

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 JULY 2009

### Present

Chairman, Cllr B Webb, Cllr D Lumber, Cllr S Bagg, Cllr M Solomon & Cllr K Perry

### 41) Chairman's Welcome

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

County Cllr Edney was congratulated on his appointment to the post of Chairman of Somerset County Council.

### 42) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr R Harris, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr R Western, Cllr C Brown & Cllr Ann Bown.

### 43) Declarations of Interest

There were none.

### 44) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

### 45) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 8 June 2009 were agreed & signed.

### 46) Report from PC Tony Freeman

In the absence of PC Freeman PCSO Nick Mizon reported the following

- Since the last meeting there had been a report of an indecent exposure near the traffic lights on Homberg Way.
- A rear windscreen had been broken on a vehicle in Greenacre
- There had been no reports of any incidents in the playing field

### 47) Matters Arising

#### 47.1) Quantock Parish Cluster Meeting – 1 September 2009

It was RESOLVED that Cllr M Solomon would represent the Parish Council at the meeting & that Cllr's D Lumber & J Riddle would provide refreshments.

#### 47.2) Proposed Signage to Wembdon Church & Parish Centre

The Parish Council had been informed that the proposed sign at the junction of Wembdon Rise/Wembdon Hill would cost in the region of £200. Information regarding the cost of any sign on the cycle path off Homberg Way was not yet known.

The Parochial Church Council was seeking a donation towards the cost from the Parish Council & it was RESOLVED that a decision would be made at the September meeting when the total cost of the signs should be known.

### **47.3) New Notice Board**

As the footpath in to the Notaro development had finally been opened it was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr S Bagg & Cllr D Lumber would hold a site meeting to determine the best place for the notice board.

### **47.4) Meeting with the Police**

Councillors had been supplied with a written report regarding the meeting that took place between the Chairman, the Clerk & Sgt Steve Crago.

Following that meeting it had been confirmed that police resourcing was based on a per capita basis but then took account of crime rates etc. As Bristol had a crime rate of at least 50% greater than anywhere else in the Avon & Somerset Police region the highest density of resource was placed there.

The concerns raised regarding the time taken, on occasions, to answer the 0845 number had been referred to the head of communications.

### **47.5) Motor Cycle Grass Track, Perry Green**

As a result of the correspondence with the Enforcement office for Sedgemoor District Council this was being monitored closely.

### **47.6) Moorhen Farm**

S.D.C. had informed the Parish Council that it was not necessary to apply for planning permission unless the number of horse events exceeded 28 days in any one year.

Sedgemoor highways had stated that they did not have the budget to improve the existing passing points on the road between Sandford Corner & the farm.

### **47.7) Verge Maintenance, Church Road**

Discussions were ongoing with Sedgemoor Highways regarding the Parish Council taking responsibility for the maintenance of this verge.

### **47.8) Environment Actions to Avoid Future Flooding**

The Parrett Drainage Board had finally provided the Council with a report as to the possible causes of the flooding in May 2008 & the actions being considered to avoid a reoccurrence. Discussions with the other relevant agencies would now take place before any remedial works were undertaken.

## **48) Highways**

A request for a controlled crossing at the Wembdon Rise/Inwood Road junction had been rejected. However, the Parish Council had been invited to identify two sites for the possible placement of a Speed Indicator Device. The highways sub-committee was tasked with identifying the two potential sites as a matter of priority.

Councillors had been provided with a copy of the proposed road plans around Queenswood Farm, the selected site for the new Haygrove & Penrose Schools.

It was confirmed that the Clerk was the responsible person for liaising with Highways whilst ensuring that Cllr Harris was kept informed.

## **49) Correspondence**

### **49.1) Bridgwater Cluster Meeting**

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Solomon would represent the Council at the meeting on 24 September.

#### **49.2) Wembdon Parish Plan**

The Council had received a letter from a member of the steering group stating that there were a number of volunteers willing to support any actions that may lead to the village getting better recreational facilities, including a village hall. Additionally there were other volunteers keen to help create & distribute a village newsletter.

The volunteers were prepared to either assist any Parish Council working groups or act as groups outside of the Council but liaising with it on specific projects. Due to the Council being involved, already, in a number of projects it was RESOLVED that the latter option was preferable & Cllr's Solomon & Bagg would act as the liaison between the groups & the Parish Council.

#### **49.3) Conservation Day**

The Councillors were informed that as part of the festival of British Archaeology, S.D.C. was holding a conservation day on 30 July 2009.

