

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at St George's School Wembdon on 24th April 2017 that commenced at 7pm when the following business was transacted

Present: Cllr M Solomon (Chairman), Cllr N Harrison, Cllr D Gliddon, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr A Reed, Cllr J Riddle and Cllr R Webber.

District Cllr Dyer, County Cllr Edney.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay **Police:** None

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting Cllr Brian Webb had resigned his position as Parish Councillor. There are now two vacancies on the Council. Also with regret he informed the meeting that an ex-Chairman and Councillor, Brian Webb had passed away. Thanks were expressed for the contribution Mr Webb made to the Parish Council and the village. A short period of silence was held in his memory.

A Parishioner asked that the verge between The Oaks and Keltings be cleaned of litter, leaves and branches. The road sweeper cannot get close enough to the wall to clear this debris. SDC has agreed to carry out this task in the past. District Cllr Dyer said that he would arrange for this to take place.

It was also reported that the recycling collection teams sometimes drop rubbish, which they do not pick up. District Cllr Dyer will report this.

1.17 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr J Woods and District Cllrs Bown and Duddridge.

2.17 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations were received.

3.17 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

No Police report had been received and there was no Police presence.

4.17 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th March 2017.

Resolved: To approve the minutes as a correct record.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (6 in favour, 1 abstentions)

Signature of Chairman

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a correct record.

5.17 To receive the Clerks report.

The snagging work on the new fence at the Children's playground has been completed.

The Bridgwater Bolt 10k running race will be passing through Wembdon on the morning of 30th April 2017. All necessary permissions for the race have been obtained from SDC.

The Public Protection Order for the playing fields is being processed and a decision should be known by October. If granted then this would mean that anyone exercising a dog off a lead in the relevant areas can be issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice or prosecution at the discretion of the SDC dog warden.

Correspondence has been circulated regarding the Lord Lieutenant's 'Great Get Together'. It was decided that with all of the activities surrounding the opening of the new Village Hall, the Parish Council would not take a lead in organising this event.

Parish Council meetings traditionally were held on the second Monday of each month. This changed when the Clerk was appointed as he was not available that evening. This situation has now changed so there will be an agenda item for the May meeting 'to consider changing the day of the monthly Parish Council meeting from the third Monday of each month to the second'.

6.17 To receive an update regarding a Neighbourhood Plan from Cllrs Harrison and Reed on behalf of the steering group.

This will be adjourned until the September meeting.

7.17 To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges.

A kissing gate on the Parrett Trail is tied up with bailer twine and needs repair to stop it swinging into the road. This involves a safety risk. The location is at the point where the trail crosses Blakes Farm and meets Blakes Road. The Clerk will report this to SCC.

There are a lot of nettles near the kissing gates. The Chairman will speak to the maintenance contractor regarding this.

There is a section of verge from the allotments down to the Church which is privately owned and overgrown. It needs cutting back. Cllr Harrison will contact the owner and ask for the vegetation to be cut back.

Two potholes in Church Road have been filled in at the Parish Council's expense.

A request has been made for the Parish Council to pay for the installation of a dropped kerb on Wembdon Hill outside the Cottage Inn. This is a privately owned section of pavement, owned by the Cottage Inn, who are prepared for the kerb to be dropped, but do not wish to pay for the cost. The Parish Council are not in the position to finance this request as dropped kerbs are not within the remit of the Parish Council and if financed could lead to a large number of similar requests elsewhere.

The only way forward is for the County Council and the Cottage Inn to debate the issue and try to come to some financial arrangement between them for this work to take place.

8.17 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on Highways and Speedwatch.

Signature of Chairman

The SID team will be meeting shortly to finalise arrangements to enable the SID to be used.

9.17 To receive a report on the Playing Fields.

The monthly play area report shows that there are only a few low risk items. The play area is being extremely well used. The 'binoculars' from the play equipment were removed a few weeks ago but have now reappeared and need to be refitted.

There is a small group of around six youths who seem intent upon carrying out damage in the village green area. They may be responsible for this.

A request has been made for goal posts to be put up on the Parish Council land. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting. The request came through Facebook.

It was agreed that when a Facebook request is received then the person making the request should be asked to submit a request either by letter or email to the Clerk and the Parish Council will then consider debating the matter at a future meeting. It would then be expected that the person making the request attends the next Parish Council meeting to present the request.

The footpath on the parkland from the bridge was discussed. The first section is owned by the Liddell family. The second part leading down to the traffic lights is owned by the Parish Council. This length of footpath is in a very bad state and is not wheelchair friendly. The repair of this path will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The next Give a Day will be held on 6th May commencing at 10am at Parkland Bridge.

10.17 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments.

There are now only a few non-payers for the current year. Three or four allotments will be let in the coming weeks. There is a waiting list of four or five people.

11.17 To receive a report from Cllr Jackson regarding communications.

The next magazine will be published at the end of May.

Cllr Gliddon was thanked for all his swift responses to messages posted on the Facebook site. There are now a huge number of followers.

12.17 To consider the delivery arrangements for the Parish Magazine.

Cllr Jackson has divided the Parish into ten areas which can be allocated to Councillors. When organisations ask for editorial to be freely included in the magazine they are normally asked if they could deliver some magazines in return. Unfortunately, this is never taken up. This will be pushed in the future.

13.17 To receive an update on the Village Green and Village Hall project from Cllr Solomon.

Things are going extremely well. A number of opening ceremonies will be taking place during the Summer, including the Open day for the community on 22nd July.

14.17 To consider possible actions by the Council to maintain and generally improve the "Wembdon Streetscene".

Cllr Reed was thanked for all her hard work cleaning the telephone box. The bus shelter is also in need of attention. It needs a good cleaning and possibly a coat of paint. This work could be done at a future Give a Day. An alternative would be to ask

Signature of Chairman

the Scouts if they could help. Cllr Webber will have a look at the shelter to see what type of paint would be needed.

15.17 To consider a financial update and to approve payments:

(a) Statutory Payments as per agreement under minute no 324/13

(b) Non Statutory Payments List:

Cheque no	Payee	Detail	Amount
300624	Anthony Jay	Expenses for Jan – March including Stationery £22.96	£595.51
300625	C and S Print Services	Maps for Contractor applicants	£48.00
300627	RT Signs**	Plaques for benches	£120.00
300628	Broxap**	Benches and fittings	£764.40
300629	Strictly Tables and Chairs**	Chairs and tables for hall	£5425.85
300630	SCC	Room hire	£338.00
300631	Harris Bros and Collard**	Concrete bases	£947.40
300633	Parrett Internal Drainage Board	Drainage Rates	£14.85
300634	SDC	Dog bins	£1505.09

** To be reimbursed by the Village Hall Trust

A budget update had been pre circulated to members

Resolved: To approve the payments.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

16.17 To consider matters of report:

The road surface in Wembdon Rise is cracking up badly. This needs to be reported again to SCC.

The Clerk will ask Lawrence Hackling to attend the Parish where he can be shown the present problems. Cllr Harrison agreed to meet with him.

Date of next meeting: 15th May 2017

The meeting concluded at 7.59pm.

Signature of Chairman