

SEAGRY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Council Meeting

held at 7.30pm

The Goss Croft Hall, Upper Seagry SN15 5HD

13th January 2026

Present: Cllr M Barber (Chairman), Cllr A Ball, Cllr N Hutton, Cllr Emma Sorrell, Cllr K Taylor and Cllr N Watson.

Also Present: Wiltshire Cllr H Greenman and Mr V Vines MBE Clerk of the Council.

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the Meeting was given in accordance with Schedule 12, para 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Questions raised.

REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLOR, PARISH COUNCILLORS & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Wiltshire Councillor H Greenman was frustrated that no consultation had been allowed before a decision was taken by Wiltshire Cabinet to close two Household recycling centres, (at Purton and at Lower Compton, Calne). When this happened, residents would have to use the small site at Stanton St Quintin (or alternatively that on the far side of Marlborough). A booking system would be put in place in the hope of reducing the frequent queues.

Wiltshire Cabinet had also proposed that kerbside recycling and rubbish collections should be changed to a 3-weekly rotation in future. This would be considered at Full Council in February.

He updated the Council on the situation regarding the Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Site Allocation Plan Update and reminded all that the next Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.00pm in Kington St Michael Village Hall with the Guest Speaker being a Wiltshire Council Senior Planning Officer who had suggested that it would be helpful if he could have some advance warning of questions.

There were no further Reports.

52/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Barr (Vice Chairman).

53/25 Declaration(s) of Interest - in accordance with Seagry Parish Council's Code of Conduct (Adopted 9th November 2021) and Standing Orders (Adopted 12th May 2015)

There were no Declarations of Interest.

54/25 MINUTES Members had been previously circulated with the Minutes.

The Council received, approved and signed as a true record the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 11th November 2025. **Cllr N Hutton proposed, seconded Cllr K Taylor and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

55/25 PLANNING

Planning Applications: There were no planning applications considered on this occasion.

Planning General: The Council received notification of the following planning related matters.

a) Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document Update (DPD).

Notification had been received that Wiltshire Council were re-commencing the process following the deferment of a decision and as part of the review they had re-opened their “call for sites” giving the opportunity for landowners to submit sites for assessment and potential allocation in the revised DPD. The Council had considered this at the last Council Meeting and determined that there were no suitable sites within the Parish that could be suggested, as Seagry is an un-sustainable location. It was reported that recent planning appeal decisions and enforcement action could increase the numbers required as would the Government’s requirement to include non-travellers and van dwellers. **(noted)**

b) PL/2025/06615 – Full Planning Permission

Proposed Erection of building comprising 4 No. flexible B8 storage and distribution and/or Class E (g) Commercial, Business and Services units and erection of building for mixed agricultural and equestrian workshop, storage and estate office and stables, all following demolition of existing B8 storage building and site remediation, together with associated parking, servicing, drainage, infrastructure, biodiversity net gain and landscaping and alterations to existing vehicular access

Building at Seagry House, Off Henn Lane and Startley Road,

Upper Seagry SN15 5HD

For Thala Family Investments Ltd

The Council had considered this planning application on the 9th September 2025 and had submitted comments including further comments on revisions to the application. It was reported that an Ecology Report was now online and that the application could be on the Agenda of the February Northern Area Planning Committee. **(noted)**

c) Notice of Acceptance of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008 – Lime Down Solar Park.

Notification had been received that proposals (EN010168) for Five Solar Array Sites, etc. was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 19th September 2025 and was accepted for examination on the 17th October 2025.

Hard copy details could be viewed at Malmesbury, Chippenham, Corsham, Melksham and Yate Libraries. Representations and PINS Registration had been required by 23:59pm Friday the 9th January 2026. The Council had previously discussed this large scale proposal and submitted comments and the Clerk registered their interests within the required timescale to allow them to comment further as the examination proceeds. **(noted)**

- d) PL/2025/04856 – Full Planning Permission
Change of Use from Holiday Accommodation to Independent Dwelling
The Anchorage, Nables Farm, Scotland Hill, Upper Seagry SN15 5HB
For Mr Andrew Jackson **Approved with Conditions 17th November 2025**

There were no further planning matters reported.

56/25 FINANCE

The Council considered financial matters and received notification of receipts, invoices for payment and invoices paid since the last Council Meeting.

