

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Clerk
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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at St George's School Wembdon on **16th January 2017** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted

Present: Cllr M Solomon, Cllr D Gliddon, Cllr N Harrison, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr A Reed, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr T Thake, Cllr B Webb and Cllr R Webber.

County and District Cllrs A Bown and L Duddridge.

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

153/16 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr J Woods, and District Cllr I. Dyer

154/16 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations were received

155/16 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

There was no Police presence. The Clerk read the Police report:

In total for December we received 554 Calls to Police creating logs to respond to for our beat AW040

Wembdon's break down was as follows:-

1 x youths smoking Cannabis in Church Car Park – attended all searched, vehicle smelt of Cannabis nothing found; 1 x attempt theft from Motor vehicle; 1 x theft from a garden; 1 x dogs loose on the road; 1 x assault; 2 x Criminal Damage; 2 x Public order; 2 x Harassment; 1 x concern for welfare; 1 x found property; 1 x suspicious incident; 3 x abandoned 999 calls; 1 x deceased person; 1 x assist ambulance; 2 x road related incident; 3 x ASB.

The Clerk said that before Christmas he emailed the PCC Sue Mountstevens asking why there is rarely a Police attendance at Parish Council meetings, and also why a Police report is often not received. He has today received a phone call from her staff officer, Ashley Jones, who gave him the following answer to his queries:

Signature of Chairman

- Police Officers and PCSOs will no longer attend Parish Council meetings as a matter of course. The local beat manager should be informed that a meeting will be taking place, and someone may attend if they are free, but it certainly cannot be guaranteed, and should not be expected.
- Police reports take a disproportionate amount of Police time to prepare – time that could be better spent operationally. Crime figures for each neighbourhood can easily be found on-line, and so if anyone wishes to know what crime has occurred in their area then they can do so that way.
- If there is a specific problem which a Parish Council wishes to discuss with a local officer e.g. a specific crime trend in the area, then an officer may be able to attend if given sufficient notice.

Mr Jones said that Police resources are now spread so thinly that they cannot give the commitment to Parish Council meetings that has happened in the past.

Mr Jones said that Ms Mountstevens is of the belief that as this gives the public access to the crime figures in their area, Police attendance at Parish Council meetings is no longer routinely required.

For those who do not know how to find out the crime figures, here is a guide:

Click on <https://www.police.uk/>

Click on 'Find Your Neighbourhood, and then enter your postcode or place name.

Select your particular area from the drop down list.

Click on 'Explore the Crime Map' then click on one of the black circles with a number which appear. Click on a black circle again, and that will show you the number of crimes which have occurred in that street, and the type of crime.

It normally takes between one and three months for the information to be uploaded. Currently the November crimes are displayed. There are two drop down lists at the top of the map, where you can select a different month, or a particular crime.

The Clerk said that he has received an email from the local officer, PC Freeman, who has said that he will still provide reports for the Parish Council meetings whenever possible.

There have been reports on social media of a group of youths throwing eggs at houses in the Great Oaks estate, and along the NDR.

156/16 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th December 2016.

Resolved: To approve the minutes as a correct record.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

Signature of Chairman

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a correct record.

157/16 To receive the Clerks report

The Clerk spoke about the procedures for dealing with planning applications. It was decided to continue as at present, holding additional planning meetings when necessary.

The timings on the traffic lights at the Wembdon Rise / NDR junction are being assessed. The Clerk was asked to chase up the outcome of this assessment.

The damage to the nearby railings will be inspected. The damaged railings near to the Notaro development are not considered to be a highways asset so the responsibility for repair lies with the owners of the open space.

The overgrown footpath on the NDR has now been cut on the South side but the North side, owned by the developer, still awaits cutting back.

SDC have stated that all advertising signs in the village have now been removed, apart from the SKY banner at the Village Inn, which will be allowed to remain.

Cllr Bown reported that a filter light will be installed at the traffic lights on Wylds Road (at the crossroads next to Riders) within a few months.

