

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Clerk
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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Parish Centre on **21st September 2015** 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 D Gliddon, Cllr A Reed, Cllr J Riddle; Cllr T Thake..

District Cllr L Duddridge and County Cllr J Edney

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

A local resident spoke to the Parish Council prior to the meeting commencing. He said that there had been three recent incidents of large vehicles damaging properties in Wembdon Hill. The speed of vehicles travelling along Wembdon Hill has increased dramatically in recent months. This mainly relates to traffic traveling down the hill. It was noted that other local villages have a 20 mph speed limit. Councillors wondered why Wembdon could not have the same speed limit.

The Chairman said that this issue is raised at every Parish Council meeting, and Councillors are getting anxious and angry that nothing seems to be getting done. Speed camera results consistently show that speed limits are being exceeded, so what more evidence is needed?

The Clerk was asked to write to Andy Coupe, Service Manager at Somerset County Council, asking him to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 19th October to discuss what could be done to address this speeding problem.

90/15 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Jackson, J Woods and District and County Cllr A. Bown.

91/15 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations were received.

92/15 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th July 2015.

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

Signature of Chairman

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a correct record of the meeting.

93/15 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th August 2015.

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

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a correct record of the meeting.

94/15 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

There was no Police presence at the meeting. The Clerk was asked to remind Inspector Pritchard that Commissioner Mountstevens had made a promise to the Parish Council that there would be a Police presence at every Parish Council meeting.

A Police report had been received prior to the meeting which showed that there had been three crimes generated in Wembdon during August. These were 1 x Exposure; 1 x Assault and 1 Domestic Incident.

The benches at the allotments are becoming a focal point for young people to congregate, especially between 9.30pm and 3.00am. Members of the public reported that these youths are causing a nuisance to neighbours, leaving needles and condoms in neighbouring sheds and gardens. Some become abusive to members of the public when they are asked to leave.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Police, asking them to make regular patrols in this area, and to forward the names and addresses of young people found in the area to the Clerk. When these details are received then the Parish Council can consider contacting these young people, and/or their parents to ask them not to congregate in the allotments.

95/15 To receive and discuss a report from the Footpaths, Verges and Land Working Group.

The next 'give a day' is to be held on Saturday 3rd October. The Chairman will try to arrange the presence of a digger to help with the ground clearance.

The public open space transfer has now taken place, as the 'Persimmon land' is now owned by the Parish Council.

96/15 To consider the introduction of an 'Adopt a Footpath' scheme in Wembdon.

Somerset County Council is introducing an 'adopt a footpath' scheme, where volunteers can choose to help maintain a particular footpath. Wares Lane has been looked after by a group of volunteers for the last six months, which amazing results being achieved. There has been a recent article in the Wembdon Parish Paper

Signature of Chairman

regarding this, and so it is hoped that more volunteers will come forward to maintain other footpaths in the village.

97/15 To receive and discuss a report from the Highways and Speedwatch Working Group.

The NDR speed reports continue to be circulated, which always show that speed limits are being regularly exceeded.

98/15 To receive and discuss a report from the Playing Fields Working Group.

There was nothing to report.

99/15 To consider the findings of the annual play inspection report.

The report showed that there were no issues rated any higher than 'low risk', and so no action needs to be taken. The Playing Fields Working Group members were asked to monitor these findings and to report back to the Council if they feel that any action needs to be taken.

The closing spring on the gate at the play area is too vigorous. The Clerk was asked to contact GB Sports to rectify this.

100/15 To receive and discuss a report from the Allotments Working Group.

See minute 94/15.

There are some new allotment tenants who need to sign the agreement papers. The Clerk will arrange for these to be sent.

101/15 To consider submitting an application to make the area around Wembdon allotments a 'no drinking of alcohol' zone.

Resolved: To submit this application.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

102/15 To consider the actions required resulting from the application for the Cottage Inn to be placed on the register of assets of community value.

Cllrs Gliddon and Webber agreed to establish a small team to carry out a feasibility study to progress this, in anticipation that the application will be granted. The Council felt that Cllr Woods would be an excellent addition to this group, and the Clerk was asked to ask him if he would be prepared to join the group.

103/15 To receive and discuss a report from the Communications Working Group.

The latest edition of the Parish Paper has recently been produced. The Chairman thanked Cllr Jackson and everyone else involved in the publication for such a fantastic result.

104/15 To receive an update on the Village Green and Village Hall project.

Signature of Chairman

Meetings will be taking place shortly with Somerset County Council regarding the building of the bridge. The Village Hall opening date is still anticipated to be in the spring of 2016.

105/15 To consider formulating a response to planning decision 1/51/15/022, and the lack of consideration given to the Wembdon Planning Committee's views.

Cllr Edney apologised on behalf of Somerset County Council regarding how this matter had been handled, however it is too late for the decision made to be reversed.

The Council noted that they were disturbed about the way that this planning application had been dealt with; the draconian attitude adopted by SCC and the fact that the views of the Parish Council had been ignored.

The Clerk was asked to write to the SCC Chief Executive, Pat Flaherty expressing the Parish Council's disappointment, and to copy the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP into the letter.

106/15 To consider correspondence received:

- a) Letter from SDC detailing the reduction and subsequent removal of the Council Tax Support grant between 2016/17 and 2019/20.

The contents of the letter were noted.

107/15 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:

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|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Parrett IDB | Drainage rates | £14.42 |
| GB Sports | Annual playground inspection | £66.00 |
| Parish Mag.Printing | Newsletter printing | £560.40 |
| Parish Mag.Printing | Newsletter printing | £404.75 |
| Somerset CC | Room hire | £25.00 |

108/15 To consider matters of report:

The rhyne which runs adjacent to Church Road is blocked. The Clerk was asked to contact the drainage board to ask that this be cleared.

The condition of Moores Lane was discussed. The top end is clean and tidy, but the bottom end is breaking up badly with pot holes in the road. The Clerk was asked to contact SCC highways department regarding this.

Cllrs Reed and Harrison have attended an affordable housing seminar recently, and Cllr Reed has attended a traffic seminar. Briefings were given to the Council.

Date of next meeting: 19th October 2015 at St. Georges School, Wembdon.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Chairman