

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Clerk
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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at St. Georges School Wembdon on **25th January 2016** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted

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

Cllr A Bown, Cllr I. Dyer, Cllr J. Edney.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

171/15 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gliddon, Thake and Woods.

172/15 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations were received.

173/15 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

PC Tony Freeman and PCSO Dan Weller presented the Police report. In December there were 189 reported crimes in the whole beat (down from 300 the previous month) with 4 in the Wembdon area. These were 1 x found property, 1 x domestic incident, 1 x shed burglary and 1 x common assault. The Police are still patrolling the site of the new pavilion and the allotments. No reports of anti-social behavior were received in December. A road traffic collision took place recently on Wembdon Hill where a motorist was speeding. The Chairman asked that the Police continue to focus on traffic problems on Wembdon Hill.

174/15 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st December 2015.

Resolved: To approve the minutes as a correct record.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a correct record.

Signature of Chairman

175/15 To receive the Clerks report.

The Clerk reported that eviction notices had now been served on the two allotment holders who had not paid in 2015/16. The plots will be available to be re-let on 1st April. The allotment AGM will be held on 7th March.

SDC will be deciding whether the signs advertising trades or businesses on the roadside are breaching planning regulations. The Clerk was asked to write to the two households in question, asking them to remove the signs.

The work to the verges in Skimmerton Lane is due to be carried out before the end of February.

Letters have been written to the new Head Teacher at St. Georges Church of England School congratulating her on her appointment, and to the retiring Secretary, wishing her a happy retirement.

The overgrown hedge on Wembdon Hill was discussed. SCC has decided that the hedge does not cause a danger to motorists. The Councillors commented that the hedge is creeping out into the road, at least a foot beyond the kerb, which causes cyclists and pedestrians who pass the hedge to be forced too far into the carriageway. Cllr Dyer said that flailing work was taking place on 26th January, and the hedge could be cut then. The householder will be contacted on the 26th to see if she wanted the hedge to be cut.

176/15 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments.

Two new tenants have been found for the plots that are being repossessed.

177/15 To receive an address from Simon Bawler of Sedgemoor District Council in regard to the implementation of an alcohol ban at Wembdon allotments.

Simon Bawler did not attend the meeting. An invitation will be sent for him to attend the next meeting.

178/15 To receive an update regarding a Neighbourhood Plan from Cllr Harrison on behalf of the steering group.

Cllr Reed said that the first meeting of the steering group will be held at the Cottage Inn on 2nd February. All members of the public are invited to attend.

179/15 To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges.

The pathway between Blakes Lane and Moores Lane has now been fenced in by the owner, which will prevent the horses attacking dogs. Crowpill Lane is very muddy, following building work that has recently taken place. The lane is impassable in places for pedestrians. The

Chairman will contact the contractor who has left the mud on the road asking for it to be removed.

180/15 To receive a report from Cllr Reed on Highways and Speedwatch.

The Chairman will contact Dave Grabham to progress the SID programme. Speeding on Wembdon Hill continues to be a concern. Householders are experiencing difficulty in pulling out from their driveways due to vehicles travelling too quickly. The Chairman will contact Andy Coupe at SCC regarding this problem.

181/15 To receive a report from Cllr Thake on the Playing Fields.

Cllr Riddle asked whether our play equipment is painted with lead paint. All of the recently installed equipment does not have lead paint, but the older equipment may have. Julie Cooper of SDC will be carrying out inspections.

A complaint has been received regarding the amount of dog mess throughout the village, both on the playing field and on footpaths. Cllr Harrison will be contacting the dog warden regarding the problem.

182/15 To receive a report from the Communications Working Group from Cllrs Jackson and Bingham.

Articles are needed for the Parish Magazine by the end of January. The statements issued by the Wembdon Village Hall trust are now widely available on the website and Facebook. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Bingham and Woods for their efforts.

183/15 To consider possible actions by the Council to maintain and generally improve the “Wembdon Streetscene”.

Questions will be asked of the community in the next Parish Magazine ‘What would people like to see in Wembdon? What is iconic and worth preserving’.

184/15 To receive an update on the Village Green and Village Hall project from Cllr Solomon and to consider how the Parish Council could provide support to the project.

