

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 28th April 2015, at Seend Community Centre.

Present: Mrs G A'Bear, Mrs T Carr, Mr T James, Mr P Manning, Mr T Murch, Mr D. Nichols, Mr J Padfield, Mrs J Savage and Mr M Wiltshire.

Also present: PCSO Helen Wilson and Mr C Smith.

Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr K. Rigg and Cllr J. Seed.

The Clerk had written to Mr C Waylen, as he had not attended a Parish Council meeting since 30 September 2014, to advise him that if he was unable to attend tonight's meeting, he will be deemed to have resigned, as he has missed six consecutive meetings. The Clerk had not received a response, and Mr Waylen was not in attendance. Accordingly, the Clerk was asked to advertise the vacancy on the Parish Council, and write to Mr Waylen to thank him for his efforts whilst serving as a Councillor.

Declaration of Interests

Mr D Nichols declared an interest in planning application 15/02779/FUL Little Thornham Farm, Trowbridge Road.

Police and Local Councillor's Matters

PCSO Wilson said there was little to report. On 1 April there had been a vehicle collision outside the Post Office. At Semington a cyclist had been knocked off his bike and injured. A kayak and paddle had been stolen from Clears Farm, but had been recovered. As reported in local newspapers, 8 men had been taken from a travellers site at Semington, 4 have since returned, 3 persons are on bail. PCSO Wilson promised to send information on Clear Water for marking items.

Mr Murch raised the issue of payment for green waste bins, and it was agreed ask for further information from Cllr Seed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Items for discussion from members of the Parish

None received.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2015 had been circulated to all Councillors, and were taken as read. There was one amendment:

Page 2, Neighbourhood Plan, fourth sentence, this should read: "After the consultation, the group will apply for funding to Awards For All ..." Acceptance of the minutes was then proposed by Mr D Nichols, seconded by Mr T James. Agreed unanimously.

Matters arising

Winter Snow Preparations – An email had been sent to the Parish Clerks of Bulkington and Poulshot. Bulkington will discuss at their Annual Parish Meeting on 15 May, and Poulshot will discuss at their next meeting on 5 May. There was a query whether Mr Breach would be paid by Wiltshire Council if Seend asked him to come and spread grit on icy pavements, rather than to deal with snow. The Clerk to check with the Severe Weather Team at Wiltshire Council.

Neighbourhood Plan – Mrs A'Bear reported that a further meeting had taken place and, having spoken with Community First, she requested funding support from the Parish Council for further meetings and advertising materials in the form of leaflets, corex boards and a banner; the total required was expected to be around £100. After the consultation period was complete, should things progress to a Parish Plan, then application would be made to the Area Board for capital funding. Mrs A'Bear reported that there are currently 11 people on the steering group. It was important to make people in the village aware that they can influence what happens in the village. The consultation meetings will take place on Wednesday 24 and Saturday 27 June in the Irene Usher Pavilion. Councillors voted unanimously to fund the advertising materials and meeting costs.

Car parking Rusty Lane – The Clerk said that she had not yet obtained quotes as she had been busy with end of year accounts preparation. Three quotes would be obtained and suggested contractors are Bodman, Thornbury Surfacing and Valetta (Westbury).

Notice board outside Post Office – This was now ready to be reinstalled.

Footpaths – Footpath 24 – The Footpaths Warden has been advised that it is alright to go ahead with installing a kissing gate.

Parish boundary at Bowerhill – The Clerk of Melksham Without PC has been advised of Seend PC's decision, which will be passed on to the Council. She advises that BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group) have recently installed a lectern style information board in the picnic area with another one to follow; plus another bench is to be installed on the bridleway. BRAG

JP

have indicated to the Parish Council that they wish to donate these items to Melksham Without Parish Council for their ongoing maintenance and insurance.

Bollands Hill – Mr Hawkins had written by email to propose that the road be narrowed at the canal bridge. Councillors discussed, but did not agree with this proposal.

Accidents in Seend – A response has been received from Dave Pretty at Collision Statistics, with a map of accidents in Seend up to 31 December 2014. The information has been passed to Mr Manning.

Footpath School Road – Email received from Ann Ewing to thank the Parish Council for arranging for the clearing of the verge and pavement down Bollands Hill to Pelch Lane, saying it is so much easier to walk down there safely now both with dogs and children. She also expressed her thanks for the new kissing gates that have been installed to replace stiles.

Ash die back – An email has been sent to the Tree Warden (Aldetha Raymond), to ask if there was any prospect of replacements for affected trees; no response received to date.

Planning Matters

15/02779/FUL Little Thornham Farm, Trowbridge Road

Removal of existing single garage. Proposed garage and vehicular turning area. Proposed timber entrance gates with stone piers.

Councillors voted 8 to approve, with Mr Nichols abstaining from voting.

15/08703/FUL Wych Elm, Seend Hill

Amended Plans: Change of use from domestic garden to tourist accommodation, involving the siting of a single log cabin and timber storage shed.

Councillors voted unanimously to reject this application. There are a number of points to the application that are still not addressed:

- Sewage disposal – is the proposed scheme for disposal of sewage rigorous enough?
- Car parking and number of cars on the site
- The proposed finish is different to the illustration that accompanies the application
- Access on to the road – this site accesses on to the main A361 downhill in a 60 mph limit
- The plan is rather woolly and generally not well thought through
- There are inconsistencies in the application
- There is no footpath access except from the busy main A361
- The old driveway is still open – this was supposed to be closed up once the new driveway was in situ
- The aspect is incorrect on the plans
- The scale of the building is out of sympathy with the surrounding area
- The proposed workshop/garage is too prominent
- The site elevation on the map is wrong

Correspondence

There was one item of correspondence, a list of candidates in the forthcoming election. This has been posted to noticeboards and the website.

Financial Matters

- a) There were two cheques for signature:

Mrs R E Fisher	£348.47	Clerk's salary April
HMRC	£10.60	PAYE

On a proposal by Mrs A'Bear, seconded by Mr Wiltshire, which was unanimously approved, the cheques were duly signed.

- b) The Clerk confirmed that accounts to year end were now with the accountant for preparation. A draft income and expenditure sheet had been circulated to all Councillors; this showed income for the year at £11,136.10 and expenditure at £9,390.66, with excess income over expenditure at £1,745.44. Cash at the bank at 31 March 2015 was £14,307.07.
- c) Following discussion, it was agreed to invest a further £5,000.00 in the Business Direct 30 Account with Bath Building Society. Proposed by Mr M Wiltshire, seconded by Mr P Manning.

Any other business

Pinch point in High Street – nothing further has been heard to date.

Telephone box in Seend Cleeve – There had been no volunteers to convert and renovate the telephone box (now purchased). The Clerk to approach Tessa Doe.

Scarecrow in Lye Field – Councillors felt this needs to be more lifelike, and be moved periodically. The Clerk to ask Community Speedwatch if they had installed this.

Broken cones, Bell Hill – There are several broken cones around a drain cover on Bell Hill, and concerns that they will become further damaged when hedges are cut. The Clerk to chase up with Highways.

Dog waste bins – It was noted that the bin in the bus shelter by The Lye was over full and dog walkers had left plastic bags of dog waste on the floor of the shelter. It was agreed that at least one further bin was needed. A note to be put in Spotlight to ask dog walkers where would be the most convenient location.


Canal bridge, Seend Cleeve – a hole in the road had been filled in, but the road was now deteriorating further.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 26th May 2015, at Seend Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting is Tuesday 12th May at 7.00 pm, with the public attending from 7.30 pm.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 p.m.


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CHAIRMAN

