

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2011

### **Present:**

Chairman – Cllr Mike Solomon, Cllr Riddle, Cllr, T Thayer, Cllr S Burge, Cllr D Bingham, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr T Thake, Cllr N Harrison.

### **94) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman thanked Mr Burge for volunteering to scribe the meeting at such short notice and welcomed District Cllr Ann Bown & 8 members of the public to the meeting.

### **95) Apologies for Absence**

These were received in respect of the Cllr T Brown, The Clerk, County Cllr John Edney and District Cllr Ian Dyer.

### **96) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**

No declarations were received from the Cllr's.

### **97) To Note the Views of Wembdon Residents in Respect of Items on the Agenda**

The Clerk had received written notification from one resident, but no other requests were received at the meeting.

### **98) Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 October 2011 were agreed and signed.

### **99) Report from the Police**

Although there was no representative, nor report received, from the Avon & Somerset Police Constabulary Cllr Bown thought it appropriate to inform the Council of her attendance at the M5 Vigil as a result of her involvement with the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

### **100) Correspondence**

#### **100.1) Clerk Vacancy**

The Meeting was informed that at the time of the Clerk's writing, he had sent out 17 to 18 application forms and had so far received several responses.

#### **100.2) Parish Council Vacancy**

The Chairman stated that potential candidates had until 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to submit their nomination papers, with a possible election taking place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

### **100.3) Somerset Age UK**

The Clerk had received an update from Age UK Somerset (formerly, Age Concern) seeking a donation from the Council. The request is to be considered at the next meeting and will duly be put onto the next meeting's Agenda. Cllr Harrison asked if this was a one-off request or if there was any previous precedent along these lines. The Chairman said that he would look at the financial reports to see what donations had been previously made, and whether these included Age Concern.

### **100.4) Somerset County Council Pre-Commission Waste Core Matter for Waste Disposal**

A Note outlining the Disposed Waste Strategy until 2018 had been received. The Council was informed of the 4 zones for recycling and of the detailed discussion document on the website.

### **100.5) Environmental Agency Document**

The Clerk had previously circulated to the Cllr's a document from the Agency seeking comments on the Environmental Permit for the Proposed Nuclear "C" Power Stations. The Chairman stated that the Council had not, as of yet, made any representations.

### **100.6) Somerset Draft Countrywide Parking Strategy**

A document outlining the parking policies throughout the County had been received. Although Cllr Harrison suggested that parking was not an issue in Wembdon, it was a Countywide Strategy and enabled comments to be put forward.

### **100.7) Tarmacadam**

A standard letter had been received from Richard Grove outlining the increasing use of tarmacadam to replace broken paving slabs, except for areas of historical interest. It was decided that this would not have much of an impact in the village.

### **100.8) Somerset Association of Local Council's**

The Cllr's were notified of the meeting taking place at Burnham-on-Sea on 1 December 2011.

### **101) To Consider the Positioning of Additional Parish Council Notice Boards**

A Written Report had been provided by Cllr T Brown with respect to the two new notice boards at Trinity Way and Wembdon Grange (WG) to accommodate the new residents. With regards WG, Taylor Wimpey had agreed to fund the notice board, and an email had been received from Richard Gould to this effect on Tuesday 8 November 2011 detailing the positioning of the board on the wall of the [*Children's Home*] at the corner of the NDR and Wembdon Rise. All parties were happy for it to be fixed and funded in that location. He had also contacted Phil Kerb, of the [*Home*], who had spoken with Somerset County Council. All parties were content with mounting the board on the wall, and this was notified in writing.

In terms of Trinity Way Cllr Brown had met with Lawrence Hacking, collecting a 171 Application Form. He submitted an email showing the agreed location and dimensions. On the map, 'New Noticeboard Agreed Today'.

