare battery.</p>	Clerk
2025/010 Neighbourhood Plan / Wiltshire Local Plan	The Clerk has not received any further interest from Parishioners wishing to join the Neighbourhood Plan Review Team.	
2025/011 Planning Matters	<p>-PL/2024/10595 – 28 Seend Cleeve - Single Storey Extension - Retrospective Application Including Alterations</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> Phil Springate proposed this application is approved. This was seconded by Debbie Savage. All Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>-PL/2024/11384 - Rew Farm, Seend Cleeve - Variation of Condition 2 of PL/2022/06853 (Notification for Prior Approval under Class Q for a Proposed Conversion of Agricultural Building into 2 New Dwellings) to allow an additional three-year extension</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> William Lack proposed this application is approved. This was seconded by Bridget Johnstone. All Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>- PL/2024/11658 - Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area – New Sarum, High Street - 4 x Cypress trees (to rear) - reduce height by 3m. Front Cypress trees - reduce height by 4m</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> Jackie Hamblin proposed this application is approved. This was seconded by Debbie Savage. All Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>-PL/2024/09286 - The Appleyard, Spout Lane - Erection of shed</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> Bridget Johnstone proposed this application is approved. This was seconded by Paul Manning. All Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>-PL/2024/11426 - Land to the South of A365 Bath Road and West of Turnpike Garage, Melksham - Construction of Warehouse.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>



Agenda Item	Detail	Action
	<p>Three residents were invited to speak about their concerns regarding this application.</p> <p>Concerns included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on the current view enjoyed by Local Residents • The detrimental effect on adjacent property values • Possible impact on Septic Tanks if the water table rose. • The height and scale of the proposed building • Wildlife impact • Increase in traffic pasting the adjacent school • The current 5-day week / 12 hrs/day operation may increase to 24/7 <p>However, others conceded there is a recognised need for local employment opportunities but questioned if there were more suitable locations nearby and would prefer the land remains a green field site.</p> <p>The applicant responded to these concerns explaining that this is an Outline Planning application and they have been trying to source a local site for nearly 6 years and spent more than £100k working with Wiltshire Council to try and secure a suitable location. Due to the items the Distribution Centre carries, there is strict criteria regarding its location. Wiltshire Council has not designated enough Employment / Industrial Land for medium size enterprises such as Gompels to grow. Land that could have been designated as 'Employment / Industrial' was not identified by the Council in time to prevent house developers and private companies securing most of the available local land for future residential housing development.</p> <p>The company faces a crisis in that unless it expands in-line with its customers growth, it will lose its business.</p> <p>The company has completed a full landscape impact assessment with a plan to screen the warehouse with tall trees and hedging. Provision has been made to increase bio diversity and additional drainage is included in the design to ensure the existing water table does not rise and may actually be slightly lower.</p> <p>The operation is expected to generate an average vehicle movement increase of 200 vehicles / day Mon – Friday (7am – 7pm) making a total increase of 1000 vehicle / movements a week.</p> <p>The applicant advised he has been approached by 16 Developers to secure the land for up to 200 houses. This could generate up to 2000 vehicle movements/day equivalent 14,000 vehicle movements/week.</p> <p><u>Parish Councillors initial comments</u></p> <p>The Parish Council's Planning Sub Committee was given a presentation by the company about its plans to create a Distribution Centre at this location but has not previously commented on the proposal.</p> <p>Councillors shared some of the concerns raised and noted this is a very difficult planning decision to make. Given time, it is believed that although the building could be screened, it is very high and perhaps a compromise could be found by lowering the overall height of the building by covering a larger land area. The Parish Council's understanding is that Gompels have looked at more than 20</p>	

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	<p>sites with what appears to have been little urgency or desire to assist by Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>There was a suggestion regarding some recreational land adjacent Gompels present site which may have been purchased by Melksham Council could be exchanged to create the space needed for a new Distribution Centre.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council appears not to have fully understood the Company's plight. Gompels has been a local success and is a growing company. All of their employees are directly employed and they have been supportive of their local staff.</p> <p>The Parish Council recognises the company has been forced into difficult position and without Wiltshire Council's support it will ultimately be a choice between jobs or housing. It is a decision the applicant did not want and one the Parish Council feels would have been unnecessary had Wiltshire Council fully considered the long term needs of its locally based medium sized enterprises.</p> <p>It also calls into question the value of local Neighbourhood Plans as it appears these may be sidelined. Guidance for creation of such plans may need to be revised to include provision of 'Employment' land so that people can have the opportunity to live and work within the same community area without having to travel.</p> <p>The Parish Council will consider the points made and formally comment in due course.</p> <p>PL/2024/01868/ PL/2024/01541 - Turnpike Cottage, Inmarsh - Refurb of existing listed building two-storey side extension</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> Terry James proposed this application is approved. This was seconded by William Lack. Apart from Paul Manning who had declared an interest, all Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>PL/2025/00238 – Barn at Broad Lane - Prior Approval Pt 3 Class Q: Change from Agricultural bldg to two-bedroom dwelling.</p> <p>The applicant confirmed that despite submitting planning documents to Wiltshire Council they are not currently displayed on the Wiltshire Planning Portal. The Case Officer (Isobella Wise) has been advised. The Clerk to contact Wiltshire Planning and request a date extension from 14th February so that it can be reviewed at the next Parish Council meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2025/012 Solar Farms	Sandridge Solar No update	
2025/013 Devizes Area Board	The next Area Board will take place on 17 th February 2025	Pamela Akerman / John Williams
2025/014 Items of Correspondence	A Resident has made a request for scalping's to fill in the potholes along Broad Lane. Part of the reason for the request is due to difficulties being faced by Care workers providing support to a resident who lives off Broad Lane. Wiltshire	