158/16 To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges

There is a kissing gate on the Parrett trail from Blakes Farm, Blakes Road northwards across the first field. This is so narrow that it is very difficult to pass through the gate. The Clerk was asked to report this to the SDC footpaths officer.

Dog mess is being left on the allotment paths. It is not known who the owner of the dog is, but it is obviously a large dog. The Chairman said that he will buy a pack of signs asking dog owners to clean up after their dog. A team of Councillors volunteered to install the signs, with posts where necessary.

The Clerk was asked to contact the dog wardens at SDC asking if they could stencil spray the pavement around dog mess.

Cllrs Webber and Harrison will progress the costs of the possible tarmacking work in Wares Lane.

159/16 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on Highways and Speedwatch

A letter has been sent to John Wilkins thanking him for all his efforts in regard to speedwatch.

The supporting posts for the SID have still not been installed by SCC. There is a suitable post already in the village where the SID can be used in the meantime and it was agreed that we would install the SID to gather some data.

Signature of Chairman

Concerns were raised regarding the location of the bus stop at the foot of Wembdon Rise and Wembdon Hill. There are road safety issues here, as it is dangerous for people alighting from buses in crossing the road. The Clerk was asked to write to SCC Highways to confirm if further actions were possible to manage traffic speeds at this location.

The tarmac in Wembdon Rise is cracking up. Pot holes are yet to appear, but there is little doubt that this will happen if nothing is done to the road surface now. The Clerk will report this to County Roads.

160/16 To receive a report from Cllr Thake on the Playing Fields

It was noted that some playgrounds in the area have a 'no smoking' sign supplied by SDC. The Clerk was asked to contact Clean Surrounding to ask if they supply them, and if Wembdon could have one.

The Chairman will progress the work in installing the new fence at the children's play area.

161/16 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments

The annual allotment holders meeting will be held in the Parish Centre on Monday 24th March 2017, commencing at 7.30pm.

162/16 To receive a report from Cllrs Jackson regarding communications

A new magazine is being prepared, which should be published soon.

163/16 To receive an update on the Village Green and Village Hall project from Cllr Solomon

The NDR access to the Village Hall is now in use. The Church Road access has now been locked, and will remain so. There is an anticipated May completion date for the hall, with a formal opening planned for July.

The contractors working on the Parish Centre have been leaving large amounts of mud on the road. This has been pointed out to the contractors, and actions are now in hand to clear the mud and prevent this happening again.

A litter pick is planned on Wembdon parkland and other areas as part of the next 'Give a Day'.

164/16 To consider possible actions by the Council to maintain and generally improve the "Wembdon Streetscene"

The new maintenance contract should include the maintenance of the roundabout at the end of Brantwood Road. The tendering process for the new maintenance contract should be advertised shortly. The Clerk will liaise with the Chairman over this.

The wall at the front of 1, Church Road is deteriorating and members of the public using the adjacent pavement could be at risk. The Clerk will write to the owners of the property to ask them to carry out whatever work is necessary to ensure the safety of the wall.

Signature of Chairman

165/16 To approve the budget and precept demand for 2017/18

Resolved: To set a precept of £71,373.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

166/16 To consider the arrangements for the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

Resolved: To hold the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm on April 24th. This will follow on from the Parish Council meeting which will commence at 7pm

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

167/16 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
300589	Wembdon Village Hall Trust	NDR Access to new Village Hall	£50,000
300591	St. Georges Parish Centre	Room Hire	£8.00
300597	Wembdon Village Hall Trust	NDR Access to new Village Hall	£38,000
300598	Somerset Drainage Board	Drainage clearance work	£307.20

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members

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

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

168/16 To consider matters of report:

(A report for information without financial commitment)

- (a) Agenda items for the next meeting
- (b) Chairman
- (c) Clerk
- (d) Members

169/16 Date of next meeting: 20th February 2017 at St. Georges School, Wembdon.

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Chairman