

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Clerk
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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at St. Georges School Wembdon on **16th November 2015** that commenced at **7.00pm** when the following business was transacted

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

Cllr A Bown, Cllr L. Dudridge

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

128/15: To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr D Bingham. Also from Cllrs I Dyer and J Edney

129/15: To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations of interest were received.

130/15: To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

No Police report was received. There was no Police presence at the meeting.

131/15: To receive a presentation from Sedgemoor DC planning policy team on the Local Plan Review.

A presentation was given to the meeting, followed by a question and answer session.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman invited a member of the public to speak regarding public order concerns involving youths at Wembdon allotments. A request was made for the Council to remove the benches where youths congregate. The Chairman said that this request would be considered later in the meeting (see minute 141/15).

132/15: To receive a presentation from Alison Hoare, Somerset CC Village Agent for Wembdon.

A presentation was given to the meeting.

Signature of Chairman

133/15: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th October 2015.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded

Resolved: To approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting. (Unanimous)

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record of the meeting

134/15: To receive an update regarding the Cottage Inn being included on the register of community assets from Cllr Gliddon.

The application to add the Cottage Inn to the register of community assets has been granted. A public meeting at the Parish Centre was well attended and a working group of five people, under the Chairmanship of Jeff Davey has been set up, to explore the possibilities of financing a purchase of the Inn if necessary. At least one offer has been received by the owners, Wadsworth Brewery, and so the group feel that their preferred option would be for the pub to be sold as a going concern to an outside purchaser. A leaflet drop will be made to all Wembdon households informing them of the current status and encouraging people to use their Village Pub or risk losing it.

135/15: To receive an update regarding a Neighbourhood Plan from Cllr Harrison on behalf of the steering group.

A leaflet drop will be made to all Wembdon households asking whether they would support the Council working towards the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman confirmed that the Council would fund the leaflet drop to the sum of £200 rather than expect Councillors to do the distribution.

136/15: To receive the Clerks report.

The Clerk presented his report to the Council. This included updates on Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators; the installation of a dropped kerb in Church Road; repair work in Moores Lane; the proposed alcohol ban at the allotments and repair work in Skimmerton Lane. A copy is available from the Clerk upon request.

137/15: To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges

A footpath sign had been accidentally torn down during hedge cutting work, but this was quickly replaced. No decision has been made yet on the style of the fence to be installed at Wembdon parkland. Cllr Harrison will lead a working group on this. Cllrs Solomon, Harrison and Webber will shortly start work on cutting back the trees on the Common which are now overhanging Church Road.

Cllr Webber left the meeting at this point.

138/15: To receive a report from Cllr Reed on Highways and Speedwatch

A meeting has taken place with Andy Coupe of County Highways who presented various schemes regarding cycle footpaths with cyclist's safety in mind. No decisions have been made yet, although surveys have taken place. The steering group of Cllrs Reed, Harrison and Gliddon would review plans with Highways prior to these being presented to a full Council meeting and then public consultation.

Signature of Chairman

There has recently been a chain of positive emails with Dave Grabham regards Speed Indication Devices. The cost of a SID will be £2,500, plus the cost of the posts. Operator training will be £300. Volunteers will be required to move the SID on a fortnightly basis, and download and send the data. Cllr Gliddon volunteered to be trained to enable him to join other volunteers from the Speedwatch team to become SID movers and data downloaders. A minimum of six SID sites will need to be identified. A meeting will be held with Dave Grabham on 3rd December to identify the sites with Cllrs Reed, Harrison and Solomon.

The Speedwatch team are still looking for volunteers.

139/15: To receive a report from Cllr Thake on the Playing Fields

Repairs to the wire fence around the children's play area have been carried out. The wooden posts are deteriorating. A new fence will be considered in the Spring.

140/15: To consider whether the gate at the entrance to the play area in the park is safe.

Various options were discussed regarding the gate.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded

Resolved: To purchase a new gate, with fitted hydraulic closing device, at the cost of approximately £1,000 including fixing. (5 in favour, 4 abstentions)

141/15: To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments and communication with Wessex water.

Cllr Harrison has liaised with Wessex Water who have said that the work required at the allotments is not as urgent as first thought. He was authorised to arrange for this work to be carried out as necessary to meet statutory requirements.

The request to remove the benches was considered,

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded

Resolved: To move the benches from the allotments to the new Wembdon Village Green. (Unanimous)

The Clerk will also encourage the Police to carry out more patrols, and will enquire about progress regarding the 'no alcohol' zone at the allotments.

142/15: To receive a report from the Communications Working Group, Cllrs Jackson and Bingham

The next magazine is due to be published in January.

143/15: To receive an update on the Village Green and Village Hall project from Cllr Solomon

The projects are moving forward, and are on schedule. It was noted that negotiations were on-going to extend the timing on the grant from Viridor to enable the adoptable parts of the NDR road access to be completed and funded.

Signature of Chairman

144/15: To consider possible actions by the Council to maintain and generally improve the “Wembdon Streetscene”.

Adverts are being displayed in prominent positions advertising double glazing services, which are unsightly.

The Clerk was asked to contact two residents on Wembdon Hill, asking one to cut back the hedges on her property which are overhanging the pavement, and causing a danger to road users as they reduce visibility, and asking the other to repair a wall which has fallen down.

145/15: To receive an update from Cllrs Harrison and Reed following their attendance at the Consultation on the Sedgemoor Planning Service Local Enforcement Plan and the Sedgemoor Local Validation, and to consider whether the Parish Council wishes to make a response.

A response will be prepared following suggestions from Councillors. Cllr Woods will prepare a form to be completed by Councillors, to be returned to the Clerk.

146/15: 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:

Scribe UK - Accounting package annual fee	£294.00
Somerset County Council - Room hire	£28.00
St Georges Parish Centre - Room hire	£42.50
PC Rescue - Computer Service	£45.00

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members showing that costs in all areas were generally in line with projections. No questions were asked.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded

Resolved: To pay the Statutory and Non Statutory payments. (Unanimous)

147/15: To consider a request from the charity Home-Start for a grant

The Clerk was asked to contact the charity, asking for details of the number of Wembdon residents that they had assisted. This request will be considered when all of the grant applications are considered later this year.

148/15: To consider matters of report:

Cllr Reed gave an update following a community forum meeting. There will be an agenda item at the December meeting 'to consider whether the Council would like to receive a presentation regarding the EDF traffic incident management plan'

149/15: Date of next meeting: 21st December 2015 at St. Georges School, Wembdon.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served following the December meeting.

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Chairman