

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2010

Present

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

104) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed County Cllr John Edney, Mr. Wilkins from the Wembdon Speed Watch Team & 6 members of the public to the meeting.

105) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr S Bagg, Cllr P Reed & County Cllr John Edney who had to leave the meeting early as he had another meeting to attend. Apologies were also noted in respect of PC Tony Freeman.

106) Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Cllr M Solomon informed the meeting that the Sedgemoor Standards Boards had considered recent complaints against him regarding Declarations of Interest etc. & had determined that the complaints did not warrant investigation. Cllr Solomon stated that he would like to provide Councillors with more details, in closed session, after the business listed on the agenda had been addressed. This was agreed.

107) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

108) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 November 2010 were agreed & signed.

109) Vote of Censure

It was agreed that the proposal calling for a vote of censure on one Parish Councillor should be considered in closed session after the normal business on the agenda had been dealt with.

110) Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr J Riddle was proposed & elected to the vacant post of Vice Chairman of the Council.

111) Report from Wembdon Speed Watch Team

Mr. Wilkins reported that the Speed Watch Team had carried out a total of 19 checks since forming & these had been undertaken along Church Road, Wembdon Rise & Wembdon Hill. Speeding in Church Road appeared more prevalent around the times of the playschool. Whereas speeding on Wembdon Rise & Wembdon Hill could occur at any time. Mr. Wilkins reported that on average they reported 4 speeding motorists to the police after each check.

Mr. Wilkins informed the meeting that whilst the speed watch signs had been in place there had been fewer speeding motorists & the team was unhappy that they had not been allowed to keep the signs in place. The Clerk reminded the meeting that County Highways had stated that they would not give consent for the signs to be erected permanently & the Parish Council, reluctantly, accepted this situation. Mr. Wilkins stated that this was unfortunate

because since the signs had been taken down it had become increasingly difficult to get the speed watch team motivated to continue undertaking checks.

Councillors were informed that there was an open invitation for any Councillor to undertake the training & join the team.

The speed watch team was thanked for the work they had undertaken to date.

Cllr D Lumber reported that the school would be employing a crossing patrol person from January 2011.

112) Report from the Clerk

112.1) Wembdon Flooding

As a result of alternatives suggested at the November Parish Council meeting including the rebuilding of the Millennium Bridge and discharging flood water into the rhyne from the existing lowest point in the road i.e. at the road gully on the corner of Crossfield Close the drainage board had put off any decision on how to proceed. The Clerk had informed them that with regard to the bridge, in particular, the Council had not debated that suggestion & therefore it should be disregarded as a possible solution.

112.2) Fence by the Deep Rhyne

The drainage board has confirmed that repairs will be undertaken.

112.3) Playing Field

The works approved at the November meeting had been undertaken with the exception of the grass seeding, which would be carried out at a more suitable time by the contractor.

112.4) Notice Boards

A member of the public, well known to the Council, had been seen placing various posters on the front of the Parish Council notice boards without consent. As some of the notices could not be removed easily the actions of this individual had been reported to the police as a deliberate act of vandalism.

112.5) Quantock Parish Cluster Group Meeting

Cllr Solomon reported on the meeting held on 7 December 2010.

The main issue discussed had been the proposals for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point & the transport issues around this development. The North Bridgwater bypass was the favoured option by most of the cluster group & Cllr's Edney & Bown were urged to seek the support of Ian Liddell-Grainger MP in persuading the transport minister to visit the area to see the need for the bypass.

Cllr Solomon informed the meeting that it appeared that EDF had identified a potential site in the centre of Bridgwater as suitable for providing accommodation for construction workers.

Other issues discussed included

- All farmers in the district being approached about the possibility of their land being used for solar farms
- S.D.C. had confirmed that they would no longer fund discretionary expenditure e.g. the supply & emptying of dog waste bins.

112.6) Cokerhurst Farm

Engage Planning had formally responded on behalf of the developers to the issues raised by the Parish Council at its meeting with them in September 2010. It was clear from the response that the developers had not accepted any of the points put forward by the Council & it appeared that an outline planning application was imminent.

112.7) Allotments

The Council had been informed that the allotment field was to be put up for sale by tender in January 2011 & it therefore followed that the Council's offer to purchase the land had been rejected. The allotment holders had, however, been given permission to continue using the allotments until the sale was completed.

Councillors confirmed that they would attempt to enter in to an agreement with the new landowner, whomever that may be, to continue using it as allotments.

112.8) The Green Wedge

This issue was due to form the bulk of the agenda for the January 2011 meeting.

