

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 2009

Present

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

28) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, 4 members of the public, PC Tony Freeman & Special Constable Nicki Rickards to the meeting.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Chairman, Cllr B Webb & Cllr K Perry had now been serving on the Parish Council, continuously, for a period of 30 years.

29) Apologies for Absence

These had been received in respect of Cllr Ann Bown & County Cllr John Edney.

30) Declarations of Interest

Councillors were reminded of their obligation, within 28 days of becoming aware, to notify the Monitoring Officer of any new personal interest or change to any personal interest registered in their Register of Interest form & that failure to do so would render them in breach of paragraph 13(2) of the Code of Conduct.

Cllr S Bagg & Cllr K Perry declared a potential interest in respect of an item to be raised under any other business.

31) The Views of Wembdon Residents

A resident, whose garden backed on to the playing field, addressed the Council in respect of footballs being constantly kicked against his fence & other houses nearby & causing damage as well as being a constant nuisance. At times the balls were going in to the gardens & youngsters were regularly climbing the fences or knocking on doors to get the balls back. When challenged about climbing the fences the youngsters were often abusive.

There were also occasions when people had been drinking late at night, in the playing field, close to their gardens, & the police had been called.

PC Freeman stated that when he was on duty & available he would move the youngsters on that were causing a nuisance but he recognised that there were times when, using the 0845 number, the police couldn't be contacted or there was insufficient resource to respond. He added that the police would be leafleting nearby residents advising of the procedures for contacting them.

The Parish Council informed the resident that they would consider the options available to them & then approach the affected residents.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the Chief Constable expressing concerns at the lack of policing in the village & slow response times when PC Freeman & PCSO Nick Mizon were not available.

32) Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 11 May 2009 were agreed & signed.

33) Report from PC Tony Freeman

The problems in the playing field had been covered already apart from reporting one evening when drinkers had broken a number of bottles & Cllr S Bagg had cleared these away with the assistance of 2 residents.

PC Freeman reported that a couple of cars had been stopped in the parish & the occupants had been caught smoking cannabis.

34) Matters Arising

34.1) Wembdon Parish Council Website

This was due to go live within the week, following a meeting between Cllr M Solomon & the Clerk to sort out the hitch regarding access to the Sedgemoor District Council planning portal via the website.

The website would be advertised on the notice boards & the Councillors were also asked to inform local residents.

34.2) New Planting Boxes

These were now in place on the verge by the Cottage Inn.

34.3) Quantock Parish Cluster Group Meeting

Cllr M Solomon reported on the meeting he had attended on 19 May 2009.

There had been a discussion regarding traffic problems on the A39 following accidents when the villages became grid locked. There had also been a long discussion regarding the role of the Quantock Cluster in approving RLT 3 funding.

The Cluster believed that they had the authority to award the monies whereas their role was to consider whether to support applications before a final decision was made by S.D.C.

The Parish Council's application for £9,971 funding for the drainage of the playing field had been supported by the Cluster & subsequently approved by S.D.C.

There was a general discussion with regard to seeking the necessary number of quotes before any contract was awarded & it was agreed that the playing field sub-committee would take over responsibility for the project & meet to discuss the outstanding issues.

Cllr M Solomon was thanked for his excellent work obtaining a detailed plan for the drainage of the field, approval in principle from the drainage board & the preparation of the successful bid for RLT 3 funding.

35) Highways

County Cllr John Edney would be asked to pursue with Somerset County Council the Council's request for a controlled crossing on Wembdon Rise.

A letter from the school to County Highways regarding traffic problems outside the school at the start & end of each day was discussed. The Parish Council shared the school's concerns but recognised that the main problem appeared to be with the parents of the children attending the school.

The Clerk reminded the Council that concerns regarding potholes in the parish should be reported to either Cllr R Harris or himself.

36) Correspondence

36.1) Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group Representative

Following a discussion with regard to a potential Declaration of Interest Cllr R Western was re-appointed to this role for a further 12 months.

It was determined that there was no Interest, prejudicial or otherwise because the purpose of the group was to disseminate information & answer questions from the representatives attending. The group was not a decision making body & Cllr R Western had not been given voting rights.

36.2) Strategic Parish Clusters

The Parish Council responded to the questionnaire from S.D.C. by supporting the current structure of the Quantock Parish Cluster.

36.3) Pioneer Somerset: Devolution of Services

A report of the devolution survey, of services provided by District Councils & completed by the Parish Councils within Somerset was due to be shared with them during July. Discussions would then take place regarding which services, if any, could be devolved to the Parish Councils. At a later stage the Councils would be asked to comment on services currently provided by the County that could be devolved.

