

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14 JUNE 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

28) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors, PC Tony Freeman, PCSO Nick Mizon & one member of the public to the meeting.

29) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr R Harris & County Cllr John Edney.

30) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

31) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

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

32) Minutes

The minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 10 May 2010 were agreed & signed.

33) Report from PC Tony Freeman

There had been two recent incidents of youths making lots of noise in the playing field, after dark, which had been reported to the police. On both occasions the police had responded to the calls.

As a result of one of the incidents a resident had written to the Parish Council seeking, if possible, a byelaw preventing people gathering in the playing field after 10.00pm.

Advice received from the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) explained the practical difficulties in administering a byelaw, namely enforcement & as the playing field also had a public right of way through it that would make it especially difficult to enforce. PC Tony Freeman supported the view that a byelaw was unlikely to be any more effective than the current practice he & PCSO Nick Mizon followed of moving those that caused the disturbance out of the playing field. The Council did, however, agree to see if Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) operated any such byelaws & how they administered them.

34) Report from the Clerk

34.1) Speed Gun

The speed watch team were to be asked to confirm that they now held the speed gun & to provide the Council with regular updates of their activities.

34.2) Standing Orders

The sub-committee was due to meet & agree revised Standing Orders, which would be sent to each Parish Councillor prior to the July meeting with the intention that they could be either adopted or alterations agreed at that meeting.

34.3) Playing Field

a) Drainage

The contractors were due to return to site to fill the indents in the field, which in some places were very deep, & to also level & make good the privately owned land behind the playing field.

The private land had been secured from vehicular access & the Chairman thanked Cllr S Bagg for undertaking this work at very short notice.

Cllr M Solomon had confirmed that land drainage had stated that they would clear the final stretch of the rhyne at a rate of £25 per hour once the bird-nesting season was over.

In view of various other outstanding issues it was RESOLVED that a further site meeting would be held.

b) Dog bins

S.D.C. had repaired the 2 dog bins in the playing field.

S.D.C. had wanted to place an additional dog bin on the footpath between the playing field & the NDR (on the Persimmon land) for a period of 6 weeks & if it proved successful to charge the Parish Council for the cost of the bin & the regular emptying of it. The Parish Council had understood that S.D.C. was going to pay for the installation & emptying of the bin. Unfortunately, as this was not so, the Parish Council had to, reluctantly, inform S.D.C. that they did not have the necessary funding to pay for the bin.

c) Millennium Bridge

Repairs are due to start on 23/24 June.

d) Playing Field of the Year Competition

It was RESOLVED that the Council would enter the competition, which, this year was free of charge.

34.4) Parish Councillor Vacancy

Electors had until 21 June to request an election. If there was no such request the Council were then able to co-opt a new Councillor.

34.5) Declaration of Interest

Councillors were reminded of their duty to keep their declarations of interest up to date & to notify any changes within 28 days of becoming aware of the change.

34.6) Entrance to Crossacre

It was RESOLVED that affected residents would be invited to a meeting with S.D.C. & the Parish Council in an attempt to reach an agreed approach to the problem of the maintenance of the unadopted road.

34.7) Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group

Councillor R Western was confirmed as the Council's representative on this group. Additionally it was RESOLVED that he would be allowed to vote on the approval of the minutes of stakeholder group meetings but not on any other issues due to the potential conflict of interest arising. The next meeting was due to take place on 25 June 2010.

34.8) Sign near Greenway Garage

Contrary to the information given to the Enforcement section of S.D.C. the property being advertised had been sold some time ago & the regulation stating 14 days was

allowed following the completion of the sale for the removal of the sign was being disregarded.

34.9) Parish Council Submission to EDF

Councillors acknowledged receipt of correspondence from a resident critical of their response but noted that, to date, this was the only criticism they had received.

34.10) Wembdon Common

Wales & West Utilities had informed the Clerk that the “making good” they had promised was in hand & would be undertaken soon.

35) Allotments

In view of the commercially sensitive nature of the discussions with the agents acting for the owners of the allotments it was RESOLVED that this item should be dealt with outside of the normal meeting when the public had left.

36) Reports from Councillors

36.1) Town & Parish Council Workshop

Cllr K Perry stated that the purpose of the meeting was for S.D.C. to explain their financial position & explore with Councils the possibility of passing on the cost of some of the services it currently provided to the Town & Parish Councils.

36.2) Quantock Parish Cluster Group Meeting

Cllr Solomon explained that the two main items discussed at the meeting were

- The A39 between Bridgwater & Williton – a meeting dedicated to this issue was due to take place on 16 July 2010
- Hinkley Point C – The 2nd stage of the consultation process was due to commence in July & last for a period of 12 weeks.

37) The Green Wedge

Cllr Solomon explained that the village recreational committee was waiting for comments from S.D.C. in respect of an initial proposal it had formulated.

38) Electoral Review of S.D.C.

Councillors were provided with 2 copies of the draft recommendations, which if approved would have an impact on Wembdon at both district & parish level. Responses to the proposals had to be submitted by no later than 19 July 2010 & the Council RESOLVED that their response would be confirmed at the Parish Council meeting on 12 July 2010.

39) Correspondence

39.1) Correspondence from Mr D Dickinson

All Councillors had been provided with a copy of the latest correspondence sent to the Chairman of the Parish Council by Mr. Dickinson.

After discussion the Council unanimously agreed the following Resolution: -

‘In view of the continuing & repetitive nature of the communications received from Mr David Dickinson, which had previously, in the opinion of the Council, been responded to fully, the Parish Council RESOLVED that it would not enter in to any further correspondence with the said gentleman’

39.2) Hinkley Point C Connection Project

Councillors were informed that responses to the consultation on the project were due by no later than 23 July 2010.

39.3) Other Correspondence

Various items of correspondence, mostly publications, were placed in the correspondence folder.

40) Planning

51/10/00005 – 42 Wembdon Rise. Retention of two electrically operated gates.

Permission granted.

51/10/00006 – Barn A at, Grabhams Farm, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Erection of shed to North elevation of part converted barn to house plant for heating system.

Permission granted.

51/10/00008 – Land to the East of, 57 Wembdon Hill. Erection of dwelling with integral garage & formation of access.

Permission refused.

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

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

The Council RESOLVED that it would raise no objection to the application for a 5-caravan certificate at Sandford House, Perry Green Road.

41) Finance

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| Balance at 10 May 2010 | | £23958.08 |
| VAT Refunds | | <u>£ 3456.11</u> |
| | | £27414.19 |
| Less | | |
| Ground Maintenance | £ 355.00 | |
| Annual Insurance | £ 855.75 | |
| Room Hire | £ 190.40 | |
| Clerk's Expenses | £ 23.49 | |
| Drainage of Playing Field | £16181.03 | <u>£17605.67</u> |
| Balance at 14 June 2010 | | £ 9808.52 |

The following payments were approved

- Land valuation x 2 £276.25
- Parish website £200.00
- Internal Audit £10.00
- Ground Maintenance £355.00
- Fencing £2553.00
- Clerk's Expenses (reimbursement of actual expenditure incurred) £56.38
- Gate post & concrete £57.77
- C.P.R.E. Subscription £29.00
- S.P.F.A. Subscription £10.00

42) Matters Raised by Councillors

Cllr Western informed the Council that the annual inspection of the playing field had been undertaken & the main item of concern was the indents in the field (**see minute 34.3a) above**).