

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2009

Present

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

95) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, 3 members of the public, PC Tony Freeman & PCSO Nick Mizon to the meeting.

96) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in respect of Cllr Ann Bown, Cllr M Solomon & County Cllr John Edney. Cllr C Brown offered his apologies as he had to leave the meeting early & Cllr R Western had notified the Clerk that he would be arriving late for the meeting.

97) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

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

98) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

99) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 November 2009 were agreed & signed

100) Report from PC Tony Freeman

PC Freeman reported that there had been a number of attempted & actual burglaries in the village, which had, generally, taken place in the late afternoon. As a result extra patrols were taking place by police in plain clothes.

Following the burglary at the youth club in September some of the offenders had been apprehended & more arrests were possible.

101) Report from the Clerk

101.1) Local Development Framework

The Clerk reported that it had not been possible to arrange a public meeting, within the consultation time line, with Sedgemoor District Council being present, to consider proposals for Cokerhurst Farm as outlined in the Preferred Options Report.

101.2) Drainage of the Playing Field

The RLT3 funding from S.D.C. had been received. The contractor & drainage board were currently discussing several technical issues. Once these were resolved & subject to weather conditions the work would commence.

101.3) Flood Alleviation Work

The planned site meeting had taken place & the latest proposal was to take the water from the low point directly in to the rhyne in front of the millennium bridge. This would mean that the culvert under the bridge would have to be modified to take increased capacity. This required the possible fluming of the entrance to the culvert. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain drawings of the proposed works.

101.4) Ground Maintenance Contract

The sub-committee had met on Saturday 5 December to consider the 5 tenders received. Three of the tenders were very competitive. Based on the price quoted, which included the additional hourly rate & because of the current standard of service the contract was awarded to Mr A Sutton for a further 3 years commencing on 1 January 2010.

101.5) S.D.C. Budget Briefing

All Councillors had been provided with details of the issues raised at the briefing. Cllr K Perry stated that the information given was an overview because, currently, S.D.C. could not identify what cuts would be made or what items they would like to sideline to Town/Parish Councils. Additionally County Council budgets etc would impact on the District's decision making.

101.6) Highways Issues

Somerset County Council had provided the results of their 2nd monitoring of motorists speeds on Wembdon Hill & Wembdon Rise & it confirmed the earlier exercise that the speeds did not merit the use of a Speed Indicator Device.

The Council agreed that the signs warning of the speed watch activities in the village should be in place permanently as, hopefully, they would act as a deterrent. A letter from a resident of Wembdon Hill raising concerns in respect the lack of a footpath on Wembdon Hill from the post box to the junction with the A39 was to be forwarded directly to County Cllr John Edney.

101.7) County Councillor Grant Fund

County Cllr Edney had advised that the grant fund could not be used to replace the fencing by the new footbridge on a like for like basis as that could only be considered as maintenance work & the fund could only to be used for items that would not otherwise happen.

Following a further discussion & a vote there was a majority decision in favour of purchasing a speed gun for use by the Wembdon speed watch team. Ownership of it would remain with the Parish Council & it was agreed that Cllr C Brown would have responsibility for keeping it safe.

101.8) Precept 2010/2011

The Finance sub-committee would meet to consider a recommendation for the 2010/2011 Precept & seek approval for this at the Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 11 January 2010. All Councillors & sub-committees were asked to consider expenditure for next year & provide the sub-committee with full details (including estimated cost) prior to the Finance sub-committee meeting.

101.9) Footbridge Improvements

Cllr M Solomon had confirmed that S.C.C. Rights of Way had approved the

proposed modifications to the footbridge & an order would be placed with the sub-contractor to proceed with the work.

102) An Update on Proposals for the Green Wedge

The Chairman, Cllr B Webb, having declared an interest, handed Chairmanship of the meeting to the Vice Chairman, Cllr R Harris & left the room.

