

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th April 2025. This meeting was held in the Community Centre.

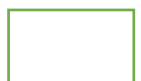
Present: Mr Terry James (Chairman), Mrs Jackie Hamblin, Mr William Lack, Mr Paul Manning,
Mrs Debbie Savage, Mr Phil Springgate, Mr John Williams, Mr Martin Wiltshire

Also Present: 6 Members of the Public, Cllr Tamara Reay & The Clerk

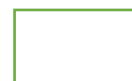
Agenda Item	Detail	Action
2025/064 Apologies for Absence	Pamela Ackerman, Bridget Johnstone, Helen Robinson-Gordon	
2025/065 Declaration of Lobbying (i) Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests (ii) Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda (iii) Requests for Dispensation	(i) - There were no changes of declarations to the Register of Interests (ii) - There no were declarations of interest (iii) - There were no requests for dispensation.	
2025/066 Local Councillor's Matters	Cllr Reay provided the following updates on local matters: Cllr Reay advised Councillors that it had been a pleasure to work with the Parish Council. She has worked as hard to champion local issues particularly the Bell Crossroads. She thanked Terry James for his many (15) years of service to the Parish Council and the Clerk for having had a significant impact on key issues impacting the local community.	
2025/067 Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 th March 2025 were circulated to all Councillors. Acceptance of the Minutes of this meeting as an accurate record was proposed by Paul Manning and seconded by Philip Springgate. Except for Terry James (Chairman), Helen Robinson-Gordon and Debbie Savage who was not present at this meeting, all Councillors present voted in favour. A shortened version of this month's minutes to be placed in Spotlight.	Clerk
2025/068 Matters Arising Not Already on the Agenda	None	
2025/069 Items for Discussion from Members of the Parish	None	
2025/070 Local Highways & Footpath Infrastructure Group (LHFIG)	Bell Hill Crossroads New wooden pedestrian Bollards have been installed at all four corners of the junction. It was suggested that reflective strips be attached to the Bollards to enhance their visibility at night. Cllr Reay to liaise with the Highways Engineer. A361 Pavement - The Stocks to Bell Hill Crossroads	Cllr Reay



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	<p>Debris from overhanging trees has made some parts of the pavement difficult to transverse. The pavement is being used more than previous due to at least one family having children attend the toddler and primary school. Cllr Reay agreed to progress the clearing of this pavement with Highways.</p> <p>The Stocks – Request for a review of the 50mph Speed limit Cllr Reay has raised this issue with the cabinet member for Highways (Nick Holder) and agreed to meet with the Highways Engineer to establish a way forward</p> <p>Perrys Lane Although Perrys Lane is the responsibility of Wiltshire Highways it is only maintained to a minimum standard. As such it will receive very little (if any) maintenance. Residents have previously undertaken repair of the more significant discontinuities within the road surface but could do with a little assistance from Wiltshire Highways. Cllr Reay agreed to continue to press for a layer of ‘scalpings’ (road plainings) to be applied. Cllr Reay to liaise with Wiltshire Highways.</p> <p>A date for the next LHFIG meeting will be schedules after the May elections.</p>	<p>Cllr Reay</p> <p>Cllr Reay</p> <p>Cllr Reay</p>
2025/071 Speedwatch	<p>New Mobile SID</p> <p>Wiltshire Council advised they no longer provide steel poles for SID’s. Councillors agreed that the new SID would initially not require its own steel pole as it is expected to be deployed around the parish using existing street furniture for support.</p> <p>Debbie Savage suggested that an initial location could be The Stocks so that vehicle speeds could be recoded to identify what need there is for traffic calming. The results will be shared with Cllr Reay in support of her quest for a review of the current 50mph Speed limit at this location.</p> <p>Tamara thanked the Speedwatch team for their work in reducing average speeds on the High Street</p>	Debbie Savage / Speedwatch
2025/072 Neighbourhood Plan / Wiltshire Local Plan	A Neighbourhood Plan Review team is to be set up after the May Elections. Its initial remit will be to review the existing Plan and provide a list of suggested changes for consideration. A parishioner noted the use of Rural exception sites as a mechanism used to provide additional housing in rural communities such as Seend and hence another reason for keeping the Neighbourhood Plan updated.	
2025/073 Planning Matters	<p>PL/2025/03563 - 5 Weavers Cottages - Installation of Electrical Vehicle (EV) Charger either at the front of the house</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> William proposed this application is approved This was seconded by Jackie Hamblin. All remaining Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>PL/2025/03607- Newhouse Farm, Devizes Road - Proposed Replacement Carport</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> Phil Springate proposed this application is approved This was seconded by Terry James. All remaining Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>It was suggested the Clerk write to the Applicants congratulating them on their realignment of the farm entrance along with the new tree and hedge</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>



