

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2009

Present

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

80) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, County Cllr John Edney & 5 members of the public to the meeting.

81) Apologies for Absence

It was noted that County Cllr John Edney could only be present for part of the meeting.

82) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr R Harris declared an interest in respect of the item on the agenda when the awarding of a new Ground Maintenance Contract was to be considered.

83) Local Development Framework – Preferred Option Report Presentation

Nick Tait from Sedgemoor District Council outlined the purpose of the LDF stating that it would be an outline of the district's planning strategy through to 2026.

The Preferred Option Report, which was now at the informal stage of consultation, identified the proposed sites for 7700 houses in & around Bridgwater of which 600 were planned for Cokerhurst Farm. Following the informal consultation, which lasted until 18 December 2009 the views and comments received would be considered before the draft plan was issued in the summer of 2010. Formal consultation would then take place & comments & objections received during this stage of the process would be considered by the Planning Inspector & the decisions of the Inspector were binding on the District Council.

The Council asked a number of questions in relation to the proposed Cokerhurst Farm development & raised concern that there had been little publicity regarding these proposals.

Mr Tait advised that about 45 people had attended the drop-in session held that day in the Parish Centre & he would look at the possibility of holding another one prior to 18 December.

The Council considered that a public meeting would be a better option with SDC representatives being present to outline the proposals & deal with the questions from the public. A provisional date of sometime in the week commencing 30 November was agreed upon.

Mr Tait was thanked for attending the meeting & addressing the Council & members of the public present.

84) The Views of Wembdon Residents

A member of the local speed watch team provided the Council with an update on their activities, which included problems accessing a speed gun, the process that had to be

followed to obtain one & the difficulties this posed when trying to organise a speed watch event. Some information was also supplied regarding the number of motorists that had been recorded speeding since the speed watch team had become active. The Council was reminded that at the September meeting they had been asked to approve the placement of the speed watch signs. As the Council was unsure which authority approved their placement it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Police speed watch co-ordinator for guidance.

85) Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 October 2009 were agreed & signed.

86) Report from PC Tony Freeman

The Chairman informed the meeting that PC Freeman was currently recovering from a broken wrist.

87) Report from the Clerk

It was RESOLVED that issues relating to a local resident & his approach to S.D.C. would be considered in private session to guarantee confidentiality.

The Clerk informed the meeting that S.D.C. had agreed to re-position some of the dog bins along the NDR to provide better coverage & to also renew the existing dog fouling posters & to consider the placement of additional ones. The dog warden had agreed to increase patrols in & around the village.

The District Council had confirmed that they would replace the damaged street name signs identified by the Parish Council (**see minute 73 October 2009 Minutes**).

The Parish Council had submitted the Consent form & had signed the RLT3 Funding Agreement in respect of the drainage of the playing field.

A quote of £420 had been received, from the original builders, to undertake health & safety enhancements to the railings & pathway leading to the new footbridge. This was formally approved. Cllr Harris declared an interest in respect of this item & did not take part in the approval process. Cllr M Solomon, who had been dealing with this issue from its beginning, reported that consent would be required from Somerset Rights of Way before the enhancements could be undertaken.

The Parish Council, having considered the Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group Constitution RESOLVED that whilst Cllr R Western remained the Council representative on that Committee he could not take part in any votes to avoid any potential conflict of interest. In view of this Cllr Western offered to step down if another Councillor was willing to take his place. There was no volunteer.

The Clerk informed the meeting that S.D.C. had stated that the developer funded section of the NDR from Wembdon Rise; northwards to Western Way, including the eastern end of Feversham Avenue had been adopted on 18 July 2007 although it was still waiting classification. Oak Apple Drive & Old Oaks Close were adopted on 16 November 2008.

88) New Ground Maintenance Contract

It was noted that Cllr Harris's declaration of interest was specifically in respect of the awarding of the contract & not in determining the contract specification.

After some consideration a revised specification was approved.

Six expressions of interest had been received & it was agreed that they would all be invited to submit a tender bid.

A sub-committee of the Chairman, Cllr S Bagg & Cllr Western was given responsibility for awarding the contract with the Clerk providing a support role.

Bids would have to be received by Friday 4 December 2009 & the sub-committee would meet to award the contract before the December Council meeting.

89) Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Correspondence received from the Somerset Association of Local Councils indicated that revised Model Standing orders & Financial Regulations were due to be issued within the next few months. It was therefore RESOLVED that the Parish Council would wait until these were received before any revision to the existing Standing Orders or adoption of Financial Regulations was approved.

90) Playing Field

It was RESOLVED that the quote received from GB Sport & Leisure, totaling £787.75, for the replacement of the toddlers swing seats & a hydraulic closure for the gate in to the toddlers play area be approved.

91) Correspondence

91.1) S.D.C. Parish Council Budget Briefing

Cllr's J Riddle & K Perry agreed to represent the Council at the meeting being held on 19 November 2009.

91.2) Quantock Parish Cluster Meeting

Cllr's Perry & Solomon agreed to attend the next meeting being held on Tuesday 8 December 2009.

The minutes of the September meeting were placed in the correspondence folder.

91.3) Somerset Municipal Waste Management Strategy Workshops

The Council was unable to send a representative to any of these events.

91.4) North Devon & Somerset Shoreline Management Plan Consultation

Councillors were asked to report their views to the Clerk so that he could collate a response to meet the deadline of 8 January 2010.

91.5) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Tree Preservation Order in respect of 2 Oak Trees located on the west side of Skimmerton lane near Dodd End
- Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group briefing papers for the meeting held on 30 October 2009
- Countryside Voice, autumn edition
- Boundary Commission letter regarding the Electoral Review of Sedgemoor
- The Playing Field magazine, autumn edition
- NHS South West Ambulance Service Foundation Trust Consultation document
- The Clerk magazine, November edition

92) Litter in the Village

This item was carried forward to the December meeting.

93) 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 & hardstanding for off road parking. (Amended Description).

No objection from planning sub-committee.

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

No objection from planning sub-committee.

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

No objection from planning sub-committee.

94 Finance

94.1) Balance

Balance at 12 October 2009		£17006.50
Less		
Refreshments for Parish Cluster Meeting	£ 5.93	
Notice Board	£660.85	
Fencing Repairs	£255.30	
Ground Maintenance	£285.00	
Dog-waste Bin Emptying	£459.72	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 69.39	
Salary & Income Tax	£870.26	
2 New Dog Bins	£296.04	
Drainage Board Consent	£ 50.00	
Photocopying	£ 9.30	
Public Notice	£248.40	
Room Hire	£126.00	
Victim Support Somerset	£100.00	<u>£ 3436.19</u>
Balance at 9 November 2009		£13570.31

94.2) Payments

The following payments were authorised

- Ground Maintenance £335.00
- Clerk's Expenses £43.40
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94.3) County Councillor Grant Fund

At the October meeting the Council had agreed to consider 2 proposals, fencing at the new bridge end of the playing field & a speed gun for use by the speed watch team. Cllr Western had received a quote for bow top fencing, which far exceeded the grant available of £1200 & therefore that proposal was rejected. After taking account of the information provided by a member of the speed watch team & additional information obtained by the Clerk & following a vote by Councillors that proposal was also rejected.

As the fencing would require replacement following the drainage work Cllr Western was instructed to obtain a further quote on the basis of replacing like for like.