#### **49.4) Parish Council Meetings**

After considering a report from the Clerk regarding the SLCC training event he had attended it was RESOLVED that future agendas would be more specific & in line with legislation. Councillors wanting an item added to the agenda needed to inform the Clerk by no later than 9 days before the date of the meeting.

Councillors were also informed that the correct place for raising an item where they had a prejudicial interest was the same place where residents addressed Councillors (The Views of Wembdon Residents).

It was RESOLVED that revisions to the current Standing Orders along with the adoption of Financial Regulations would be considered by the finance sub-committee prior to the September meeting.

#### **49.5) Other Correspondence**

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- The Clerk – July edition
- Clerks & Councils Direct – July edition
- Somerset Local Access Forum newsletter
- Public Rights of Way newsletter
- Affordable Housing Fact Sheet No 2
- News & Views from Hinkley Point
- S.D.C. Draft Statement of Gambling Policy (responses required by 10 September)

#### **50) Reports from Sub-committees**

##### **50.1) Footpaths**

Cllr Brown was tasked with identifying the properties where their bushes, trees etc. were overhanging the footpaths & causing an obstruction.

##### **50.2) Playing Field**

The new bridge was now in place & open. All agreed that it was an excellent improvement on the one that had it had replaced.

The goalpost fixings had been repaired.

The meeting was advised that following the placement of a public notice in the Bridgwater Mercury, for a period of 3 weeks, a further potential contractor had declared an interest in undertaking the drainage work.

The playing field inspection had taken place with Cllr Western present during it.

The Council considered the various fencing quotes received & agreed that the quote from Coates Fencing in respect of repairs to the toddlers play area would be accepted.

The Parish Council did not feel that the proposed new fencing on the western side of the playing field would resolve the current problems & instructed Cllr Solomon & the Clerk to consider the matter further & report directly to the Chairman.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> set of quotes in respect of the fencing adjacent to the rhyme in Church Road were noted & would be considered further if & when there was any more damage to the existing chain link.

One of the stones on the millennium bridge had been removed again. It was RESOLVED that the bridge would be repaired later in the year after the school summer holidays were over.

### **50.3) Allotments**

A padlock would be placed on the water outlet nearest the Cottage Inn.

The Clerk was instructed to seek an update regarding the continued rental of the allotment field, which was due to expire in December 2010.

### **51 Planning**

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

**Permission granted.**

**51/09/00006** – 12 Wembdon Hill. Erection of two-storey extension to rear elevation.

**The Planning sub-committee has objected to this application on the following grounds: - The properties either side of the proposed development would be overshadowed & also lose their natural light.**

**51/09/00007** – 9 Blakes Road. Erection of ground floor extension to existing garage with first floor extension over & new pitched roof to existing front bay window.

**No objection from Planning sub-committee.**

**51/09/00008** – 4 Blakes Road. Erection of side extension to form separate dwelling, single storey rear extension to existing dwelling & formation of two parking bays for each dwelling.

**No objection from Planning sub-committee. A number of residents have objected to this application.**

**51/09/00009** – 40b Wembdon Rise. Conversion of part of garage to living accommodation.

**Permitted Development.**

**51/09/00010** – Grabhams Farm, Moores lane, Wembdon. Retention of part converted barn & change of use from Holiday let to private dwelling.

**No objection from Planning sub-committee.**

**51/09/00011** – 7 Cridlands Meadow, Wembdon. Erection of rear conservatory.  
**No objection from Planning sub-committee.**

**51/08/00036 – Polytunnels at Barton Farm**

Enforcement has stated that the caravans will normally be on site between April & October.

**52) Finance**

The Council authorised the following payments

- Council for the Protection of Rural England, subscription £29.00
- Rodway Fencing (goal posts) £431.25
- Sutcliffe Play £37.09
- Ground maintenance £285.00
- Clerk's Expenses £45.25
- Salary & Income Tax £778.20

Councillors were provided with a bank reconciliation statement for the period to 30 June 2009.

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 had been submitted to the external auditor.

Balance at 8 June 2009	£19465.59
Bank Interest	<u>£ 2.29</u>
	£19467.88

Less

Ground maintenance	£305.00	
Rodway Fencing (Fencing Repairs)	£132.25	
Internal Audit	£ 10.00	
Somerset Playing Fields Association	£ 10.00	
Newsquest (public notice)	£310.50	
Wessex Water	£ 30.01	
S.C.C. (Room hire)	£126.00	<u>£ 923.76</u>
Balance at 13 July 2009		<b>£18544.12</b>