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	<p>PL/2024/10205 - Plot 4, Berhills Lane, SN10 1SU - Change of use agricultural to Romany site with 2chalets and a day room</p> <p>The applicants and immediate neighbours were present and provided Councillors with the following comments and reassurances. It transpires that a very small part of the site apparently resides in Seend Parish, hence the opportunity offered by Wiltshire Council for Seend Parish Council to comment directly on this application.</p> <p>Site access, management of waste water, the risk of pollution and associated Health and Safety issues were keen concerns. The applicants advised they had no intention to seek access to the land via Broad Land and were in discussion with Rowde Parish Council about the requirement for emergency vehicle access. They also informed the Parish Council they were considering the use of a Septic tank installation to manage/process waste water and noted that it would be fitted with the appropriate drainage. Neighbours present at the meeting advised they had no objection to the application provided adjacent land was not contaminated by waste water and that there would be no attempt to overspill from the site onto adjacent land.</p> <p>Resolution: William Lack proposed the Parish Council supports this application with a Condition that the land will not be accessible by any means from Broad Lane and a Condition that Wilshire Council oversees the design/installation of an appropriately sized waste water management system with safeguards that protect neighbouring properties/local environment from waste water contamination. This was seconded by John Williams. All remaining Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>Planning Enforcement Cllr Reay was reminded of a number of local issues caused by the lack of Planning Enforcement action regarding the Canal & River Trust (28-day rule- Under English Law, the CRT is to be treated no differently than any other Land Owner), Spiderweb Paddock (Residential occupation) and Blossom Hill (Street Lamp & Hedges illegally planted on the Highway verge)</p> <p>Cllr Reay agreed to follow up these concerns with Wilshire Planning</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Reay</p>
<p>2025/074 Devizes Area Board</p>	<p>Due to the May Elections, the next Area Board meeting will take place on 30th June.</p>	<p>Pamela Akerman / John Williams</p>
<p>2025/075 Items of Correspondence</p>	<p>Weavers Cottages A letter had been received from a resident noting the disabled access on the North side of the A361 pavement at the Bell Crossroads has new posts installed and has asked why this pedestrian pathway has no equivalent Posts installed at Weavers Cottages.</p> <p>The letter also noted that Wiltshire Council has apparently been unable to provide a solution that includes unlawful vehicle parking on the pavement adjacent Weavers Row apart from suggesting the introduction of yellow lines.</p> <p>Councillors listened to comments from residents of Weavers Row including the dispute about the actual road width. Councillors agreed that the deployment of</p>	



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	bollards at the junction of Weavers Row with A361 could reduce small vehicle visibility and hence were not supportive of this suggestion. They also concluded that the underlying issue of access could be discussed and resolved between the residents.	
2025/076 Parish Steward	<p>The Clerk to request the Parish Steward undertake the following work:</p> <p>In preparation for the Best Kept Village Competition, could the Parish Steward clear weeds from The High Street in front of the Lye Field and between School Lane to Dial Close</p> <p>Adjust the catch on the gate at the top of Love Lane by Circular Seat to negate the need to lift the gate on closing.</p>	Clerk
2025/077 Allotments	An Allotment has become available at Bell Hill. The Clerk and Helen Robinson-Gordon have placed notices on Facebook and Seend Plant and Seed Swap site. To be eligible applicants must have a permanent resident in Seend. Interested applicants should contact the clerk via email.	
2025/078 Seend Fund	<p>A letter from the trustees of the Seend Fund had been circulated to Councillors asking for the Parish Council's support (as cited in their constitution) for the re-appointment of four of their trustees.</p> <p>Frank Teesdale as a representative of the Fund for more than 30 years kindly attended the meeting and gave an outline of the fund's heritage (The current fund was formed in 2007 from an amalgamation of some older charities) and explained that proceeds from the fund are allocated each year to the church (~25%) with the remainder allocated to residents or people closely associate with the Parish who were experiencing financial hardship. He explained that on average they make about 8-10 donations each year.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> William Lack proposed the Parish Council formally approve the re-appointment of the 4 nominee trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dick Church • Jackie Hamblin • Jane Fishlock • Anita Shea <p>This was seconded by Phil Springate. All Councillors present voted in favour.</p>	
2025/079 Election Update	<p>The following Councillors will be Elected at the forthcoming May Election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Akerman • Jamie Halliday • Bridget Johnstone • William Lack • Paul Manning • Helen Robinson-Gordon • Deborah Savage • Philip Springate • John Williams <p>The first meeting of the new Councillors will take place on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7pm in the Irene Usher Memorial Hall.</p>	