- a) **Payments:** The Council considered and approved the following Payments.

Black Nova Designs. Website Hosting etc. Inv 29880	03.01.26	£ 112.80
Mr N Watson. Parish Steward gift. reimbursement	13.01.26	£ 22.50

Cllr M Barber proposed, Cllr Emma Sorrell seconded and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

- b) **Payments made since last Meeting:** The Council **noted** the following payments had been made since the last Council Meeting.

Mr R Tucker. Grass cutting. Inv 07	08.11.25	£ 100.00
Mr R Tucker. Grass cutting Seagry Allotments Inv 07	08.11.25	£ 20.00
Mr R Tucker. Grass cutting. Spitfire Memorial Inv 07	08.11.25	£ 120.00
Public Works Loan Board. BACs loan payment	16.12.25	£ 2,601.16

- c) **Receipts:** The Council **noted** there had been no receipts since the last Council Meeting

- d) **Bank Account Balance/s** The Council noted the following balance. **(noted)**

Lloyds Account No. 00454316	28 th November 2025	£ 51,045.98
Lloyds Account No. 00454316	31 st December 2026	£ 48,439.96

- e) **Council Budget, Budget Proposals and Precept for Year 2026-2027:**

The Council considered Budget proposals for Year 2026-2027 together with background advice in regards to potential capping implications for future Capital and Revenue spending requirements. There was a need to agree a Precept requirement at the Meeting to meet the Wiltshire Council notification timescale of 20th January 2026. Detailed consideration was given to a forward budget and cost pressures. The Council was mindful of the fact that any increases proposed needed the support of Parishioners. The Public Works Board Loan repayment of £5,202.32 for the Goss Croft Hall build was a continuing commitment that was a significant proportion of the budget. In addition the Council acknowledged that with Wiltshire Council continuing

to reduce services there could be a need for the Parish Council to carry out additional tasks. This could include increases in LHFIFG financial support for local projects.

The Council had set the Precept for Year 2025-2026 at £24,000.00. The Clerk provided a Schedule that included an estimated outturn for Year End. Several projects would be completed within the year. The Council agreed that as a matter of principle there was a need to maintain the Capital Fund by resisting reductions to support the Revenue Account and agreed that the Council would remain in a healthy financial position at end of year. The Council noted that the 2026-2027 Band D Tax Base had changed from 182.23 to 179.28 per property. The Clerk provided spending options that included a standstill situation and implications resulting from a Precept increase or reduction and after consideration it was felt that to cover inflation, proposed spending to retain the Capital set aside and to cover local support for projects there was a need to increase the Precept this year. **It was agreed to request a Precept requirement of £26,000.00 for the next Council Year.** This could be accommodated with an increase in Band D property charge of £13.25 per year (£131.77 increased to £145.02).

Cllr M Barber proposed, Cllr N Hutton seconded and RESOLVED BY MAJORITY

57/25 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) **Parish Stewards Programme/Requirements:** general issues for the Local Highway & Streetscene Community Team. Cllr N Watson updated the Council advising that he had met the Parish Steward and agreed requirements. Parish Steward visits scheduled for 2026 were 6th/7th January, 3rd/4th March, 2nd/7th April, 2nd/3rd June, 2nd/6th July, 2nd/3rd September, 5th/6th October, 3rd/4th November and 2nd December 2026 (second date refers to half a day in each case). The Parish Steward needed to be informed of required works and a template was available to register the top five priorities. However, the Council had been notified that the service had been suspended for a concentration on highway pothole repairs throughout the County. **(noted)**
- b) **Rights of Way:** Cllr A Ball updated the Council on progress, particularly mentioning a slight issue with the handing of the kissing gate that was being resolved. Future projects were under consideration and landowners needed to be reminded of their legal responsibilities and that the Council project was not intended to cover all costs. **(noted)**
- c) **Highway Conditions and Maintenance:** general issues in regards to Highway Conditions and Maintenance within the Parish.
 - a. Provision of Additional salt/grit bins. There had been no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting and **the Council agreed that** with no support now available from Wiltshire Highways they should purchase and install 2 No bins to service the School and Henn Lane/Scotland Hill areas. The costs would be investigated.
 - b. Wiltshire Council – Green Rating. The rating for pothole filling, etc may be welcomed but there remained a significant need shown by the suspension of Parish Steward visits and required re-surfacing works. **(noted)**