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	Council has been consulted and the resident is in the process of liaising with Wiltshire Council for a scalping delivery.																									
2025/015 Parish Steward	<p>The Clerk to request the Parish Steward undertake the following work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear leaves from The Lye Bus Shelter - Clean Bollards in middle of road and ask them to be replaced - Clean Milestone on High Street - Clean Bus Shelter in Stocks 	Clerk																								
2025/016 Asset Register	The Clerk has completed the annual asset view and will send a copy of the review to Councillors.	Clerk																								
2025/017 Clerk Vacancy	<p>The Parish Council received 13 applications of which 10 applications were simply a CV with no effort at tailoring their application or completing the application form. Councillors agreed the three remaining applicants with correctly completed applications should be called for interview.</p> <p>The interview committee will comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Akerman • Debbie Savage • William Lack • The Clerk <p>The Clerk to arrange the interviews</p>	Clerk																								
2025/018 Financial Matters	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a. Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Clerk advised that Lloyds Interest payment for this month amounted to £28.96 <p>b. Payments</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th><th>Amount</th><th>Reason</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mr C Stirland</td><td>£834.54</td><td>Salary</td></tr> <tr> <td>HugoFox Limited</td><td>£23.99</td><td>Hugofox-Parish Council Website -Nov</td></tr> <tr> <td>Water2business</td><td>£58.03</td><td>Allotment Water Bill (July – Dec)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mr C Stirland</td><td>£61.80</td><td>Expenses (Oct – Jan)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Elan City Ltd</td><td>£109.99</td><td>Spare SID Battery</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td><td>£18.00</td><td>PAYE</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wiltshire Council</td><td>£3,718.03</td><td>The Stocks, Bell Hill, SID Sockets</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Resolution:</u> William Lack proposed acceptance of the payments that had been pre-authorised online by John Williams & Terry James. This was seconded by Phil Springate. All remaining Councillors who were present voted in favour. Next month's online payment pre-authorisations will be undertaken by Phil Springate & Debbie Savage</p> <p>c. Bank Reconciliation at end of January 2024, was £35,163.98 d. Clerk Forthcoming Debit Card Payments – None e. Q3 Accounts Sign Off – This will be carried over until next month</p>	Payee	Amount	Reason	Mr C Stirland	£834.54	Salary	HugoFox Limited	£23.99	Hugofox-Parish Council Website -Nov	Water2business	£58.03	Allotment Water Bill (July – Dec)	Mr C Stirland	£61.80	Expenses (Oct – Jan)	Elan City Ltd	£109.99	Spare SID Battery	HMRC	£18.00	PAYE	Wiltshire Council	£3,718.03	The Stocks, Bell Hill, SID Sockets	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk / Bridget Johnstone</p>
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2025/019 Items of Note	<p>The following items were noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seend Fork Junction White Lines have been finally painted.• An example of an Open Gym could be viewed at Hillworth Park Devizes• A large Pot Hole has appeared approximately 30m North of Inmarsh Lane on Bell Hill. The Clerk to create a MyWilts report.• There was concern with some vehicles speeding on Rusty Lane. The Parish Council to consider suitable signs that could be deployed on existing street furniture.• The Padlocked Bollard at the top of Rusty Lane has been removed. The Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council.	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>												
2025/020 Date of next meetings	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.55pm</p> <p>The next Parish Council meetings are:</p> <table><tr><th>Meeting</th><th>Date</th><th>Time</th><th>Venue</th></tr><tr><td>Parish Council Meeting</td><td>Tuesday 25th Feb</td><td>7.00pm</td><td>Community Centre</td></tr><tr><td>Parish Council Meeting</td><td>Tuesday 25th Mar</td><td>7.00pm</td><td>Community Centre</td></tr></table>	Meeting	Date	Time	Venue	Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 25 th Feb	7.00pm	Community Centre	Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 25 th Mar	7.00pm	Community Centre	
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T. C. James

Terry James (Chairman)
Date: 25th February 2025