113) Land behind Greenacre

The draft lease agreement in respect of the land was considered. Subject to clarification on point 2.7b of the agreement & the addition of 'other than as a community allotment' at point 4.1 the Clerk & Chairman were authorised to sign the agreement with the leasing of the land commencing on 1 January 2011.

114) Persimmon Land

The Council was concerned about the poor condition of the land next to the Great Oaks development. The Clerk was therefore instructed to seek clarification from the developer as to whether they had any plans to tidy it up.

115) Correspondence

115.1) Somerset Future Transport Plan

Councillors were reminded that they had until 7 January 2011 to respond to the current consultation, which was accessible via the Internet.

115.2) Forthcoming Road Closures

The meeting was informed of road closures affecting Wembdon Rise & Skimmerton Lane for a period of 2 weeks from 10 January 2011.

115.3) Avon & Somerset Police Focus Group Meeting

The Parish Council had been invited to send a representative to the meeting being held at Bridgwater YMCA on 14 December 2010.

115.4) Cleanup UK

Information from this organisation was placed in the correspondence folder with Councillors asked to consider if they would like a representative from the organisation to address a future meeting of the Parish Council.

115.5) Draft Energy Policy Statements

Consultation had commenced in respect of

- The Electricity Networks Infrastructure National Policy &
- The Revised Nuclear National Policy Statement

A meeting was taking place on 12 January 2011 & the Council had been invited to send a representative to it.

115.6) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Hinkley C Connection Group Minutes
- Quantock Parish Cluster Group Minutes dated 27 September 2010
- Letter from S.C.C. Chief Executive regarding the proposed budget cuts
- Countryside Voice magazine
- Somerset Matters magazine
- Fieldwork magazine
- Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group Minutes dated 29 September 2010
- Guidance & Applications for Dispensations for Town & Parish Councils

116) Planning

51/10/00023 – 24 Wembdon Hill. Erection of double garage & formation of extended turning area.

Permission granted.

51/10/00024 – Perry Croft Barn, Perry Green. Erection of conservatory to SW elevation & single storey extensions to SE & NE elevations.

Permission granted.

51/10/00025 – St George's School. T3 (Oak ref 1268) Reduce Crown on SW side overhanging Brantwood Rd & children's play area by 25%. T4 (Oak ref 1269) Reduce laterals overhanging children's play area by 3-4 metres. T5 (Oak ref 1270) Reduce lateral overhanging children's play area by 3-4 metres, reduce 2 No. large lateral overhanging roof of No 14 Brantwood Road by 2-3 metres. T6 (Oak ref 1326) Reduce laterals overhanging play area by 2-3 metres.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

08/10/00157 – Gerber Foods Ltd, Wembdon Road. Demolition of existing building, erection of 215 residential units, change of use of an existing office to 1 residential property, associated public open space; children's play space, new road infrastructure, landscaping & associated works.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

23/10/004 – Land adjacent to Queenswood Farm. Outline planning application for the construction of school buildings (with associated areas of hard standing, sports pitches, artificial turf pitch, multi-use games areas, engineering & landscape works) plus associated road improvements.

The Planning sub-committee has objected to this application on highways grounds & the associated foot & cycle path network. A revised Framework Travel Plan had been submitted. This had been referred to the Planning sub-committee and objections remained.

117) Finance

The Precept for 2011/12 would be determined at the Parish Council meeting on 10 January 2011. Before then Councillors were asked to notify the Clerk of possible additional areas of expenditure. The Clerk reminded the Council that due to S.D.C. no longer funding discretionary costs the Parish Council already needed to raise an additional £1600+ to pay for the dog waste bins currently funded by S.D.C. or find the equivalent amount in savings from current expenditure.

The Council was due to consider the following at the January 2011 meeting

- Society of Local Council Clerks membership

- A donation to Age Concern
- A funding request from the Community Council for Somerset

The following payments were authorised

- Clerk's Expenses £73.46
- Ground Maintenance £355.00
- Lease preparation costs £461.25

Balance at 8 November 2010		£7889.01
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£355.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 30.34	
S.C.C. (Room Hire)	£268.80	
St George's Parish Centre (Room Hire)	£ 8.00	<u>£ 662.14</u>
Balance at 13 December 2010		£7226.87

118) Matters Raised by Councillors

Cllr J Riddle informed the meeting that the cost of undertaking repairs to the entrance to Crossacre was £2094. HiS who managed the council houses in the Pippins were prepared to make a contribution of £1000. Residents were also prepared to contribute but wanted to know whether the Parish Council & the WCA would also be prepared to make a donation.