

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 26 May 2015, at Seend Community Centre.

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

Also present: Cllr J Seed

Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr P Manning.

Declaration of Interests

Mr T James and Mr J Padfield declared an interest in the Appeal – Green Switch Developments Ltd, solar park. Mr M Wiltshire declared an interest in the discussion on winter snow preparations.

Police and Local Councillor's Matters

Cllr Seed said that he had two things to report, the first is the appeal for the Sandridge solar farm; nothing has been heard to date. The second is the pinch point in Seend High Street, as he wanted to get the message across that things are moving in this respect, although the bid had been held up because of the General Election, but the signs should be installed by the autumn. They would be warning signs of oncoming traffic, and would be triggered electronically. Once the finance is in place, Cllr Seed will put an item in Spotlight.

Mr Wiltshire noted that there are marks on the main road at Sells Green, and asked Cllr Seed if he knew what work was proposed? Cllr Seed said that he will find out.

Items for discussion from members of the Parish

The Wiltshire Core Strategy proposals for alerting people about planning applications were discussed. It was understood that there is a proposal to change the strategy, so that only neighbours either side are notified of a proposed application. The Statement of Community Involvement consultation ends 5 pm on Tuesday 5 June; the Protection of Heritage Asset consultation ends today. Cllr Seed said that the current policy is considered over restrictive.

Annual Parish Meeting

Mr Rigg said that he agreed with what the Chairman had said at the end of the annual meeting, that we are fortunate to live in a very beautiful village. He feels that the annual parish meeting needs to be made a little bit more exciting. The village survives on the co-operation of all the volunteers, and it is good for them to get together and share experiences. Mr Rigg suggested that next year we offer refreshments, and put in Spotlight why we want them to come; all groups could have their own display to get people interested.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28 April 2015 had been circulated to all Councillors, and were taken as read. There was one amendment:

Page 3, AOB - Canal bridge, Seend Cleeve; it was noted that the pothole had not, in fact, been filled in. Acceptance of the minutes was then proposed by Mrs G A'Bear, seconded by Mr T Murch. Agreed unanimously.

Matters arising

Vacancy for a Councillor – The Clerk has now advised Wiltshire Council that there is a vacancy, and notices have been placed on the notice boards and the website. If an election is not requested by Friday 5 June, the PC may co-opt.

Winter Snow Preparations – Email sent to the Parish Clerks of Bulkington and Poulshot. Peter Baxter, Clerk, Poulshot Parish Council responded that he presented the suggestion of Seend Parish Council for a joint-funded salt/grit spreader to his Members at their recent meeting. The Council considered the matter carefully but wish to decline the offer as it felt the impact of snow within the village is containable within local resources. However, the Council wished to thank Seend for considering such an innovative scheme, and if other ideas come to mind please do not hesitate to get in touch. No response yet received from Bulkington PC; email follow up sent to Bulkington PC Clerk. After discussion, it was agreed that Seend PC should buy the spreader, and get Mr Wiltshire registered with Wiltshire Council as a contractor to undertake the work in the village. Proposed Mr J Padfield, seconded Mr T Murch, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

Neighbourhood Plan – Mrs A'Bear reported on recent meetings. The Constitution was now drawn up, and she is Chair. Nick Westbrook from Melksham Neighbourhood Plan steering group had attended and outlined their process, which is very relaxed. Landscape maps have been drawn up, and pie charts used from the Village Consultation. Banners had been displayed in the Lye Field and Mr Manning is getting a quote for printing flyers. Mrs A'Bear reported an attendance of 10 people at the meetings. The areas to be covered by the Plan are housing, economy, employment, well-being, transport and environmental

services. Mrs Carr said that she thought there should be a budget for the work to be undertaken, and proposed £500, seconded by Mrs J Savage, agreed unanimously. It was suggested that the group should also ask about grants. It was noted that from the list of parishes currently undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan, none had yet completed.

Car parking Rusty Lane – The Clerk reported that she had received two quotes. Thornbury Surfacing £8655 (ex VAT) and Valletta Surfacing £8,565 (ex VAT). It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the organisations fronting Rusty Lane, to seek their permission to undertake the work.

Notice board outside Post Office – This has now been erected.

Footpaths – Footpath 24 – Kissing gate installed, invoice to be paid at today's meeting.

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.

Telephone box in Seend Cleeve – email sent to Tessa Doe, but no response received.

Scarecrow in Lye Field – now removed.

Broken cones, Bell Hill – now removed.

Dog waste bins – not in Spotlight yet.

Planning Matters

15/04125/FUL Bridge House, Martinslade
First floor extension to outbuilding

Councillors felt that the extension was too high and had adverse visual impact. Councillors voted unanimously not to approve the application.

15/02779/FUL Little Thornham Farm, Trowbridge Road
Removal of existing single garage. Change of use of land and erection of proposed garage and vehicular turning area and timber entrance gates with stone piers

Councillors voted unanimously to approve this application.

APPEAL APP/Y3940/W/15/3005078 Land to the east of Bollands Hill and North of The Kennet and Avon Canal, Seend
Installation of a Solar Park with an output of approximately 4 MW

Following discussion, Councillors voted 7 not to approve, with 2 abstentions. The Clerk to respond to the Appeal with the Council's objections.

15/04387/FUL Greenheys, High Street
Demolish and rebuild front boundary wall

Councillors voted unanimously to approve this application.

Correspondence

There was one item of correspondence from Fiona Johnson, President of Seend WI, to inform the PC that the WI is looking into the future of the WI Hall. They feel that the time is approaching when the building needs to be removed and replaced with landscaping or a small building with parking, for the use of the WI and other village groups. Any future project would be subject to funding. They will have discussions with interested parties, and let the PC know the outcome.

Financial Matters

a) There were seven cheques for signature:

Mrs R E Fisher	£348.47	Clerk's salary April
HMRC	£10.60	PAYE
DCK Beavers	£210.00	Accounts preparation
Broker Network	£301.68	Insurance
Wiltshire Council	£218.00	Kissing gate
Marlborough College	£12.00	Photocopying
Steve Vaux	£51.82	Domain name

On a proposal by Mr T James, seconded by Mr Wiltshire, which was unanimously approved, the cheques were duly signed.

- b) Copies of the accounts to the 31st March had been given to each Councillor. The accounts are now with the internal auditor.
- c) A bank reconciliation to the end of April had been circulated to all Councillors, this showed that there is £14,018.99 in the Parish Council's accounts, this includes £7,500 in the Business Direct 30 account with Bath Building Society.

Any other business

School Road – the street light at the end of School Road is being obscured by a large shrub which needs to be cut back. The Clerk to advise the Parish Steward.

Old Police Station – the hedge to the front of this property needs cutting back. The Clerk to advise the occupier.

High Street, crossing - Mrs A'Bear suggested that a dropped kerb be installed on either side of the High Street, close to the church, to make crossing safer.

Dial Close – there had been complaints from neighbours about bonfires in the garden of number 15 during the day. The Clerk to write to the occupiers, asking if they can refrain from lighting bonfires during daylight hours.

Broadband – the Clerk to contact BT to ask about provision of super fast broadband which is being installed in the village, and whether it will be available to all properties.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 30th June 2015, at Seend Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m.



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CHAIRMAN