- c. Seales Court area – Highway re-surfacing etc. As reported at the last Council Meeting it was understood that Wiltshire Highways had included this in their forward works programming. In the interim it was noticeable a significant quantity of highway cones that had been deployed. **(noted)**

58/25 STANDING ITEMS

- a) **Recreation Ground:** There was no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. The Council was aware that they had pledged a Section 137 grant of £2,500.00 towards projects and that there had been no request for this to date. **(noted)**
- b) **Notice Boards:** There were no issues raised. **(noted)**
- c) **Flooding & Drainage:** The Council had yet to receive a map of the significant highway drainage works carried out around Hungerdown House last year for future reference. **(noted)**
- d) **Parish/Community Website/Social Media:** There remained a need for all Members to provide up to date information, contact details, photos, etc for the Council website. **(noted)**
- e) **Asset Register:** There was no update necessary. **(noted)**
- f) **School Liaison:** There was no update on this occasion. **(noted)**
- g) **Council Standing Orders & Financial Regulations:** There was no update necessary. **(noted)**
- h) **Council Code of Conduct:** There was no update necessary. **(noted)**
- i) **Risk Assessment, Health & Safety and Management Register:** There was no update necessary. **(noted)**
- j) **Freedom of Information Act-Publication Scheme:** There was no update necessary. **(noted)**
- k) **Seagry Spitfire Memorial:** There had been no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. There was a need to seek an update on the present circumstances. **(noted)**
- l) **Goss Croft Hall:** It was reported that a new Trustee from the Startley area had been found. The Annual General Meeting was to take place on the 3rd February 2026. **(noted)**
- m) **Allotments:** There were no issues raised. **(noted)**
- n) **Wiltshire Council Chippenham Area Board and Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum:** The Area Board had met on the 10th November 2025 at 7.00pm in the Wiltshire History Centre, Chippenham. The next was scheduled for the 9th February 2026 in the same venue. The Parish Forum had met on Wednesday 26th November 2025 in the St Mary Magdalene Church, Hullavington. The Guest Speaker had been from the SSEN (Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks). The next Forum Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.00pm in Kington St Michael Village Hall. The Guest

Speaker would be Simon Smith, Wiltshire Council Senior Planning Officer. He had suggested that it would be helpful if he could have some advance warning of specific questions so that he can be properly prepared. **(noted)**

- o) **Parochial Church Council:** There was no update on this occasion. **(noted)**
- p) **Seagry Neighbourhood Plan:** There was no update required on this occasion. **(noted)**
- q) **Neighbourhood Watch:** There was no update. **(noted)**
- r) **Emergency Planning:** There had been no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. Cllr M Barber would consider further and report accordingly. **(noted)**
- s) **Insurance:** There was no update required on this occasion. **(noted)**
- t) **Signpost Magazine:** Cllr A Ball would submit any articles on Parish Council matters when timescales allowed. **(noted)**
- u) **Seagry Community Forum:** There was no update. **(noted)**
- v) **Community Speedwatch (CSW):** Minute 50/25 (c) below refers. **(noted)**
- w) **Defibrillator Project:** The SW Ambulance Trust had been in touch and a joint PC training session would be held in the Spring. This was now scheduled for the 14th April 2026 at 7.00pm in the Goss Croft Hall, Upper Seagry. This should be well advertised to ensure the community was aware.
- x) **Data Protection. GDPR:** There was no update required. **(noted)**

59/25 CLERKS REPORT

The following items were received for decision, information, and circulation and for future discussion and matters arising and updates from previous meeting/s.

