

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2010

Present

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

74) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors, PC Tony Freeman, & 8 members of the public to the meeting.

The Chairman read out a letter from the Clerk, which stated, that as a consequence of events at the September meeting, the Clerk was seeking a unanimous vote of confidence from the Councillors & if this was not forthcoming he would be resigning. The Chairman then explained that as a result of further correspondence received that day from one particular parishioner the Clerk has decided to resign his position & therefore a vote was not relevant. The Clerk explained the reasoning behind his resignation.

The Chairman then informed the meeting that he was also seeking a vote of confidence from Councillors as a direct result of issues surrounding the Green Wedge & that if this was not forthcoming he would step down as Chairman immediately.

The Vice Chairman, Cllr R Harris took the Chair & the Chairman left the room. A vote was taken in favour of the Chairman & he was informed on his return to the room. At that point Cllr Harris handed the Chairmanship of the meeting back to Cllr B Webb.

75) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of County Cllr John Edney and Dr Peter Reed.

The Clerk informed the meeting that although Dr Reed had accepted the invitation to become a Parish Councillor he was unable to attend the October meeting due to a long-standing commitment. The Clerk added that until Dr Reed signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office he was not a Councillor & legally was unable to take up any of the duties of being a Councillor. Consequently, whilst the Clerk had provided Dr Reed with a copy of the minutes & agenda he would not be copying him in to any other correspondence until the declaration had been signed.

76) Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr S Bagg indicated that if the proposals in respect of the Green Wedge were voted on he was declaring an interest.

Cllr Ann Bown declared an interest in respect of the Local Development Framework agenda item.

77) Proposals for The Green Wedge

Councillors were informed that a petition signed by 132 parishioners had been received calling for a public meeting, of Wembdon residents only, to discuss the proposals for the Green Wedge. Additionally the Chairman informed the meeting of correspondence from the Chairman of the Wembdon Recreational Development Group, Dr Peter Reed, seeking a meeting with the Parish Council regarding the proposals. Councillors agreed that a public meeting needed to be held & that it should have an independent chairman.

Additionally the Council should not meet with the WRDG until the public meeting had taken place. It was also RESOLVED that it would be inappropriate to consider the proposals before the Council until after the public meeting had taken place. The Council would now wait until the petitioners had indicated to the Clerk how they wished to see the public meeting structured & who they would wish to see chairing the meeting.

78) The Views of Wembdon Residents in Respect of Items on the Agenda

There were none.

79) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 September 2010 were formally agreed & signed.

80) Report from the Police

PC Freeman reported that there were no specific Wembdon issues that needed to be raised. On behalf of the Council Cllr Ann Bown thanked him & PCSO Nick Mizon for all the work they did for Wembdon.

81) Report from the Clerk

81.1) Wembdon Flooding

In an attempt to finally get this matter resolved to the satisfaction of the Council & affected residents it was agreed that a representative of the Internal Drainage Board be invited to the November meeting to discuss all the options being considered to reduce the risk of future flooding in the village.

81.2) Quantock Parish Cluster Meeting

Cllr M Solomon informed the meeting that there had been a lengthy report from S.D.C. regarding their response to the EDF proposals for Hinkley Point with one of their main concerns being the belief that the A39 would not be able to cope with the increased traffic.

General issues concerning the A39 were also covered.

There was also a report from S.D.C. regarding their finances

81.3) Playing Field

It was RESOLVED that a new self-closing gate for the entrance to the toddlers play area should be fitted at a cost not exceeding £650.

It was also RESOLVED that repairs to the fencing should proceed.

81.4) Entrance to Crossacre

A meeting of interested parties was due to take place prior to the end of October 2010.

81.5) Declarations of Interest

Immediately following the September 2010 meeting the Clerk had received a letter from a parishioner questioning whether a number of Parish Councillors should have declared an interest in respect of the Green Wedge agenda item. Advice was obtained from SALC & subsequently the Clerk had written individually to the Councillors potentially affected by the advice received.

82) Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Consultation

Councillors were currently considering the consultation documents & their response to the proposals; in particular the ones in respect of Cokerhurst Farm would be determined at the November meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the Council would hold a separate public meeting to consider the soon to be submitted Cokerhurst Farm outline planning application.

83) Correspondence

83.1) Disability Equality Scheme Questionnaire

The Clerk informed the meeting that to meet the requirements of using the school hall for meetings he would be inviting anyone in attendance, who considered themselves to have a disability, to complete a questionnaire at the beginning of each meeting.