The Clerk read out a statement from Cllr Solomon, which included the following

- The objective of the working group was to evaluate the feasibility of any plans to improve recreational facilities in the village
- Other sites had been considered but work to date suggested that the 'Green Wedge' was the most suitable option
- Discussions had taken place with all of the landowners with a view to generating a plan for the whole area
- Discussions were on-going with all potential users, e.g. football & cricket clubs, the schools & local societies
- Facilities in other villages were being looked at
- Meetings had been held with the S.C.C. Village Halls Co-ordinator to improve the understanding of possibilities for funding, legal requirements & on-going management of any facilities
- The focus was now on generating architectural drawings for potential facilities so that a draft plan could be prepared for costings appropriate for a feasibility study to be commenced. To aid this approval had been given for a digital map to be purchased at a cost of £139 approx.

There was some concern that the working group could be losing sight of the Parish Plan where it was indicated that the majority of residents had indicated that they wished the 'Green Wedge' to be preserved.

The Chairman, Cllr Webb, was invited back in to the meeting.

The Council discussed an approach that had been made to them by the owner of the land, immediately beyond the new footbridge, asking if the Council was interested in the possible long term lease of the land as the owner was considering her options.

103) Correspondence

103.1) Somerset Association of Local Councils

S.A.L.C. had written to all member Councils addressing the potential issue of County & District Councils shunting costs down to Town/ Parish Councils.

103.2) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
- Planning – Delegation Scheme
- Proposals for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point
- Somerset Community Safety Newsletter
- Building Schools for the Future Update
- Fieldwork magazine, December issue
- Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group minutes dated 30/10/2009
- Somerset Matters magazine

104) Litter

It was agreed that the Council would continue with a voluntary approach to

dealing with litter in the village not removed by S.D.C. or other agencies.

105) New Wembdon name Sign

Following the damage to the name sign, at the Sandford end of the village, the Council needed to consider the purchase of a new one. County Highways had advised that the cost of any new sign was the responsibility of the Parish Council & a new design was needed, as the old one did not comply with the current regulations. They had provided the Council with a design, costing & agreement to be signed should the Council agree to proceed. The details were placed in the correspondence folder & it was agreed that it would be considered further at the January meeting.

Cllr Harris confirmed that a new planting trough had been purchased to replace the one that had been destroyed when the sign had been damaged beyond repair.

106) Planning

51/09/00015 – Barn on land to the East of, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Change of use & conversion of barn to dwelling.

No objection from planning sub-committee.

51/09/00018 – 16 Church Road, Wembdon. Erection of two-storey side extension partly on site of existing garage (to be demolished) including new access and hard standing for off road parking.

No objection from planning sub-committee.

51/09/00019 – 19 Brigg Close, Wembdon. Erection of single storey rear extension.

Permission granted.

51/09/00020 – 4 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of front porches.

No objection from planning sub-committee.

51/09/00021 – 98a Wembdon Hill. Erection of a double garage with first floor hobbies room & formation of vehicular access.

No objection from planning sub-committee.

51/09/00022 – St George's Primary School. The replacement of 4 existing staff car parking spaces with 3 disabled parking spaces and the creation of 3 new staff car parking spaces.

The planning sub-committee has supported this application.

107) Finance

Balance at 9 November 2009		£13570.31
RLT3 Funding		<u>£ 9971.00</u>
		£23541.31
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£285.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 43.40	<u>£ 378.40</u>
Balance at 7 December 2009		£23162.91

The following payments were approved

- Photocopying £5.00
- Ground Maintenance £285

- Clerk's Expenses £35.81
- Subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks £82.00

Cllr R Western reported that he had received a quote of £2745 + VAT for the fencing that would need replacement as a result of the drainage work in the playing field. Further quotes would be obtained.

108) Matters Raised by Councillors

108.1) Grass Track Racing – Perry Green

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Enforcement section at S.D.C. because contrary to what the Council has been told at an earlier date none of the jumps had been removed.

108.2) Allotments

Cllr Harris reported that the agents acting for the owners of the allotment field were aware of the Parish Council's requirements.

108.3) Wembdon Rise Pavement

Following an accident when a motorised wheelchair had overturned on the sloping footpath it was RESOLVED that the Council would approach Highways to seek safety improvements to the footpath.

The Chairman informed the meeting that normal business had been concluded & asked the members of the public & the Clerk to leave the meeting so that the Parish Council could discuss the Clerk's contracted hours of employment.