

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16 MAY 2011

Present

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

16) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed District Councillor Ann Bown, PCSO Nick Mizon & 5 members of the public to the meeting. The new Councillors, along with the returning Councillors were also welcomed.

Cllr Webb reminded the meeting of his intention to stand down as Chairman & his last duty would be to call for nominations for the new Chairman.

17) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of District Councillor Ian Dyer.

18) Election of Chairman

Cllr M Solomon was elected the new Chairman of the Parish Council & signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

The new Chairman paid tribute to Cllr Webb stating that under his Chairmanship the Parish Council had achieved a great deal & the parish was grateful for all of his work on behalf of them. Cllr Ann Bown also wished to record her thanks to the Cllr Webb for his excellent stewardship of the Council under his Chairmanship.

The Chairman also paid tribute to the former Councillors.

19) Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr J Riddle was formally elected.

20) Declarations of Acceptance of Office

All the Councillors signed the declarations as required to do so. The Councillors were informed of the need to complete the Notification by a Member of Financial & Other Interests form & the deadline for doing so.

The new Councillors introduced themselves.

21) Parish Council Vacancies

The meeting was informed that following the recent elections there were 2 vacancies on the Council. The Council was now made up of 2 wards, Wembdon & Bridgwater Victoria. Wembdon Ward was entitled to have 7 Councillors & the Bridgwater Victoria Ward 3. The vacancies arose on the Bridgwater Victoria Ward. The meeting was informed that had it not been for the fact that there were now 2 Wards there would be a full Council.

The Council had the power to co-opt 2 Councillors to fill the vacancies but had to do so by no later than Wednesday 29 June 2011. Correspondence had already been received from one parishioner expressing his wish to be considered for one of the vacancies.

Cllr Riddle proposed that Mr. Ken Perry, previously a member of the Parish Council, should be co-opted back on to the Council on the basis that Perry Green was not represented on the Council. Following a vote the Chairman used his casting vote against the co-option of Mr.

Perry. Instead it was RESOLVED that the vacancies should be advertised & that anyone wishing to be considered for co-option should be interviewed prior to the start of the June meeting.

22) Appointment of Sub-committees

The Chairman informed the meeting that, as was normal, he would be an ex-officio member of all committees. He also requested that each committee prepare terms of reference. For the benefit of the new Councillors he briefly explained the role of each sub-committee.

Planning – Cllr Webb, Cllr D Lumber & Cllr N Harrison

Finance – Cllr Lumber, Cllr Webb & Cllr J Jackson

Playing Fields & Common – Cllr Riddle, Cllr R Western & Cllr Jackson

Land Acquisition & Development – Cllr Harrison & Cllr T Thayer

Highways – Cllr Riddle & Cllr Lumber

Website – Cllr Thayer & the Chairman. The Clerk supports the work of this sub-committee

Litter – Cllr Western & Cllr Jackson

23) Appointment of Liaison Representatives

Footpaths – Cllr Harrison

Allotments – Cllr Thayer

Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group – Cllr Western

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

There were none.

25) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

There were none.

26) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2011 were agreed & signed.

27) Report from the Police

PCSO Nick Mizon stated that there had been some thefts from motor vehicles & there had been 2 attempted burglaries at Churchfields during the previous weekend. On the plus side there was very few anti-social behavior problems & that he & PC Tony Freeman were still working as a team.

28) Report from the Clerk

28a) The Entrance to Crossacre

Following the receipt of a £100 donation from the Wembdon Community Association it was RESOLVED that Cllr Riddle would arrange a further meeting of the residents.

28b) Meeting of the Allotment Holders

The Clerk reported on the meeting held on the previous Monday. It had been well attended & the allotment holders wished to record their thanks to the Parish Council for acquiring the ownership of the allotment field.

A number of issues had been raised at the meeting & it was agreed that Cllr Thayer would consider each of these & report to the Council.

On the question of making the allotments statutory ones the Council RESOLVED not to do so on the basis that it was not necessary as they had, by purchasing the field, indicated their

long-term support for the continuation of allotments at that site but had to recognise that future generations of parishioners may not see the need for them. It would be, therefore, inappropriate to place such a restriction on future Parish Councils.

28c) Sedgemoor District Core Strategy – Examination in Public

The Chairman indicated his willingness to represent the Council at the hearing, which was due to commence on 24 May 2011.

