

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 APRIL 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

1) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, County Cllr John Edney, PC Tony Freeman, PCSO Nick Mizon & 2 members of the public to the meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that as County Cllr Edney had another Parish Council meeting to attend he would be changing the order of the agenda.

2) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr Ann Bown who was still recovering from her broken ankle.

3) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 9 March 2009 were agreed & signed.

4) Wembdon Football Club Proposals

The Chairman declared an interest & handed over Chairmanship of the meeting in respect of this issue to the Vice Chairman, Cllr Harris.

The Parish Councillors had previously been provided with details of the proposals to create 3 football pitches on the 'green wedge' between the Common & the NDR, along with changing rooms & associated parking.

The landowner was offering to lease or loan part of his land for this purpose but wanted to build a number of houses, including some social housing facing on to Church Road.

The Parish Council supported the idea of the land being used for recreational purposes but considered the proposal to be too ambitious, as it did not cater for other uses, such as by the cricket club.

The Parish Council was, however, completely opposed to any housing development on this land.

Councillors identified issues that may be of concern to residents, such as increased traffic, potential vandalism & the effect it would have on the character of the centre of the village.

The Parish Council whilst wanting to provide or at least support recreational use on this land needed to be mindful of the views of the residents.

The Council was also interested to know whether the football club had considered any other areas of land, including any suitable sites in Bridgwater.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the football club outlining the Parish Councils initial views on the proposals. It was also agreed that the land development sub-committee would consider options for the green wedge & would take account of the information gathered from residents during the production of the Parish plan in its deliberations.

Before offering his apologies & leaving the meeting County Cllr Edney informed the meeting that the Somerset Association of Local Councils could be very helpful when dealing with issues such as this.

5) The Views of Wembdon Residents

Cllr B Webb returned to chair the remainder of the meeting.

A local resident brought to the attention of the meeting the announcement made earlier that day that Queenswood Farm had been selected as the preferred site for new Haygrove & Penrose Schools. The resident highlighted potential highways problems as a result of this site being used.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the Bridgwater Schools for the Future project leader asking for full details of the proposals.

6) Report from PC Tony Freeman

PC Freeman reported that there had been some vandalism at the school during the Easter holidays.

There had also been a couple of recent incidents in the playing field but he & PCSO Nick Mizon were visiting as often as they could & dealing with problems as they arose. PC Freeman understood that the Children's Home was now staying open but the number of residents was being reduced to a maximum of 4 at any one time.

On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman wished PC Freeman well as he was due to run in the London marathon on Sunday 26 April.

7) Matters Arising

7.1) Additional Dog Waste Bin

Sedgemoor District Council would be reminded that the Parish Council had asked for a bin at the junction of Wares Lane & Greenacre.

7.2) Quantock Parish Cluster Meeting

The next meeting was due to take place on 19 May at Enmore Village Hall with Wembdon Parish Centre hosting the meeting on 1 September 2009.

7.3) Highways

Cllr Perry confirmed that the repairs between the Malthouse & Sandford Corner had been completed but the large dip on the edge of the carriageway by the gateway at Hogg House hadn't. County Highways would be asked to remedy this.

The Clerk was waiting for responses to his letters regarding a controlled crossing in Wembdon Rise & access to a flashing speed sign.

7.4) Parish Council Website

The website was undergoing final testing & was due to be made available to everyone by the end of the month.

7.5) New Bridge

The tender process had been completed & following a meeting of the Chairman, Cllr M Solomon & the Clerk the contract had been awarded to HBC Building Contractors. The value of the contract was £6580 inclusive of VAT & was within the budgeted amount. The bridge was now being built & it was expected that it would be installed within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

8) Correspondence

8.1) Community Landscape Character Statement

It was RESOLVED that as a statement would support The Parish Plan, could be used as a planning tool & might be adopted as an official planning document by S.D.C. the Parish Council would consider preparation of one. Cllr Bagg agreed to review the guidance received & report back to the Council at the May meeting.

