

**WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council meeting** that was held at St Georges School Wembdon on **March 10<sup>th</sup> 2014** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted'

**Present:** Councillors Cllr M Solomon (Chairman) Cllr T Thake. Cllr T Thayer, and Cllr N Harrison, Cllr J Jackson Cllr A Reed Cllr J Woods and Cllr J Riddle, Cllr L Burge There were 4 members of the public, and District District Councillor A Bown and I Dyer County Councillor J Edney and 3 members of the public

*"Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal opportunities (race gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability) Crime disorder and Human Rights"*

**283/13:** To receive apologies for absence: Apologies received from Cllr D Bingham and apologies were accepted unanimously.

**284/13:** To Receive any declarations of interest. Personal Interest on all matters relating to the School from Cllr Thake

**285/13:** Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held at St Georges School on **10<sup>th</sup> February 2014** were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

Cllr Thake left the meeting at this point in respect of his declaration 284/13

**286/13: School Extension discussions on responses from the County**

The Parish Council's planning committee met on February 10<sup>th</sup> and rejected unanimously the proposed application by Somerset County Council to extend St Georges School in Wembdon. As a result of this objection various responses from James Culshaw have been received. Mr Culshaw has attempted to re assure the Parish Council on concerns raised. However and as a result of discussions between Cllr Edney and

Signature of Chairman

Inspector Andy Pritchard of the Police the Parish Council has not change its views on this application.

The Key Concerns remain

1. Traffic congestion in the areas surrounding the School and as far as Wembdon Rise. None of these concerns have been addressed to any level of satisfaction
2. Little Community consultation on this important decision a matter with which the Parish Council feel very strongly
3. Wembdon School is not the best facility to extend since it has limited expansion capability and is being treated as a town school rather than the village school that it is.

**287/13:** The Parish Council will robustly continue their objection to this ill thought out and poorly consulted proposal and will make representations at a decision meeting of the regulatory committee in April Cllr Edney agreed to represent the Parish Council's concerns at he meeting in addition to a Parish Council representative ( Cllr I Dyer offered his own support in a similar manner at a previous meeting)

**288/13:** Cllr J Edney will meet together with Insp Andy Pritchard and School Head Teacher very soon to further identify the key issues of traffic problems and parking issues in the area around the School

Cllr Thake returned to the meeting at this point

### **Working Groups Reports**

#### **Footpaths and Land**

##### **289/13: Wembdon Hill**

It was reported at this meeting that a bank near the Cottage Inn is in a serious condition with supporting boulders having shifted and loosened. Ownership is unclear and Lawrence Hackling and Tony Fairfax have visited the site. There is doubt regarding the ownership of this bank and The County have indicated that they do not own it. There is a concern about further risk to passers by and road users and the Clerk will write to the County to remind them of their statutory obligations to ensure highway safety and requesting that they deal with the problem and seek to locate the owners for billing of the work.

#### **Highways and Speed watch.**

##### **290/13: Pelican Crossing Quantock roundabout**

Signature of Chairman

District Councillor Bown has made a representation to the Parish Council to support a pelican crossing at the above location and in view of the obvious safety issues the Parish Council resolved to support the proposal.

### **291/13: Speed watch**

The meeting received an update on the current activity of the speed watch group. Two new volunteers have now been trained and are active within the group. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 9.30am for 45 minutes there were 6 cars recorded with a top speed of 43mph, and in total during that period there were 96 Vehicles noted with much of the traffic being local.

### **292/13: Lollicam Update**

It is Parish Council's intention to investigate further the purchase of a Lollicam which will assist in recording speeding vehicles and also aggressive incidents that have been noted recently. It was resolved to pursue and cost this purchase before the April meeting

## **Playing Fields**

### **293/13: Play Surfaces**

With the advent of better and dryer weather the play surface will be monitored and if deemed necessary request a quote from GB Sports to re surface the area.

### **294/13: Allotments**

## **Water Metering Issues**

There appears continuing doubt about the way that the water for this allotment site is metered and the clerk will provide a meter number to enable the Parish Council to ascertain more information. The clerk pointed out that there has always been an agreement with the owners of Palmers Field to share the cost which they have always been willing to do on request.

## **Communications.**

### **295/13 : Parish Paper :**

No new matters at this meeting

## **Correspondence Items**

**296/13:** Quantock Cluster group minutes available to the meeting

Signature of Chairman

**297/13: Increase in room hire rates at the School**  
**Finance and to Agree Payments**

**298/13: Payments**

Clerks Salary for March 2014	<b>£400.40</b>
Tax / Ni Payments for March 2014	<b>£100.00</b>
GB Sports Inspection Invoice Feb 2014	<b>£18.00</b>
GB Sports Surface edging	<b>£288.00</b>
Somerset County Council room Hire	<b>£168.00</b>
Parish Paper printing edition 8	<b>£303.00</b>

**299/13:** It was resolved to approve these payments

**300/13:** It was resolved to agree on certain statutory payments to be agreed at the April meeting of each year these will be payments that are known and non variable during the year. The following will be considered under this arrangement

Clerks Salary and Tax payments  
 Village Maintenance Contract  
 GB Sports Monthly inspection  
 Sedgemoor Waste Bin Contract  
 Sedgemoor Dog Bin Waste Contract

All of these payments will not appear on monthly agenda's unless there is a change to the agreed figures in April but will appear on the minutes

**301/13:** The Clerk highlighted the need for the Parish Council to consider recognised accounting software to assist in compliance and accounting best practice. RBS is a specialist company who produce specifically designed software fully integrated for the purpose and this will be a matter for discussion with the finance committee meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> March. The Council were supportive of the purchase of this software to ease the reporting requirements of the Clerk

**302/13:** In line with earlier Council discussions, it was resolved to assist the Village Hall Trust in minimising Vat Contributions by the Parish Council making payments for work and to be reimbursed immediately by the Trust. There will be no cost implications to the Parish Council. It is expected that a separate line on the accounts will be introduced which should be sufficient to Satisfy audit requirements

**Matters of Consideration**

**303/13: Wembdon Village Hall Trust:**

Signature of Chairman

It was reported that the tender for the construction of the bridge and the village hall buildings has been completed and 6 contractors are bidding for the work. The tender for the ground works will be completed this week and project works to commence shortly

### **304/13: Village Notice Boards**

There has been some continuing discussion about the placement and number of notice boards in the village. Members of the Parish Council were invited to share their own views on the matter. Consideration needs to be made on the basis of 4 existing boards all with the same information. The previous location of Wembdon hill is unsuitable location and is too small to accommodate a full size unit. It was resolved to keep the matter under review until a decision has been made on the telephone box on Wembdon rise that could be potentially a suitable location

### **Matters of report**

#### **Agenda Items for April 2014**

Key needed for Parish Centre Notice board  
Annual Parish Meeting for April

**The meeting ended at 9.00pm** and the next meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 in St Georges School Wembdon at 7.30pm