

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11 MAY 2009

Present

Chairman, Cllr B Webb, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr D Lumber, Cllr R Western, Cllr M Solomon, Cllr K Perry, Cllr C Brown, Cllr R Harris & Cllr S Bagg

13) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors. There were no members of the public present.

14) Apologies for Absence

These had been received from Cllr Ann Bown & County Cllr John Edney.

15) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

16) Election of Chairman

The Vice Chairman, Cllr R Harris, was Chairman of the meeting for this item. On behalf of the parish Council the Vice Chairman thanked Cllr B Webb for his excellent work as Chairman of the Parish Council during the previous 12 months. Cllr B Webb was re-elected unanimously & he then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

17) Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr R Harris was re-elected, unopposed & was thanked for his contribution during the previous 12 months.

18) Election of Sub-committees & Liaison Representatives

The following sub-committees were elected

- **Planning** – Cllr R Harris, Cllr K Perry & Cllr C Brown
- **Finance** – Cllr D Lumber & Cllr K Perry
- **Playing Field/Common** – Cllr R Western, Cllr R Harris, Cllr J Riddle & Cllr M Solomon
- **Land Acquisition & Development** – Cllr R Harris, Cllr M Solomon & Cllr S Bagg
- **Website** – Cllr M Solomon, Cllr R Western & the Clerk
- **Highways** – Cllr C Brown, Cllr J Riddle & Cllr D Lumber

The Chairman is an ex-officio member of all sub-committees.

It was agreed that the liaison reps would be

- **Footpaths** – Cllr C Brown
- **Allotments** – Cllr R Harris
- **Highways** – Cllr R Harris

19) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 20 April 2009 were agreed & signed.

20) Report from PC Tony Freeman

Neither PC Tony Freeman nor PCSO Nick Mizon was present at the meeting. It was reported that PC Freeman had spoken to the owner of the vehicle parked on Wembdon Hill, which, whilst not parked illegally, was causing an obstruction for some users of the footpath. Subsequently the vehicle had been moved.

21) Matters Arising

21.1) Additional Dog Waste Bin

Sedgemoor District Council had confirmed that a bin, for the junction of Wares Lane & Greenacre, was on order.

21.2) Parish Council Website

Cllr M Solomon reported that there was now only one outstanding issue, the link to the planning pages & that a meeting of the sub-committee was due to take place. Once that had been dealt with the website would go live.

21.3) The New Bridge

The bridge would be erected once the temporary Rights of Way Closure Order had been issued.

21.4) Community Landscape Character Statement

Cllr S Bagg reported that much of this had already been incorporated in to the Parish Plan & recommended that a more detailed assessment be undertaken when the Parish Plan was updated.

22) Highways

The repairs to the verge near Hogg House, Perry Green had been completed & Sedgemoor Highways would be thanked.

The Parish Council would be provided with a copy of the proposed Highways structure in respect of the school development on Queenswood Farm, once it was ready & the Outline Planning Application was due to be submitted during the summer.

Somerset County Council was being asked to include Wembdon, in the rota of Parishes close to Hinkley Point that would have access to the Speed Activation Sign being purchased by British Energy/EDF.

Sedgemoor Highways had been approached in respect of blocked surface drains in Church Road. They had been checked on 5 May & a number were identified as either broken or blocked & Highways had confirmed that repairs would be undertaken. Cllr S Bagg reported that initially some had been overlooked. He had noted repairs on 2 of the drains & a further 3 marked for repair.

23) Correspondence

23.1) Somerset Association of Local Councils, Area Meeting

There was no volunteer to attend the meeting on the evening of Thursday 11 June. The minutes of the previous area meeting & other correspondence from SALC was placed in the correspondence folder.

23.2) Local Action for Rural Communities

The Parish Council was advised of meetings taking place on 21 May & 9 June.