8.2) Affordable Housing Rural Parish Newsletter

The first issue of this new newsletter identified what the phrase ‘affordable housing’ meant & listed house-building programmes that had started in recent years within nearby Parishes that had included an element of affordable housing._

8.3) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- EDF’s Strategic Siting Assessment for Development at Hinkley Point
- Guidance on how to comment on the sites nominated for New Nuclear Power Stations – responses were due by no later than 14 May
- Hinkley Point B newsletter & the minutes of the Stakeholder meeting held on 27 February 2009, Cllr R Western represented the Parish Council at this meeting
- Volunteer Centre spring newsletter
- Fieldwork – March edition
- Countryside Voice – spring edition
- The agenda for the Bridgwater Parish Cluster Meeting held on 15 March 2009 along with details of the RLT3 funding applications for the building of 3 skateboard parks in Bridgwater – Cllr M Solomon who had attended this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council reported that most of the meeting had been devoted to the ‘Bridgwater Challenge’

9) Reports from Sub-committees

9.1) Footpaths

Cllr C Brown reported that the footpaths were due to be cut during the first week of May. He also reported that a couple of new gates were due to be erected.

9.2) Playing Field

Cllr Western thanked Cllr Harris for arranging for the new goals to be erected.

The damaged swing seats had been replaced.

The bonfire ashes had been removed & the area seeded.

S.D.C. had ruled that Wembdon could not apply for RLT3 funding for drainage of the playing field via the Bridgwater Cluster, as it was not a member of that cluster only an interested party. A bid for RLT3 funding of £9971 had been submitted to the Quantock Parish Cluster & the S.D.C. Parks & Open Spaces Officer was recommending approval. It was agreed that Cllr Western would research the cost of using astra turf in the goalmouths to prevent the current constant wear & tear to them.

9.3) Allotments

Greenslade Taylor Hunt had informed the Council that as the estate was still going through probate they could not provide any information regarding the plans the beneficiaries might have for the allotment field.

It was agreed that temporary repairs to the track leading to the allotments were not appropriate & that more comprehensive repairs were required. However, these could not be considered whilst the future of the field remained uncertain.

10 Planning

51/09/00001 – 70 Wembdon Hill. Erection of single storey rear extension.

Permission granted.

51/09/00002 – 11 Silverdale Close, Wembdon. Erection of single storey extension to South elevation.

Permission granted.

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

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

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).

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

It was noted that there was a residential caravan at Barton Farm & the Clerk was instructed to check if this was contrary to the planning permission agreed under **(51/08/00036)**

11) Finance

The Parish Councillors were provided with a revised current balance, a statement of income & expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2009 & a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2009.

The accounts for the same period were handed to the finance sub-committee to inspect prior to them being submitted to the internal auditor. The annual audit of the accounts would commence on 1 July 2009 & prior to that they would be available for inspection by the public for a period of 20 working days from 2 June 2009.

It was RESOLVED that the following payments would be made

- Ground Maintenance £285
- Clerk's Expenses £39.67
- Salary & Income Tax £860.53 – this took account of a small pay increase in line with the national agreement

It was also RESOLVED that the Parish Council would subscribe to the Somerset Association of Local Councils at the cost of £673.29 & The Community Council for Somerset at the cost of £30.

A decision on a donation to Life Education Wessex would be determined at the May meeting.

Balance at 9 March 2009		£15885.13
Bank Interest		£ 5.67
Allotment Rent		<u>£ 60.00</u>
		£15920.80
Less		
Clerk's Expenses	£ 38.02	
Greenslade Taylor Hunt (Allotments)	£200.00	
Tree for Cottage Inn verge	£ 34.99	
Sutcliffe Play (swing seats)	£144.21	
S.C.C. (room hire)	£117.60	
S.D.C. (dog waste bin emptying)	£115.46	
S.D.C. (new dog waste bin)	£158.09	<u>£ 808.37</u>
Balance at 20 April 2009		£15112.43

12) Any Other Business

12.1) New Notice board

The Parish Council recognized that they needed to make information relating to the work of the Parish Council accessible to residents of the new housing developments off the NDR & it was, therefore, RESOLVED that once the barriers had been removed from around the footpath at the Notaro development a final decision would be made as to where to place a new notice board.

12.2) Replacement Flower Boxes

Cllr Harris had resumed the search for replacement flower boxes for the verge by the Cottage Inn.

The annual meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 11 May 2009, commencing at 7.15pm