

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12 JULY 2010

Present

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

43) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors, PCSO Nick Mizon & seven members of the public to the meeting.

44) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of County Cllr John Edney.

45) The Views of Wembdon Residents

45.1) Goalposts in the Playing Field

The Council had received a letter from a local resident requesting that the goalposts be removed & another resident addressed the meeting supporting that letter.

It was claimed that the goals were being used, almost on a constant basis, each evening until after dark. There was a lot of noise from those playing football & much of it was swearing. Other playing fields had generally removed their goalposts & because Wembdon hadn't they were attracting people from all over, many of whom could not be described as youths.

Cllr s Bagg supporting this request stated that he believed that alcohol & drugs caused much of the trouble. PCSO Mizon responded by stating that there was no evidence of drug taking in the park & that no alcohol had been seized since before Christmas. Cllr Ann Bown felt that this sounded like a criticism of the local beat officers & she would not accept that as in her opinion Wembdon received a far better service than many other rural communities within Sedgemoor.

After a further discussion it was RESOLVED that the goalposts be removed & that they would be reinstated at a later date.

As there had been some difficulty trying to remove them previously the contractor that erected them would be asked to remove them.

The resident also repeated his request for a byelaw to be considered restricting groups gathering in the playing field after 10.00pm (**minute 33 June 2010**). The Clerk informed the meeting that he was waiting for a response from Sedgemoor District Council. Cllr Ann Bown agreed to pursue this.

45.2) Pedestrian Crossing on Wembdon Rise

A 2nd resident referred to his attendance at the EDF consultation event the previous Saturday where he had an opportunity to speak to David Eccles, head of EDF in Bridgwater. The resident has raised concerns regarding potential traffic problems in Wembdon if Hinkley Point C was given the go ahead & in particular the need for a crossing in Wembdon Rise as the School had been unable to attract anyone to take over the role of School Crossing Patrol Officer.

Mr Eccles had indicated that if there was sufficient support from the Parish Council & residents of Wembdon EDF could provide the finance for a crossing. As the Council had tried, unsuccessfully, on two previous occasions to persuade Somerset County Council to provide a crossing it was agreed to pursue this matter with Mr Eccles.

46) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

The Chairman declared an interest in the Green Wedge agenda item & Cllr Ann Bown in respect of the Electoral Review of Sedgemoor District Council agenda item.

47) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 June 2010 were agreed & signed.

48) Report from the Police

PCSO Mizon urged local residents to use the 0845 number to report incidents of abusive language in the playing room.

There had been 2 non-dwelling burglaries in the past month & a stolen vehicle had been set alight in Church Road.

There had been a residents meeting regarding the Children's' home in The Oaks & a further meeting had been arranged.

49) Report from the Clerk

49.1) Drainage of the Playing Field

As the follow up work undertaken by the contractor was still not satisfactory it was RESOLVED that the Council would arrange for another contractor to undertake the work & the original contractor would be charged the cost. It was agreed that the Council's current ground maintenance contractor be asked for his opinion on exactly what needed to be done to rectify the remaining problems & whether he was able to undertake that work.

Separately a meeting had been arranged with the owners of the adjoining land to discuss their remaining concerns.

49.2) Wembdon Common

Wales & West Utilities had undertaken some repairs to the grass area, which in the opinion of the Council's ground maintenance contractor were satisfactory.

49.3) The Millennium Bridge

The repairs had been completed within the quote provided. The Council was delighted with the quality of the repair work.

49.4) Parish Councillor Vacancy

As there had been no request for an election to be held the Parish Council was now able to fill the existing vacancy by co-option

49.5) Entrance to Crossacre

Cllr J Riddle reported that several responses from residents agreeing to a meeting with S.D.C. had been received but in view of the fact that letters had only recently been distributed it would be best to leave it a further week before arrangements were made for the meeting to take place.

49.6) Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group Meeting 25 June 2010

Cllr R Western reported that cuts in the workforce had affected decommissioning of the A station. Discharges from the A station had been slightly higher than normal but were expected to go back to normal & discharges from the B station were very low.

The meeting had also covered the ongoing EDF consultation on the proposed Hinkley C station.

49.7) Hinkley Point C Connection Project

The meeting was reminded that any response to this consultation had to be submitted by no later than 23 July 2010.

49.8) Sign near Greenway Garage

The sign had, finally, been removed.

49.9) Allotments

The Council's offer for the purchase of the allotment field has been acknowledged. A detailed response had been promised.

49.10) Forthcoming Events

Training on Planning Issues – 28 September, evening, Bridgwater House – notification of attendees by end of August.

Affordable Housing Event – Thursday 15 July – Rural Business Centre (Junction 24 Ltd) 4.00pm – 7.30pm

49.11) The Chairman of Somerset County Council Awards for Service to the Community 2010

Nominations were required by no later than 8 September.

49.12) Hinkley Point C – Consultation on Preferred Proposals

This had commenced on 9 July & would close on 4 October. PPS Group, who are working alongside EDF, had been invited to address the Parish Council on Monday 6 September. The meeting was also open to the public.

