

## **WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Clerk  
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**Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council** held at St. Georges School Wembdon on **21<sup>st</sup> March 2016** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted:

**Present:** Cllr M Solomon (Chairman), Cllr N Harrison (Vice Chairman), Cllr J Jackson, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr T Thake, Cllr R Webber, Cllr J Woods

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

**Parish Clerk:** Tony Jay

**193/15 To receive any apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bingham, Gliddon and Reed.

**194/15 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.**

The Clerk advised the Councillors on this agenda item as follows:

*There are two separate issues here. There is a register of interests that you all signed when elected, where you listed your properties, employment and membership or connections with organisations. This includes those of your spouse or partner.*

*Separately, at this point of a Parish Council meeting you need to declare any interest on any agenda item to be debated. You only have to declare an interest here if you have a financial interest (in other words you could gain or lose financially from your decision) or if it will have a personal effect on your way of life in a manner where it would not have an effect on any normal parishioner.*

*You can always abstain from voting on any issue if you wish.*

There were no declarations of interest received.

**195/15 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.**

No Police report has been received, and there was no Police presence at the meeting.

Signature of Chairman

Councillors discussed a recent fatality on the NDR, and another RTC in Skimmerton Lane.

The Clerk was asked to request advice from the Police regarding what could be done regarding recent libelous comments against Parish Councillors on social media.

**196/15 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 and Rob Semple spoke to the meeting as follows:

*There is obviously a problem at the allotments which is affecting people's lives. Unfortunately little evidence of this has been received by SDC. 'Live' reports are needed whilst the anti-social behaviour is taking place. This can easily be done by phoning the SDC anti-social behaviour 24 hour hotline on 0800 2982009. The call will be recorded and dealt with as soon as possible, probably the following morning. The information required is the date, time and place of the incident, and how it affected the caller e.g. 'I could not sleep' or 'I was too afraid to go out'. The caller can remain anonymous, but it would be better if the name and address is supplied.*

*Ultimately, if anything is to be done to solve these type of problems then witnesses need to be prepared to make statements, and potentially attend court.*

*What could be possible is an anti-social order. This is not an alcohol ban, but it is an offence not to hand over alcohol when asked to do so by the Police or a Councillor.*

*Reports of empty beer cans have been received, but this is essentially a litter problem, and does not prove anti-social behaviour.*

*Ideally, incidents should be reported to both the Police on 101 and SDC on the helpline, but if you are going to do only one then make it the helpline.*

*Another way of reporting this problem is by completing Diary sheets. If anyone would like some please email Simon Bawler at [simon.bawler@Sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:simon.bawler@Sedgemoor.gov.uk) (or contact the Parish Clerk) who will provide the sheets.*

*The more number of calls received the better, so if, for example, three people witness anti-social behaviour then they should all report it.*

**197/15 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

**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

**198/15 To receive an update regarding a Neighbourhood Plan from Cllrs Harrison and Reed on behalf of the steering group.**

Cllr Harrison said that one more Parishioner had joined the steering group, but more people who care about the future of the village would be welcomed. Cllr Webber said that he would join the group.

**199/15 To receive the Clerks report.**

The Clerk read his report, which stated:

*Clerk's Time*

*A great deal of my time this month has been spent in long email dialogues with a few local residents, mainly to do with issues relating to the village hall project. As a part-time Clerk I simply do not have the time to do this.*

*It is certainly part of my role to reply to correspondence received from anyone, but it is not my role to debate, or justify decisions made at Council meetings.*

*If members of the public wish to learn why decisions have been taken then they should attend Council meetings.*

*Allotments*

*The allotment AGM was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March and was well attended. Just over half of all allotment holders have paid for 2016/17. The rest have until the end of April to pay, when reminders will be sent. Any non-payers as at 10<sup>th</sup> May will receive a repossession notice.*

*Signs advertising trades or businesses*

*SDC have written to three residents who have signs advertising business on their properties next to the road. All require planning permission to do so.*

*I have asked whether replies have been received by SDC, but have not had a reply to this request yet.*

**200/15 To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges.**

The footpaths and verges are in a good state at present. There have been recent reports of litter on some paths. A 'litter picking gang' will be formed on the next 'give a day'.

The willows have been pollarded in Church Road and on the common. The drains in Church Road have been cleaned.

The lane on Church Road near to the Church car park was discussed. The Parish Council owns about 30 yards of the lane. SCC Highways

do not want to adopt the road, which has three large potholes. It was decided to fill these with scalplings.

There is a patch of Parish Council owned land in front of the garages at 43, 45 and 47 Church Road. The Parish Council tarmacked this land about 8 years ago, but potholes are developing. Cllr Harrison will obtain quotes for the cost of repairing the potholes. The residents of the three properties affected by this will be asked to make a contribution to the cost.

**201/15 To receive a report on Highways and Speedwatch.**

The Speedwatch team continue to be active. More volunteers are needed. The last session found that only 5% of motorists were speeding, but many of these were over 25% over the speed limit.