The understanding of Wembdon Village Hall Trust is that Woodlands Building Contractors, the main contractor for the new village hall, has now ceased trading, although the Trust has not yet received official confirmation of this. There are contractual issues with the ongoing project, which the Trust believes will be placed in the hands of an administrator. Matters are being dealt with through the Trust’s Employers’ Agent. The intent is that the project will be re-mobilised when the position has become clear. There could be a delay in the project completion date of around six weeks.

It was reported to the Parish Council in December that the funding from Viridor for the NDR road access had now disappeared.

Signature of Chairman

The question was asked whether the Parish Council should be taking a more material supporting role in regard to the Village Hall project.

Various views were expressed by the Councillors:

'It would be a travesty if we had a Village Hall which had not been fully completed, or does not have a proper vehicular access'.

'I would hate to see the project not progress through lack of funding. Most villages would be expected to pay towards a project such as this'.

'We fund the allotments and the provision of dog bins for minority groups in the Village. Therefore we should also support the Village Hall project'.

'An entrance from the NDR is the number one priority for the residents of Wembdon, to prevent vehicles having to enter the site via Church Road'

'The Cricket Club has donated £50,000 to the project. The Parish Council should also contribute'.

'We were originally assured that the project would be completed without funding from an increase in the precept. I am against an increase in the precept to help fund the project'.

It was proposed that the Parish Council take responsibility for the provision of the access from the NDR if no other source of funding is forthcoming, for the benefit of the whole community.

Resolved: That the Parish Council takes responsibility for the provision of the access, if no other source of income is forthcoming.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (5 in favour, 2 abstentions).

It was proposed that the Parish Council appoint a trustee to the Village Hall trust.

Resolved: That Cllr Harrison is appointed a trustee.

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

185/15

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:

St. Georges Centre	Room hire	£46.75
SALC	Training Course	£60.00
Wessex Water	Water bill – allotments	£79.23
J. Jackson	Leaflet distribution	£200.00

Signature of Chairman

ALCA	Clerk's annual subscription	£70.00
Anthony Jay	Clerk's expenses	£544.69

A budget update sheet was pre circulated to members. No questions were asked.

Resolved: To approve the statutory and non-statutory payments.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

186/15 To approve the budget and precept for 2016/17.

The Finance Committee met earlier that day. They reported to the full Council as follows:

- The Parish Council's finances are in order. There may be a small surplus at the end of the financial year. The precept should be raised by 3% to cover inflation.
- Additionally, if the Parish Council resolves to take responsibility for the funding of the access from the NDR to the Village Hall then the precept should be increased by £7,400 per year to fund a 30 year loan to pay for this. In the event that funding comes from other sources then the extra income raised would be used to repay some of the allotment loan.

The Clerk told the meeting that a £7,400 increase in the precept would mean an increase of about £5 per household, or slightly over £2 per adult per year.

Resolved: To approve a total precept demand of £65,097 not including the Council Tax support grant received from SDC.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (5 in favour, 2 abstentions)

187/15 To approve the attendance of members of the Planning Committee at a 'Negotiate a better outcome in planning' training session in Somerton on 9th March 2016 at the cost of £75 per person.

Resolved: That Cllrs Harrison, Gliddon and Webber attend, along with any other members of the planning committee who wish to do so.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

188/15 To review Standing Orders

Standing Orders were reviewed. No changes were made.

189/15 To review Financial Regulations

Financial regulations were reviewed. No changes were made.

190/15 To set a date for the 2016 Parish Assembly

Signature of Chairman

A discussion took place when it was proposed to hold the Parish Assembly on the same date as the April Parish Council meeting (18th April). The normal Parish Council meeting will be held between 6.30pm and 7.00pm, with a very short agenda simply covering essential business. The Parish Assembly will commence at 7pm. The Chairman will invite the leader of SDC to attend. Local organisations will be invited to attend and speak to the Assembly.

Resolved: To hold the Parish Assembly at 7pm on 18th April.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

191/15 To consider matters of report:

An update regarding the proposed purchase of the Cottage Inn was given to the meeting.

192/15 Date of next meeting: It was proposed that there was no need to hold a meeting in February 2016, as the January meeting had been held very late in the month.

Resolved: To hold the next Parish Council meeting on 21st March 2016 at St. Georges School, Wembdon.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signature of Chairman