

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 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 Ann Bown

65) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors & 3 members of the public to the meeting.

66) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr M Solomon & County Cllr John Edney.

67) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

There were none.

68) The Views of Wembdon Residents

A Wembdon resident, Mr Dickinson, repeated items raised at the September Parish Council meeting and in a subsequent letter to the Chairman of the Council even though he had been informed that the content of his letter would be dealt with at this meeting.

69) Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 September 2009 were agreed & signed.

70) Report from PC Tony Freeman

There was no report.

71) Report from the Clerk

The Clerk, on behalf of the Councillors, gave the following replies to Mr Dickinson in respect of the questions he had raised

- **Minutes** - The minutes are not a verbatim report. They are a record of decisions made & actions taken.
- **Councillor's dog in toddlers play area** – This matter had been dealt with internally.
- **Dog fouling** - This is a national problem & the Council is constantly looking at ways of improving the situation. Under finance the Clerk would be reporting expenditure to date on this & that in the year it would be spending more than £1,000 on this issue.
- **Future development of sporting, leisure & recreational facilities** – There is a committee of the wider community initiated by the Parish Council but not a Council sub-committee considering this. Mr Dickinson's views and those of anyone else will be passed on to that committee to consider.
- **Community Policing & Speedwatch** – The Council is in communication with the speedwatch group. The Council had been informed that there are sufficient speed guns available.

A record of the Council's meeting with the representative of the Chief Constable was recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2009

- **The new footbridge** – The protruding concrete reinforcing steel had been removed. The bridge had been completed in accordance with the agreed specifications, but an audit of all safety factors was being made. The ditch will be cleared, as planned, as part of the forthcoming drainage work.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Somerset County Council had reported the results of their monitoring of motoring speeds along Wembdon Hill & Wembdon Rise & these clearly showed that a Speed Indicator Device was not warranted. However, as the monitoring had taken place during the school holidays S.C.C. had offered to carry out a further monitoring exercise & this had been accepted with a request that Church Road was also monitored.

Cllr C Brown had met with the Speed Watch Group & had shown them details of all the work undertaken on this issue by the Parish Council's Highways sub-committee.

There had been further correspondence with Sedgemoor District Council's enforcement section regarding the grass track racing in Perry Green & the owner of the land was now fully aware of the restriction on the number of events that could be held in a 12-month period, without the need for planning permission. The owner had also agreed to remove some of the jumps.

The Council had received, from the contractor, the consent form in respect of the Drainage of the playing field for onward submission to the drainage board. There was also a charge of £50 payable to the drainage board, which had to be included with the consent form.

Cllr R Western had, on behalf of the Parish Council, accepted the award of 3rd place in the Somerset Playing Fields Association playing field of the year competition.

A representative of S.D.C. was due to attend the November Parish Council meeting to provide a presentation on the Local Development Framework because Cokerhurst Farm had been flagged up as a potential strategic housing allocation in the Preferred Option Report that was now being consulted upon.

The Council was advised that Wessex Water, S.D.C. & S.C.C. had agreed to contribute towards the cost of flood alleviation work in the village, to avoid a repeat of the May 2008 flooding & the Internal Drainage Board was considering the scheme proposals. One proposal, the lowering of the road in front of the playing field, was not supported by S.C.C. without an investigation to see if it was possible for the water to be discharged in to the head of the rhyne.

72) Ground Maintenance & Grass Cutting Contract

It was RESOLVED that a public notice inviting expressions of interest in respect of the new contract, that would commence on 1 January 2010, would be placed in the Bridgwater mercury for a period of 3 weeks with a deadline for responses set at 6 November 2009.

It was also RESOLVED that Cllr R Western would provide the Council with an updated specification of work to be undertaken within the contract in readiness for the Parish Council meeting on 9 November 2009.

73) Replacement Street Name Signs

The Council agreed that the signs for Wembdon Hill, by the bus stop, Wares Lane, Greenacre (within) and Shepherds Close needed replacement. Cllr C Brown was asked to check whether any others also needed to be replaced.

74) Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

A sub-committee of the Chairman, Cllr K Perry, Cllr D Lumber & the Clerk had met to consider amendments to the existing Standing Orders & the adoption of Financial Regulations. Councillors were to be provided with a copy of each & a decision on their adoption was to be made at the November meeting.

75) Electoral Commission Review

The Electoral Commission had directed the Boundary Committee for England to undertake a review of Sedgemoor District Council & the review was due to commence on 27 October 2009.

The Electoral Commission wanted to meet with representatives of the parish councils on 28 October 2009 & it was RESOLVED that the Chairman & Cllr's Perry & Riddle would represent the Council at that meeting.

76) Correspondence

76.1) Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group

The Council was advised that at the stakeholder group meeting on 30 October 2009 a proposed constitution was to be voted on. As the constitution made it clear that Parish Council representatives had voting rights it was RESOLVED that Cllr Western, who was the Parish Council's representative on this group, should not vote as this meeting as it may constitute a conflict of interest. The Parish Council would review the proposed constitution and make a definitive decision at the November meeting.

76.2) Community Policing Awards

Details were to be placed in the village shop & also on one or more of the notice boards. The closing date for nominations was 30 November 2009.

76.3) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Consultation on the redevelopment of Bridgwater Community Hospital – closing date for responses 2 December 2009
- Update on the Building Schools for the Future Project
- National Grid – Hinkley Point C Connection Project
- Somerset Great Crane Project newsletter

77) 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.

51/09/00016 – 12 Wembdon Hill. Erection of single storey rear extension.

Permission granted.

51/09/00017 – 9 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey extension to front of garage & hall, first floor side extension above garage & installation of pitched roof to front bay window.

Permission granted.

78) Finance

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £100 would be made to Victim Support Somerset.

The following payments were authorised

Reimbursement to Cllr D Lumber £5.93 in respect of refreshments for the Quantock Cluster Group meeting

New notice board £660.85
 Fencing Repairs £255.30
 Ground maintenance £285.00
 Dog bin emptying £459.72
 Clerk's expenses £69.39
 Salary & Income Tax £870.26 (This was confirmed after the end of the normal meeting when the Councillors met in accordance with Standing Order No 37).
 The Council had also received an invoice in respect of the purchase of 2 new dog bins but the amount was under enquiry with S.D.C.
 Councillors were provided with a bank reconciliation statement for the 3-month period to 30 September 2009 & a current Income & Expenditure statement.
 IT was RESOLVED that the County Councillor Grant fund of £1200.00 would be used either to purchase a speed gun or to replace some of the fencing at the new footbridge end of the playing field with a decision being made at the November meeting. It was agreed that a third suggestion, additional street lighting, needed to be investigated further and would in any event be the responsibility of S.C.C.
 The Clerk advised the meeting that the Amenity Grant Fund was again under threat for 2010/2011 & it was also now time for Councillors to consider capital expenditure for 2010/2011 as they would need to set the precept by no later than the January 2010 meeting.

Balance at 16 September 2009		£10424.83
Somerset Playing Fields Association Award		£ 25.00
Precept		£ 7000.00
Bank Interest		£ 1.54
		<u>£17451.37</u>
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£285.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 59.87	
Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau	£100.00	<u>£ 444.87</u>
Balance at 12 October 2009		£17006.50

79) Matters Raised by Councillors

79.1) New Planning Rules

Cllr's Brown & Solomon had attended an event organised by S.D.C. & details were to be circulated amongst the other Councillors.

79.2) Playing Field

Cllr Western reported that a new self-closing hinge for the gate in to the toddlers play area would cost £161. This expense was authorised on health & safety grounds.

Cllr Western reported that he was monitoring the condition of the toddlers swing seats & advised that they may require replacement in the coming months.

79.3) Allotments

Cllr R Harris advised that he was in discussion with the present owners of the allotment field in respect of the tenancy agreement, which expires in December 2010.

The Council was obtaining rental & purchase valuations for the field.

79.4) Milestone

It was noted that this is the property of the Diocese of Bath & was currently located in the churchyard.