The Council had submitted its written response to the Inspector & this would form the basis of the Council's position in respect of potential development on Cokerhurst Farm.

28d) The Green Wedge

The Clerk had prepared a written report for all the Councillors to consider prior to the expected debate on this subject in the coming months.

28e) Councillor Training

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman would attend the Chairmanship training on 2nd June & that Cllr's Jackson, Harrison & Thayer would attend the Councillor training on 21st June.

28f) The Mitchell Trust

The Clerk informed the meeting that the term of office of the current Trustees expired in July 2011. There had been 4 Councillor Trustees & 2 of these no longer served on the Council. It was determined that this should be considered in detail at the July meeting of the Parish Council.

28g) SALC Area Meeting

It was unlikely that the Council would be represented at the Area meeting being held on 16 June.

29) Correspondence

29a) Reduction in Highway Weed & Verge Maintenance

Councillors noted that due to cuts at County level there would be a reduction in the number of grass cuts of verges & that there would be no automatic weed control in future. It was still possible for Parish Councils to ask for this service but they would be charged for it.

29b) Further Electoral Review of Somerset

On 16 May 2011 the Local Government Boundary Commission had commenced a further review of Somerset & was looking at the county council electoral divisions. The review was due to be completed by the summer of 2012 & all Somerset Town/Parish Councils would be consulted.

29c) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- The Journal of Local Planning - This identified significant changes to planning following the budget
- The future of Local Public Audits – a report from SALC identifying their concerns with some of the proposals
- S.C.C. Highways Environmental Maintenance Information sheet
- SALC Area Minutes dated 17 March 2011
- Minutes of the EDF Community Forum dated 3 March 2011
- Clerk magazine, May edition

- The Good Councillors guide
- Somerset Matters spring newsletter
- Countryside Voice spring newsletter
- Clerks & Councils Direct, May edition
- Fieldwork magazine spring newsletter

30) Planning

51/11/00005 – Barn to the South of, Blakes Farmhouse, Blakes Lane, Wembdon. Change of use & conversion of barn to dwelling.

Permission granted.

51/11/00006 – 40 Wembdon Rise. Change of use & conversion of dwelling to two flats.

Permission refused.

51/11/00007 – 7 Orchard Lane, Wembdon. Erection of single storey rear and side extensions, partly on site of existing (to be demolished).

Permission granted.

51/11/00008 – Rose Barn, Hollow Lane, Wembdon. Erection of PV solar panels to garage roof.

Permission granted.

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.

Referred to the Planning sub-committee.

It was noted that the appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission in respect of 20 Lyndhurst Crescent **51/10/00012** had been allowed.

31) Finance

31a) Current Balance

Balance at 4 April 2011		£ 1449.60
P.W.L.B (Loan)		£24975.00
VAT Refund		£ 71.34
Allotments		£ 480.00
Precept		<u>£12500.00</u>
		£39475.94
Less		
S.D.C. (Dog waste bins)	£ 334.46	
Allotment Purchase	£24213.09	
S.C.C. (Room hire)	£ 235.20	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 50.40	
Salary & Income Tax	£ 994.31	
S.A.L.C	£ 704.39	
Ground Maintenance	£ 355.00	
Community Council for Somerset	£ 35.00	<u>£26921.85</u>
Balance At 16 May 2011		£12554.09

31b) Payments

The Council authorised the following payments

- Insurance £1020.40
- Parrett Internal Drainage Board £5.03

- Ground Maintenance £355.00
- Clerk's Expenses £64.60
- SALC (Councillor Training) £75.00

31c) Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

The accounts, having been reviewed by the Finance sub-committee, were formally approved by the Council. They were due to be reviewed by the Internal Auditor prior to being submitted for external audit on 18 July 2011. Between 17 June & 14 July parishioners would be able to inspect the accounts.

31d) Bank Mandate

The Clerk informed the meeting that due to a change in Councillors the bank mandate had to be updated & the necessary forms to do so were enclosed with the correspondence folder.

32) Matters Raised by Councillors

32a) Public Rights of Way

Cllr Western informed the meeting that he would obtain a schedule of when the footpaths were due to be cleared as they were becoming overgrown.

32b) Goalposts

Following a delay one goalpost was due to be erected in the playing field.