36.4) Sustainable Communities Competition

The Somerset Strategic Partnership had launched a competition with a prize of at least £5,000 to the Parish Council, within Somerset, that submitted the best sustainable development project which would offer long term savings in the amount of energy used by the community & a reduction on CO2 emissions.

Full details were placed in the correspondence folder & the Council was advised that the deadline for entries was the end of September 2009.

36.5) Bridgwater Challenge

The meeting was informed of the public open events taking place over 13/14 June when the challenge team would be presenting their latest plans for the town.

36.6) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- The Local Policing Plan for 2009/10
- Fieldwork magazine
- The minutes of the Quantock Parish Cluster Meeting dated 24 February 2009
- S.D.C. Corporate Strategy covering the period 2009-2014

37) Reports from Sub-committees

37.1) Footpaths

Cllr C Brown reported that all of the Public Rights of Way within the parish were due to be cut within the next 2 weeks.

The tarmac footpath between the bridge at the end of the playing field & the NDR was becoming overgrown in places. Cllr C Brown agreed to ask the Rights of Way team if they would cut this even though it was recognised that responsibility for this was with the owner of the land.

37.2) Playing Field

The fence had been repaired. The contractor had recommended using 3m fencing stating this was very difficult to cut. It was RESOLVED that the Council would consider it in detail if there were further damage to the same piece of fencing.

The goal posts would need re-setting as the concrete was breaking up.

The hedge was beginning to encroach on the footpath. Cllr R Harris would ask the ground maintenance contractor to deal with this.

The Somerset Playing Fields competition had been entered.

The playing field inspection was due to be undertaken by RoSPA during June.

Cllr R Harris would arrange for the stones on the millennium bridge to be re-positioned & for any necessary re-pointing to take place.

37.3) Allotments

There was nothing to report.

38) Planning

An appeal had been lodged against the District Council's refusal to grant planning permission in respect of **51/08/00042** (Erection of three storey dwelling with double integral garage & formation of access at 7 Wembdon Orchard) & this would be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. The Parish Council had objected to the application & their views would be taken in to account during the appeal process.

The Planning Department had stated that the caravans at Barton Farm, Perry Green (planning application **51/08/00036**) could only be there for the season. S.D.C. would be asked to clarify that statement.

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

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

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

Referred to the Planning sub-committee.

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.

Referred to the Planning sub-committee.

39) Finance

The Internal Audit of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 had been completed & there were no issues requiring attention.

It was RESOLVED that the Council would not be making a donation to Life Education Wessex.

The following payments were approved

- Ground Maintenance £305.00
- Fencing Repairs £132.25
- Internal Audit £10.00
- Somerset Playing Fields Association annual subscription £10.00

Balance at 11 May 2009		£13825.53
Precept		<u>£ 7000.00</u>
		£20825.53
Less		
Clerk's Expenses	£ 47.09	
Ground Maintenance	£285.00	
St Margaret's Hospice (donation)	£100.00	
Allianz Insurance	£801.17	
Somerset Playing Fields Association	£ 5.00	
Planting boxes, compost & bedding plants	£ 82.96	
Installation of goal posts	£ 38.72	<u>£ 1 359.94</u>
Balance at 8 June 2009		£19465.59

40) Any Other Business

40.1) Possible Breaches of Planning Consent in Perry Green

Cllr S Bagg declared an Interest in respect of motorcycle grass track racing being undertaken on land at Perry Green Lake in Waldrons Lane, as it was next to land that he used. A number of residents had complained that the land was not being used for the purpose for which planning permission had been given. The racing was taking place regularly & people were also using it in the evenings. It was noted that a number of jumps had been recently constructed. Cllr Bagg had directed the residents to S.D.C. but they wanted to know what the Parish Council would do about it.

Cllr K Perry declared an Interest in respect of equestrian events taking place at Moorhen Farm. To his knowledge an event had been held in each of the last 3 to 4 weekends & he was aware that they were being well advertised. Residents wished to know whether there was planning consent for these events. It was also noted that land opposite Moorhen Farm was up for sale as either a business or hobby & the Council wished to know whether there was planning consent for this.

Cllr Perry indicated that access to Moorhen Farm by horse boxes & lorries was difficult as there were no passing points on the lane between Sandford Corner & the farm & this was causing highways problems.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would speak to S.D.C. regarding these issues & if there was planning consent for equestrian events at Moorhen Farm County Highways would be asked to create passing points on the lane from Sandford Corner to the farm.