23.3) Signposting for the Church & Parish Centre

The Parish Council had been invited to comment on proposals to have direction signs erected at the junction of Church Road & Wembdon Rise & on the footpath/cycle path at the junction with Homberg Way near the Churchfields housing development. The proposals were supported in principle & the Parish Council wanted to know if it would be possible to incorporate a notice board with the sign posting on the footpath/cycle path.

23.4) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- The Calor Gas village of the Year Competition entry form
- Thatch magazine – spring edition
- Somerset Rural Youth Project newsletter
- Somerset Community Safety newsletter
- HSE quarterly Health & Safety Report in respect of Hinkley Point A power station
- Minutes of the Bridgwater Parish Cluster Group Meeting dated 25 March 2009
- A Highways newsletter
- The Clerk magazine – May edition
- Councils & Clerks Direct magazine – May edition
- The Playing Field magazine – spring edition

24) Reports from Sub-committees

24.1) Footpaths

Cllr C Brown reported that all the footpaths had been cut & that they were in good condition.

24.2) Playing Field/Common

The old goal posts had been discarded.

Part of the fence by one of the willows had been damaged & would be repaired. As this piece of fencing had been damaged previously a longer-term solution would be considered.

The stones removed from the top of the millennium bridge were to be replaced.

Cllr R Western reported that to cover an area of 8 x 6m with astra turf in each goalmouth would cost in the region of £2000 per goal. The Parish Council considered this to be prohibitively expensive.

It was RESOLVED that the Council would enter the Playing Field of the year competition at the cost of £5.

24.3) Allotments

Cllr R Harris reported that the first “Best Kept Allotment” inspection was due to take place. During his regular checks of the allotments he had noted that several plots required attention.

Cllr R Harris reported that the dog waste bin on the allotment track was being well used.

25) Planning

S.D.C. had authorised the siting of up to 4 caravans at Barton Farm (51/08/00036).

51/09/00003 – 20 Inwood Road. Erection of front porch partly on site of existing (to be demolished).

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

51/09/00004 – Wembdon St George's School. Extension to existing classrooms to provide additional teaching space & a library area.

Permission granted.

51/09/00005 – 2 Silverdale Close, Wembdon. Erection of two-storey side extension to include garage, partly on site of existing garage (to be demolished).

Permission granted.

26) Finance

26.1) Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

The accounts, having been reviewed by the Finance sub-committee, were formally approved.

The accounts would now be subject to scrutiny by the Internal Auditor before being made available to the public from 2 June 2009 for a period of 20 working days. They would then be submitted to Moore Stephens for external audit on 1 July 2009.

26.2) Payments

The Parish Council authorised the following payments

- Ground Maintenance £285.00
- Clerk's Expenses £47.09
- Annual Insurance £801.17

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £100.00 be made to St Margaret's Hospice Somerset.

A donation request from Life Education Wessex would be considered at the June meeting.

26.3) Recreational Amenity Grant

The Clerk had submitted an application for £6455.03 to S.D.C. who would consider the bid on 7 July 2009. In reality, as funding was limited, the Council was unlikely to see a grant exceeding 10% of the bid & possibly much less.

26.4) Balance

Balance at 20 April 2009		£15112.43
VAT Refund		<u>£ 601.59</u>
		£15714.02
Less		
Clerk's Expenses	£ 39.67	
Ground Maintenance	£285.00	
Community Council for Somerset	£ 30.00	
Somerset Association of Local Councils	£673.29	
Salary & Income Tax	£860.53	<u>£ 1888.49</u>
Balance at 11 May 2009		£13825.53

27) Any Other Business

27.1) Future Agenda's

It was RESOLVED that future agenda's would include the following item - Declaration of Interest's.

27.2) Verge Maintenance

The Clerk was instructed to write to S.D.C. regarding the state of the verge in Church Road, including the weeds growing between the kerb & the road, the withy vine growing on the verge along Homberg Way & the weeds growing between the path & road in Meadow Park.

27.3) The Green Wedge

The Land Acquisition & Development sub-committee was asked to take account of the Parish Plan when considering possible options for the 'Green Wedge'. These views would then be presented to the Parish Council before any plan was drawn up.