

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 APRIL 2010

Present

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

1) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, County Cllr John Edney & 1 member of the public to the meeting.

The meeting was informed that there were 2 issues that, due to the commercially sensitive nature of them, would be dealt with after the public had left at the end of normal business.

2) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr Ann Bown, Cllr D Lumber & Cllr C Brown. County Cllr Edney informed the meeting that he could only be present for part of it as he had another meeting to attend.

3) Declarations of Interest

The Chairman, Cllr B Webb, declared an interest in the item on the agenda titled 'To consider an update on proposals for the Green Wedge'.

4) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

5) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29 March 2010 were agreed & signed.

6) Report form the Clerk

6.1) Drainage of the Playing Field

After a recent inspection, by the contractor, it had been determined that work could not commence until the ground had dried out further.

6.2) Dog Bins

S.D.C. had been informed, on 2 separate occasions in the past week, that bins were overflowing & required urgent attention. One problem they were encountering was that the bins were sometimes being used to dispose of household waste. S.D.C. would be asked to either provide a larger bin or consider the provision of an additional one on footpath BW 34/6.

As the vandalised bins in the playing field couldn't be repaired the Clerk was instructed to investigate the provision of more sturdy ones & report directly to the Chairman.

Once the new bins had been purchased it was RESOLVED that they should be added to the Council's insurance.

6.3) Speed watch Signs

The speed watch team had been reminded that County Highways would not allow the permanent placement of the signs.

6.4) Repairs to the Millennium Bridge Brickwork

It was RESOLVED that two quotes would be obtained.

6.5) Fencing on Footpath BW 34/6

A quote of £110 for 6-7 linear metres of 2-rail fencing to match the existing was approved.

6.6) Town & Parish Council Workshop

It was RESOLVED that Cllr's K Perry & J Riddle would represent the Council at the workshop on 12 May, which would discuss, with S.D.C; the potential to work with them in jointly funding a range of discretionary services.

6.7) Freedom of Information Request

The Chairman has received further correspondence, which was again very critical of the Council & looked to find fault wherever it could even to the point of criticising Councillors that had voluntarily cleared up rubbish around the village.

It repeated much of what the Council had previously responded to & included a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, the third such request from the same resident.

6.8) Wembdon Common

Wales & West Utilities had now agreed to undertake a site visit with a view to making good the damage caused when the new gas pipes were laid.

6.9) Repairs to the Entrance to Crossacre

The Parish Council needed further information from S.D.C. before deciding how to proceed as only a partial response had been received from them regarding responsibility for undertaking repairs.

6.10) Wall on Wembdon Hill

S.D.C. had reported that the wall, in their opinion, posed no threat to pedestrians.

6.11) Standing Orders

The Somerset Association of Local Councils had supplied a copy of their version of the new Model Standing Orders, which would be considered by the Parish Council sub-committee.

6.12) Children's Home at The Oaks

Cllr Ann Bown was dealing with issues that had arisen at the home.

6.13) Cokerhurst Farm

Engage Planning were now ready to talk to the Parish Council, still in private, with regard to changes made to the proposed development plan. The Clerk was therefore instructed to arrange a mutually convenient date.

7) Local Development Framework

The Council formally approved the draft response, prepared by Cllr M Solomon that would be submitted to S.D.C.

8) The Green Wedge

Cllr Solomon informed the meeting that it was hoped that a presentation would be made at the May meeting.

9) Correspondence

9.1) Somerset Waste Management Strategy

The Council would not be represented at the workshops being held in May 2010 to review the joint municipal waste management strategy.

9.2) Research in to Wembdon Wall Lizards

The Parish Council gave its support to the research project being undertaken by the University of Oxford.

9.3) Other Correspondence

The following had been placed in the correspondence folder

- Quantock Parish Cluster Group & PACT Meeting minutes dated 16 March 2010
- Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group Meeting minutes dated 26 February 2010
- Fieldwork magazine – April 2010
- Somerset Matters magazine – spring 2010
- Somerset Community Safety newsletter

10) Planning

51/10/00005 – 42 Wembdon Rise. Retention of two electrically operated gates.

The Planning sub-committee is supporting this application.

51/10/00006 – Barn A at, Grabhams Farm, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Erection of shed to North elevation of part converted barn to house plant for heating system.

The Planning sub-committee has objected to this application on the grounds that it is not in keeping with the original building, that it should match the structure of the barn (built of stone) & is too large for its purpose.

51/10/00007 – Greenway Garage, Quantock Road. Display of one internally illuminated free standing double-sided display unit.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

51/10/00008 – Land to the East of, 57 Wembdon Hill. Erection of dwelling with integral garage & formation of access.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee although there are some highways concerns.

51/10/00009 – 30 Countess Avenue, Wembdon. Rebuild existing conservatory on the same site, following formation of foundations.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

Planning sub-committee members were informed that, following recent matters referred to the Sedgemoor Standards Committee, they should not approach or enter in to dialogue with the applicant or objector individually as they were not representing the whole Council. Furthermore applications could only be viewed from a public place.

11) Finance

Balance at 29 March 2010	£18445.65	
Bank Interest received	<u>£ 2.65</u>	£18448.30
Less		
Clerk's Expenses	£ 33.94	
S.C.C. (Room Hire)	£ 185.19	
GB Sport & Leisure (Swing Seats)	£ 78.73	
Somerset Association of Local Councils	£ 676.71	
Community Council for Somerset	£ 30.00	
Sedgemoor Community Transport (Donation)	<u>£ 100.00</u>	<u>£ 1104.57</u>
Balance at 19 April 2010		£17343.73

(£13971 of the balance is set aside for the drainage of the playing field).

The following payments were authorised

- Ground Maintenance £355.00
- Clerk's Expenses £43.84
- Salary & Income Tax £994.31

12) Matters Raised by Councillors

12.1) Playing Field

Cllr R Western reported that it appeared that someone had tried to set fire to the swing seats & the incident had been reported to the Police.

A member of the public had asked the Council to consider the provision of play equipment for children with disabilities. Further enquiries were being made.

12.2) Property Sold Sign

A local estate agent would be asked to remove the sold sign at Sandford Corner as the property in question had been sold several months earlier & it appeared that it was now only being used to advertise the agent.