49.13) Joint Funding of Local Services

As a result of the Parish Workshops S.D.C. had now indicated the services that were strong candidates for the removal of S.D.C. funding either in full or part. For Wembdon Parish Council this would be the purchase, installation & emptying of the dog bins. S.D.C. had therefore been asked to indicate the number, location & frequency of emptying of the bins that they believed would become chargeable to the Parish Council.

49.14) Somerset Hedge Survey

Cllr R Harris expressed an interest in assisting with this survey.

49.15) Flooding

The Council agreed a robust response to the latest proposal from the drainage board suggesting that development of Cokerhurst Farm would alleviate the risk of future flooding in Church Road.

50) Standing Orders

The Council formally adopted the revisions to the Standing Orders for Wembdon Parish Council, which had been drafted in line with the model ones issued by the Somerset Association of Local Councils.

The revised Standing Orders were to be placed on the Council's website along with a note explaining how they impacted on members of the public speaking at Parish Council meetings.

51) The Green Wedge

Having previously declared an interest the Chairman, Cllr Webb, vacated the chair in favour of the Vice Chairman, Cllr Harris.

Cllr Solomon informed the meeting that following an indication of outline support from S.D.C. the Village Recreational Group intended placing the initial proposals for the Green Wedge before the public at a meeting to be held on Monday 20 September. Additionally they would be using village day to outline their ideas and seek comments from the public.

Cllr Perry raised concerns regarding the article in the village day publication implying that the Parish Council was aware of what was going on when in fact they weren't as they had been told at previous meetings that there was nothing to report. He also

questioned the article's accuracy regarding a statement within it, stating that the landowners were willing to either give or lease the land on the Green Wedge to the Council, as he had no knowledge of this other than for one small piece of land. Some Councillors concurred.

The Clerk voiced his concerns that as the initial point of contact for the Council he was likely to be asked questions regarding these proposals that he would be unable to answer. The above mentioned article implied that the Council was fully aware of the proposals. Councillors shared the Clerk's view, as they were also unable to respond to questions asked of them. It was essential that the Council should be fully briefed on the proposals being put forward by the Village Recreational Group. The WRDG had been discourteous in arranging a public meeting on September 20th, before making a presentation to the full Parish Council.

52) Electoral Review of Sedgemoor District Council

The Vice Chairman returned the Chairmanship of the meeting to Cllr Webb. Having previously declared an interest Cllr Ann Bown left the meeting.

The Parish Council agreed its response to the draft recommendations & agreed to place a copy of it on their website www.wembdon.org

Cllr Ann Bown then returned to the meeting.

53) Correspondence

53.1) Quantock Lodge Leisure Ltd

The Council agreed to support a request from Quantock Lodge for funding from LARC to undertake maintenance improvements to the swimming pool, which was now being used by more than 1300 people a week as a result of the closure of the Splash.

53.2) Slinky Sedge moor Transport Service

Leaflets advertising this service were to be placed in accessible places within the village.

53.3) Other Correspondence

The following items were placed in the correspondence folder

- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
- The Clerk magazine
- Somerset Crane Project newsletter
- Somerset Waste Partnership update
- Quantock Parish Cluster & PACT Group Minutes of 8 June 2010

54) Planning

51/10/00010 – Lambourne House, Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of conservatory to South (rear) elevation.

Permission granted.

51/10/00011 – 6 Wares Lane. Conversion of part of loft to living accommodation including alterations to roof & new chimney to East elevation & window to North elevation.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

51/10/00012 – 20 Lyndhurst Crescent, Wembdon. Erection of part two-storey, part single storey extension to North elevation (partly on site of existing garage/utility to be demolished) & first floor extension to West elevation.

Referred to Planning sub-committee.

55) Finance

Balance at 14 June 2010		£9808.52
Bank Interest		<u>£ 1.77</u>
		£9810.29
Less		
Somerset Playing Fields Association	£ 10.00	
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England	£ 29.00	
GB Sport & Leisure	£ 28.20	
Fencing	£2685.00	
Land Valuation	£ 276.25	
Website Administration	£ 200.00	
Internal Audit	£ 10.00	
Ground Maintenance	£ 355.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 56.38	
Water Rates (Allotments)	£ 20.69	
Gate Post & postcrete	£ 57.77	<u>£3728.29</u>
Balance at 12 July 2010		£6082.00

Councillors had been supplied with a bank reconciliation for the 3-month period to 30 June 2010.

The following payments were authorised

- Clerk's Salary & Income Tax £994.30
- Clerk's Expenses £42.08
- Ground Maintenance £373.00
- Website Domain £51.09
- Millennium Bridge Repairs £300.00

Additionally it was RESOLVED that a donation of £50 be made to 1st Bridgwater (St George's) Scout Group as a contribution towards the cost of one of their scouts attending the world jamboree in 2011.

56) Matters Raised by Councillors

Cllr Western reported that the Wembdon Community Association was prepared to provide funding for the provision of play equipment that could be accessed by disabled children. Cllr Western was therefore requested to provide the Council with details of suitable play equipment.

Future meeting dates

- **Monday 6 September 2010 – Hinkley Point C presentation**
- **Monday 13 September 2010 – Parish Council Meeting**