- a) **Autospeedwatch Devices.** There was no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. **(noted)**
- b) **Speed Identification Devices (SIDs).** There was no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. Cllr M Barber would pass on the data downloading information to Cllr N Hutton. **(noted)**
- c) **Community Speedwatch Team.** There was no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. **(noted)**
- d) **Wiltshire Operational Flood Group North.** The Flood Group had met on Wednesday 19th November 2025. The Agenda, venue and hybrid meeting details had been provided. The date scheduled for the next Flood Group Meeting was the 21st January 2026. On completion of the works adjacent to Hungerdown House the Council had requested a map identifying the works that had been carried out so that they held a record for future use. **(noted)**
- e) **Chippenham Local Highway and Footpath Group (LHFIG).** The last LHFIG Meeting was held on the 16th October 2025 at 10.00am in Committee Room A,

Monkton Park Council Offices. The Note Tracker had been provided. The next LHFIG Meeting had been scheduled for the 8th January 2026 at 10.00am in the same venue. **(noted)**

- f) **Community Governance Review (CGR).** Pursuant to Minute 49/25 (r). Notification had been received that the Electoral Review Committee of Wiltshire Council will not be considering Seagry Parish in their first reviews. **(noted)**
- g) **Wiltshire Council Briefing Note 25-09.** The Council noted receipt of a Briefing Note in regards to the Community Governance Review process. **(noted)**
- h) **Wessex Water – Community Drop-in.** The Council had been advised that Wessex Water were holding sessions to allow customers to come and talk to them about water related issues, including bills. Local sessions were planned for Tuesdays 20th January, 10th March and 5th May 2026 at 10-12am and 1-2pm in Chippenham Library, Market Place, Chippenham. **(noted)**
- i) **Flood Wessex Lunch & Learns Sessions.** The Council had received invitations. Future online Sessions were planned, the next being on the 22nd January 2026 and details had been provided. **(noted)**
- j) **Wiltshire Council PEAS 25/26.** It was confirmed that existing stocks were sufficient. There was a possibility that Parishes may need to purchase stocks in future years as Wiltshire Council policy may change. **(noted)**
- k) **Wiltshire Council Briefing Note 25-10.** The Council noted receipt of a Briefing Note in regards to the Us Girls Melksham pilot. **(noted)**
- l) **Upper Seagry One-Way System highway proposal.** Pursuant to Minute 49/25 (m). The Council considered that this was part of potential ideas for a traffic management strategy for the village and that in future the Agenda item should be titled as such. Further advice would be sought from LHFIG to seek Wiltshire Highways views.
- m) **Business Plan.** Pursuant to Minutes 49/25 (n). The matter was deferred until the next Council Meeting. **(noted)**
- n) **WALC Environment Network.** The Council had received an invitation to the inaugural meeting of the new Network. Details were circulated. The meeting would take place by TEAMS on Thursday 29th January 2026 between 12:00 and 13:00. The Clerk agreed that he would attend to ascertain the value of the proposal. **(noted)**
- o) **CPRE Wiltshire – Best Kept Village Competition 2026.** The Council had received an early approach reminding Councils that they might like to enter this year's Competition that marks 100 years of the CPRE. It was usual for the Parish Council to ascertain the views of the Parish at the Annual Parish Meeting, which was scheduled for Tuesday 21st April 2026. **(noted)**

60/25 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING

There were no issues raised.

61/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm** in The Goss Croft Hall, Upper Seagry, unless otherwise notified. However, Members noted that Tuesday 10th February 2026 was scheduled for a Council Planning Meeting and Notice would be given if this Meeting was required.

PART 2 AGENDA

As the following Item/s related to Confidential Matters, and in accordance with Seagry Parish Council Standing Orders (Admission of Public and Press to Meetings) it was considered that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as amended), the Public and Press should be excluded for the remainder of the Meeting and that they were instructed to withdraw.

- a) **Planning Enforcement Matters.** The Council considered that a change of use may have occurred in the Scotland Hill area of the Parish. From surrounding views there appeared to be a change in the general character of the area that historically was a camping & caravanning site. The Council had no enforcement powers, but it was the duty of the Council to invite Wiltshire Council to investigate the matter to ascertain if the uses being carried out are un-authorised. The Council agreed that Wiltshire Council should be informed of concerns so that any development was approved and contained planning conditions.
- b) **Wiltshire Pond Scheme for Great Crested Newts.** The Council had been introduced to the Wiltshire Pond Scheme for Great Crested Newts in a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust December Newsletter. This covered pond creation and restoration across Wiltshire and the Council agreed that this would be beneficial to landowners who might wish to be party to the proposals. The information would be passed to landowners for their perusal.

Signed:

Date: **10th March 2026**