

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 JULY 2011

Present

Chairman, Cllr M Solomon, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr B Webb, Cllr R Western, Cllr T Thayer, Cllr D Bingham & Cllr J Jackson

48) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed County Cllr John Edney, District Cllr's Ann Bown, & Ian Dyer & 14 members of the public to the meeting. The Chairman also welcomed Ross Edwards & Deb Campbell from EDF who were here to speak about the latest EDF consultation.

The Chairman apologised for the later than usual starting time which was due to the fact that the Council had met privately with the EDF representatives earlier that evening.

49) Apologies

These were noted in respect of Cllr's T Brown & N Harrison, District Cllr Mick Lerry & PC Tony Freeman.

Apologies had also been received from Paul Hanafin from EDF who, unfortunately, was stuck in traffic.

The Clerk informed the meeting that due to recent ill health concerns Cllr Diana Lumber had tendered her resignation. Councillors whilst pleased to hear that Cllr Lumber was feeling much better were disappointed by her decision to resign. It was agreed that a letter should be sent thanking Cllr Lumber for all of her years' service to the Council.

The Chairman believed that there should be some form of recognition for Cllr Lumber & the other ex & present Councillors who had served a number of years on the Parish Council. This was supported unanimously.

50) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

There were none.

51) EDF Energy – Further Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Highways

Ross Edwards from EDF briefly outlined previous consultations in respect of proposed changes to the highways & then explained the latest proposals & in particular the ones that are likely to have the most impact on Wembdon. They are

- Improvements to the roundabout at Quantock Road
- Alterations to the NDR/Wembdon Rise junction
- Alterations to the NDR/Chilton Street junction

The proposed roundabout at Sandford Corner was also discussed even though this had been part of a previous consultation.

The Chairman invited comments & questions from parishioners.

Concerns were expressed that EDF didn't seem to want to recognise that the A39 between Quantock Rd & Cannington had been the scene of many major accidents. The proposals from EDF didn't address this.

EDF's proposal to address peak time congestion by moving their traffic at different times of the day ignored the quality of life for people living close to the roads being used as it meant heavy traffic would be flowing at all times of the day & night.

EDF didn't realise that problems on the M5 meant traffic problems for Bridgwater. Widening access to roundabouts didn't help if the exits were still the same. In effect the traffic still had nowhere to go.

There was a general consensus within the meeting that what was needed was the bypass from Dunball but quite clearly EDF were ignoring these calls & tried to defend their position by arguing that current government policy was to consider all possible alternatives rather than building new roads.

EDF recognised that their proposals would not improve what are already congested roads at certain times. However, they believed their proposals would ensure that the roads wouldn't get any worse. They believed that moving 80% of aggregate by sea via a jetty & improving Combwich wharf would significantly reduce heavy lorry movements.

Summing up, the Chairman stated that although there didn't appear to be at present an anti-nuclear issue within the village EDF's failure to listen to concerns could change that view. The Council was unhappy that EDF were trying to change the original purpose of the NDR, which was as a distributor road for the housing. The Parish Council was opposed to the 4 proposals that would have most impact on Wembdon & would be responding as such to the current consultation process.

52) The Views of Wembdon Residents in Respect of Items on the Agenda

No further items were raised.

53) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 June 2011 were agreed & signed.

54) Correspondence

54.1) School Crossing Patrol

It was RESOLVED that the Council would make a donation to Wembdon St George's School of £375, which was half of the total shortfall that the School had reported.

54.2) Somerset County Council Transport Assessment

Cllr's J Jackson & J Riddle agreed to attend this event on 21 July.

54.3) Transport Forum

The Chairman & Cllr Jackson agreed to attend the forum on 26 July.

54.4) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- A letter from the WCA explaining why they would not make a donation towards the cost of the allotment field purchase
- A number of Hinkley Point updates (not relating to Hinkley Point C)
- Thatch magazine
- The Clerk magazine
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

55) Police Report

The Clerk briefed the meeting in respect of information received from PC Tony Freeman.

There had been six occasions of graffiti spraying in the village, which amounted to criminal damage. All showed the tag SYD, which apparently is short for Sydenham Young Guns. Investigations were currently underway on the Sydenham Beat to try & identify the offenders.

It was likely that the current Beat would take in Newtown from September. Fortunately this included an extra Beat Officer & PCSO.

There had been some problems in the playing field with youngsters playing ball games on the concrete. As a result PC Freeman was asking the Council to consider signage banning all ball games on it. The Council believed that signage throughout the playing field needed to be looked at with the aim of giving messages in a more positive way. Cllr's R Western & J Jackson were asked to undertake this task.

56) Parish Council Sub-committee Structure

It was agreed that the current Website sub-committee would be re-named the Communication sub-committee with its membership including Cllr's D Bingham & T Thayer. This committee would look at the possibility of using Facebook & Twitter to complement the website.

57) Allotments

It was RESOLVED that the gatepost at the entrance to the allotments would be repaired but the gate would not be repositioned. It was decided that repairs to the allotment fencing would be considered at a later date.

58) Planning

51/11/00009 – 8 The Laurels, Wembdon. Shorten lowest ring of branches by 1 1/2metres and shorten remaining branches by 1metre max to 1No Blue Atlas Cedar tree (T6) Remove lowest ring of branches to raise canopy up to a max of 2metres, shorten remaining branches by a max of 1metre to 1No Blue Atlas Cedar tree (T7). To contain trees in a confined location for health and safety reasons.

Permission granted.

51/11/00010 – The Old School House, and Lambourne, Blakes Road, Wembdon. Formation of alterations to access.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

51/11/00011 – Barn A at, Grabhams Farm, Moore's Lane, Wembdon. Erection of extension to side elevation.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

51/11/00012 – 38 Wembdon Rise. Erection of three detached dwellings, two detached garages & formation of access.

Referred to the Planning sub-committee.

59) Finance

The Council approved the following payments

- Ground Maintenance £420.00

- Clerk's Expenses £50.77
- Salary & Income Tax £994.32
- Goalpost Erection & Fencing Repairs £178.00 (subject to some follow up work being undertaken)
- S.D.C. Parish Council Election Costs £1639.09
- PlaySafety Ltd (Annual Playing Field Inspection) £82.80

Balance at 13 June 2011		£10574.06
Bank Interest		<u>£ 1.58</u>
		£10575.64
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£355.00	
S.C.C. (Room Hire)	£201.60	
S.P.F.A.	£ 10.00	
C.P.R.E.	£ 29.00	
Community Council for Somerset	£ 50.00	
Parish Websites Ltd	£200.00	
Wessex Water (Water Rates)	£ 49.72	
S.A.L.C.	£ 50.00	<u>£ 945.32</u>
Balance 18 July 2011		£ 9630.32

60) Matters Raised by Councillors

60.1) Land Behind Greenacre

The Council was delighted with the most recent grass cut & agreed to ask Mr. Bagg to undertake this on a regular basis (expected to be 4 cuts per annum).

60.2) Wembdon Speed Watch

It was agreed that Cllr Thayer would approach the speed watch team regarding current activity with a view to providing support, if at all possible.

60.3) Crossacre

Excellent repairs to the road surface at the entrance to Crossacre had been completed.

60.4) The Playing Field

The RoSPA playing field inspection had listed several items that needed to be monitored; this included an area of safety surface, but reported that all items were of low risk & that the playground & playing field were in a good condition.

Several items in the playing field & the railings outside needed to be re-painted & Cllr Western was asked to provide a list of all the items requiring attention.. Cllr Western also reported that a fencing panel had been damaged & this would be monitored for further deterioration.