**202/15 To consider recommendations regarding the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device, and to decide which device should be purchased.**

The Chairman and Cllr Harrison have identified 8 locations for a SID. Some have suitable posts to hold the SID already in place, so the SID should be able to be used at those locations shortly. Individuals will need to be trained to remove and refit the device on the roadside. The training session costs £400, and up to 10 people can be trained. The cost of the SID and the data collection unit is £2,785. The post brackets will cost £250.

**Resolved:** To purchase a SID with data collection unit and brackets, and to pay for a training session at a total cost of £3,435.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

**203/15 To consider a response to correspondence received regarding traffic issues in Wembdon.**

Councillors had already given ideas for a response, which will be collated and sent by the Clerk.

**204/15 To consider a response to an email received regarding Wares Lane.**

**Resolved:** Not to contribute towards the cost of repairing this road, as it is a private road.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

**205/15 To receive a report from Cllr Thake on the Playing Fields.**

There was little to report. The areas of Wembdon Green and Playing Fields where dogs will need to be kept on a lead will be discussed at the May meeting.

**206/15 To receive an update on the Village Green and Village Hall project from Cllr Solomon.**

Signature of Chairman

In the last two weeks all final measurements have been taken to enable tenders to be submitted for the completion of the Village Hall.

Tenders will be invited separately for the construction of the access from the NDR. When the tenders are in, and the full costings are known then the Parish Council will consider how this access will be funded.

The fence between the new Village Green and the Playing Field will be removed shortly, probably in May.

**207/15 To consider a response to correspondence received regarding the Village Green and Village Hall project.**

**Resolved:** To issue the following statement:

*The Parish Council has received comments both in emails and on social media regarding the Village Green and Village Hall project, which are abusive towards individual Parish Councillors. In future, if the Parish Council believes that any comments made are vexatious or libellous then legal advice will be taken (which will be provided by our insurers) with a view to taking legal action against any person(s) making or sharing the comments.*

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

**208/15 To approve the removal of the temporary Heras Fencing at Wembdon Parkland and to approve the building of a suitable permanent Post and Bar barrier to replace this.**

A quotation of £1,195 has been received for the installation of a post and bar barrier on the edge of Wembdon Parkland next to Oak Apple Drive, which will replace the temporary Heras fencing.

**Resolved:** To approve the quotation of £1,195 to enable this work to take place as soon as possible.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

It has just been recognised that the rhynes on Wembdon Parkland need clearing as a matter of urgency to prevent localised flooding of the footpath.

**Resolved:** To hire a digger and driver to clear the rhynes.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

**209/15 To consider the play inspection report.**

**Resolved:** To approve the quotation of £206 to carry out the repair work highlighted in the play inspection report.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous).

Signature of Chairman

An agenda item will be included on the May agenda 'To consider the replacement or repair of the fence posts surrounding the children's play area'.

**210/15 To consider approving a quotation of £206 plus VAT from GB Sports to carry out repairs to the play equipment.**

See minute 209/15

**211/15 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments.**

The allotments AGM was well attended. Allotment holders have requested the formation of a communal dung heap. A suitable area will be considered and proposed before a decision will be made regarding this.

Wessex Water have demanded that the water feed pipe be sunk deep underground to comply with regulations. This is essential work which needs to be carried out as soon as possible. A quotation of £1,760 has been received for this work.

**Resolved:** To approve the quotation of £1,760 to carry out the work required.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous).

One allotment holder has 'tapped into' the water supply pipe to provide his own water supply to his allotment. This was done without consultation or permission. The Clerk will write to him to let him know of the Council's dissatisfaction regarding this. When the pipe is properly sunk then this problem will be resolved.

**212/15 To receive a report from the Communications Working Group, Cllrs Jackson and Bingham.**

The latest edition of the Parish Paper has been distributed throughout the village. The Chairman congratulated Cllr's Jackson and Reed for a very successful production.

**213/15 To consider possible actions by the Council to maintain and generally improve the "Wembdon Streetscene".**

The demolished wall in Wembdon Hill has now been repaired.

**214/15 To review the Parish Council's Asset Register.**

**Resolved:** To approve the amended Asset Register as prepared by the Clerk.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous).

**215/15 To review the Parish Council's Risk Schedule.**

**Resolved:** To approve the Risk Schedule without amendment.

Signature of Chairman

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous).

**216/15 To approve the re-appointment of Richard Young as internal auditor for 2016/17.**

**Resolved:** To approve the re-appointment.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous).

**217/15 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:

GB Sports	New gate in playground	£1,391.17
GB Sports	Playground inspection	£18.00
Parish Magazine	Magazine printing	£121.00
Somerset CCC	Room hire	£28.00
Sedgemoor Tree Services	Tree work	£540.00
Sedgemoor Tree Services	Tree work	£900.00

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)

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the additional work he had been required to do in the last Month, over and above his normal working hours, especially as he does not claim overtime for additional work.

**Resolved:** To approve a bonus payment to the Clerk equivalent to a week's net pay.

The resolution was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

**218/15 To consider matters of report:**  
*(A report for information without financial commitment)*

There were no matters of report.

**219/15 Date of next meeting:** The Parish Council will be meeting at 6.30pm on Monday 18th April 2016 at St. Georges School, preceded by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 6.00pm (if any planning applications have been received).

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place at 7pm, immediately following the Parish Council meeting.

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Chairman