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<p>2025/080 AGAR – Annual General Accounts Review</p>	<p>AGAR – Annual General Accounts Review</p> <p>a) Annual Internal Audit Report</p> <p>The Internal Auditors Report had been previously circulated to Councillors. Whilst the report made no recommendations it was noted the new Assets values had inadvertently included VAT and advised that the Council to check with HMRC to establish if any Employer National Insurance Contributions (NIC's) are due. The Clerk contacted HMRC and was advised the Parish Council owed £61.60 in Class A NIC for the financial period 2024-25. This will be paid in the April 2025 accounts.</p> <p>Due to VAT being included in the Earmarked Reserves for the new SID's the reserve has been updated with a revised total of £18,066. As a result, the General Reserve is now £10,446 which is 44% of this year's Precept. Best practice suggest that the General Reserve should be ~50% of the Precept hence we were showing a temporary overcommitment within our Earmarked reserves of £1,480. This was corrected when the VAT refund (£2,247) was received, giving the council a surplus of £767.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> Terry James proposed and John Williams seconded the acceptance of the Internal Auditors Report. All Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>The Clerk to send a copy of the Annual internal Audit Report to the External Auditors.</p> <p>b) Annual Governance Statement</p> <p>The Annual Governance Statement had been circulated to all Councillors before the meeting. All agreed he answers given were a true reflection of the Council's actions during the financial year.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> John Williams proposed and Phil Springate seconded the approval of the completed Corporate Governance Questionnaire. All Councillors present voted in favour</p> <p>The Clerk to send a copy of the Annual Governance Statement to the External Auditors.</p> <p>c) Accounting Statements 2024/25</p> <p>The Accounting Statements had been updated with the revised asset values and circulated to all Councillors before the meeting. All agreed the answers given were a true reflection of the Council's Income & Expenditure and actions during the financial year.</p> <p>Resolution: Martin Williams proposed and Debbie Savage seconded the approval of the Accounting Statements. All Councillors present voted in favour.</p> <p>The Clerk to send a copy of the Accounting Statements to the External Auditors.</p>	<p>\</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>



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	<p>Parish Council Facebook Group Councillors agreed that the Council Facebook Group should be accessible for all Councillors (who wished to take part) to post messages on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Lye Outdoor Gym Some Councillors noted that there had previously been some concerns about the creation of an outdoor gym in the village.</p> <p>Seend Cleeve Village Sign The Clerk to include this item in the discussion with the Highways Engineer to seek his support for such an initiative and what the best route would be to make such a request to Highways.</p> <p>Chairman's Retirement the Chairman gave the following speech in his own unequitable style...</p> <p><i>"Well, that's me done and dusted, I would just to thank all the councillors I have had the privilege to work with over the last 15 plus years of me being a member of the Seend Parish council, for their hard work and dedication to make Seend a better and more desirable village to live.</i></p> <p><i>I would also like to thank the clerks who have been involved with the Parish Council during my time, namely Rosemary Fisher, Sue Bond and Chris Stirland. They have certainly made the role of Parish Councillor and chairman a lot easier for me and I wish Hayley all the best in her role as clerk to Seend Parish Council."</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>																				
<p>2025/081 Date of Next meetings</p>	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.15pm The next Parish Council meetings are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 1193 1289 1350"> <thead> <tr> <th>Meeting</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> <th>Venue</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual Parish Council Mtg</td> <td>Monday 12th May</td> <td>7.00pm</td> <td>Irene Usher Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annual Parish Meeting</td> <td>Monday 12th May</td> <td>7/30pm</td> <td>Irene Usher Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Council Meeting</td> <td>Tuesday 25th May</td> <td>7.00pm</td> <td>Community Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Council Meeting</td> <td>Tuesday 24th June</td> <td>7.00pm</td> <td>Community Centre</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Meeting	Date	Time	Venue	Annual Parish Council Mtg	Monday 12 th May	7.00pm	Irene Usher Hall	Annual Parish Meeting	Monday 12 th May	7/30pm	Irene Usher Hall	Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 25 th May	7.00pm	Community Centre	Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 24 th June	7.00pm	Community Centre	
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xxx (Chair)

Date: 27th May 2025