83.2) Hinkley Point Site Stakeholders Meeting

The next meeting was due to take place on Friday 29 October 2010.

83.3) Community Policing Awards 2010

Information regarding nominations for these awards was given & further information was to be placed on the 2 larger notice boards.

83.4) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Details of the training event on planning matters that Cllr's J Riddle & D Lumber attended
- A letter from Over Stowey Parish Council supporting a Dunball to Combwich bypass
- Local Councils Update
- Being a Good Employer – A guide for Councillors
- Thatch Magazine
- The Clerk magazine
- SALC update on policy matters discussed at their AGM held on 25 September 2010

84) Use of the Playing Field for Under 11 Football Matches

The meeting was informed that Wembdon Junior Football Club had made a request to the Parish Council to play matches on the playing field & to also increase the size of the pitch. However, it was the view of the Council that following the drainage works the playing field was not yet ready to be used for matches & that in fact some of the drainage channels required more topping up & a quote for this work would be obtained.

85) RLT 2 Funding

Councillors had been informed that there was in excess of £5000 funding available to Wembdon Parish Council, which could be used on the provision of new facilities & ancillary items related to playing fields & play equipment but not on the maintenance of existing features.

86) Planning

51/10/00014 – Willow Tree Barn, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Erection of outbuilding.

Permission granted.

51/10/00015 – 19 Greenacre. Erection of two-storey side extension & single storey rear extension, partly on site of existing (to be demolished).

Permission granted.

51/10/00016 – Old School House, Blakes Road. Erection of two-storey building to form 1st floor residential unit, ground floor garage/workshop with drive through access to the rear, providing parking for the existing residential dwelling – The Old School House, alterations to access & parking, demolition of existing garage.

Permission refused.

51/10/00017 – 1 Meadowlands Avenue, Wembdon. Erection of two-storey extension to side elevation.

Permission granted.

51/10/00018 – 76 Wembdon Rise. Widening of access, formation of turning and parking area.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

51/10/00019 – Highfield, Sandford Hill. Erection of double garage, partly on site of existing (to be demolished).

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

51/10/00020 - The Tower Cottage, Downhall Drive, Wembdon. Erection of first floor side extension.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

51/10/00021 – 25 Wembdon Hill. Erection of part two storey, part first floor side extension, partly on site of existing (to be demolished), re-roofing garage & erection of single storey rear, on site of existing (to be demolished).

No objection from the Planning sub-committee. Cllr Bown declared an interest.

08/10/00157 – Gerber Foods Ltd, Wembdon Road. Demolition of existing building, erection of 215 residential units, change of use of an existing office to 1 residential property, associated public open space; children's play space, new road infrastructure, landscaping & associated works.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee. Cllr Bown declared an interest.

23/10/004 – Land adjacent to Queenswood Farm. Outline planning application for the construction of school buildings (with associated areas of hard standing, sports pitches, artificial turf pitch, multi use games areas, engineering & landscape works) plus associated road improvements.

The Planning sub-committee has objected to this application on highways grounds & the associated foot & cycle path network. Cllr Bown declared an interest.

The Clerk provided the meeting with details of correspondence he had received & his response in respect of the planning application **51/10/00011**, which had received planning permission.

87) Finance

Councillors had been provided with a bank reconciliation for the period to 30 September 2010.

The following payments were authorised

- Dog bin emptying £327.50
- Ground Maintenance £355.00
- Salary & Income Tax £994.31
- Clerk's Expenses £76.48

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made to Victim Support Somerset & Avon.

It was RESOLVED that the Council would not subscribe to the Local Councils Update newsletter as the information provided did not warrant the cost that would be incurred.

Balance at 13 September 2010		£ 2668.50
Precept		£ 8000.00
Bank Interest		<u>£ 0.49</u>
		£10668.99
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£355.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 77.43	
Audit (Moore Stephens)	£334.88	
Aon Insurance	£ 59.38	
Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau	£100.00	<u>£ 926.69</u>
Balance at 11 October 2010		£ 9742.30

88) Matters Raised by Councillors

88.1) Wembdon Speed Watch Team

The Chairman indicated that a report from the speed watch team would be made at the November meeting.

88.2) Vandalised Play Equipment

Clr R Western reported that the springy in the toddlers play area had been vandalised & subsequently repaired.

88.3) Fence by the Deep Rhyne

Clr Riddle reported that part of the fence alongside the rhyne adjacent to the NDR had been damaged & required repair. The Clerk stated that he would inform the Internal Drainage Board.