The cost of the Notice Boards, identical to those recently erected, was £600 each. One would be funded by Wimpey Taylor, at no cost to the Parish. The other one on Trinity Way would cost the Parish Council £569 (+VAT). Further Costs: £230 for Two Posts. Total Cost to the Council: £800. The Council also discussed the digging of the holes and Cllr Brown mentioned the prospect of Richard Gould carrying out the work as part of the general community service.

The Council also discussed the presence of 'WPC Notice Board' or 'Wembdon Parish Council' on the top, in line with previous installations.

The Council APPROVED the proposed locations of the two Notice Boards, having approved the purchase in September and will therefore proceed with the installation.

### **102) To Consider ways of improving Wembdon's Cleanliness**

Cllr Harrison in response to an email from the Chairman in relation to the cleanliness of the village and in trying to think of a way forward with this matter, in light of the assistance from Sedgemoor District Council posed two questions to the Council:

1. Do we want to do something as a Parish if we maintain services from SDC;
2. Do we ever want to plan in case it is cut (precept setting mentioned?)

If the Council were to assume that SDC's current service is maintained would the Council wish to enhance it, perhaps on a semi-formal basis by individuals in a geographical area/rota. Cllr Jackson supported such an idea but was concerned with it being left to the same group of people rather than the Community as a whole. The Chairman highlighted the benefit of SDC's current services and the advantage of the residents being made aware of the road sweeping dates in the Newsletter. Cllr Riddle suggested the idea of a scheme similar to that of Westfield Church in respect of a 'blitz day' for groups of people and organisations to get involved. Reference was also made to previous communications with Clean Surroundings and whether they could provide equipment were such an event to take place. Cllr Thayer suggested proposing a quarterly event and it was discussed whether the School, Church or WCA would like to get involved. Cllr Harrison suggested that a date be arranged and put into the January Newsletter as a 'Good-will Day' to assess the likely response of any future event. The Council also discussed the current state of the Rhynes and whether it would be possible to get a quote to clean/dredge them or highlight the matter with the Land Drainage Board.

Cllr Riddle mentioned the disappearance of the Dog Bin between the Church and the Notaro estate houses on the Eastern Side of the Village. It was agreed that the Council would discuss with Clean Surroundings as to whether they had removed it and if it was possible for a new bin to be erected, Cllr Harrison was asked to consider a new potential location.

Cllr Harrison further made the meeting aware that this topic might need to be reconsidered if Wembdon's services became affected in the future.

### **103) Report from the Allotments Committee**

The Council agreed that this item of the agenda would be discussed under Part B and Standing Order 1C, after the completion of normal business hours, in private.

#### **104) Consider Ways of Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

Cllr Burge discussed the need of getting things in place to celebrate the Jubilee, with Cllr Harrison proposing the idea of a Beacon being erected on the Church Tower enabling Wembdon to be part of the 'chain' across the Country. It was agreed that Cllr Riddle would speak with the Church to receive their opinion on the idea.

Cllr Burge further mentioned the prospect of a Commemorative Medal being made available to every child in the Parish who is under 16. The general consensus of the Council was that it would be nice to gift the medal to the Children as with the WCA's Sub Committee in 1977. In order to identify an exact figure it was suggested that a notice might be put on the Parish Website and in the Parish Newsletter asking that parents/guardians register their children for the medal. In terms of the distribution, Cllr Bingham proposed that it be tied in with a Village Day Event. The idea was well received by both members of the Council and the Public alike. Due to the order deadline needing to be the end of February to receive the medals for the Jubilee, the item would be placed on the Agenda for the December meeting. The Council also agreed that due to the importance of the Diamond Jubilee Cllr's Bingham, Burge, Harrison and Thayer would further discuss the ideas, including matters of finance, and report back to the Council in December.

#### **105) Reports from Cllrs in Respect of Meetings Attended**

##### **105.1) Hinkley Point B Site Stake Holder Group Meeting**

Cllr Harrison informed the Council of his attendance at the Hinkley Stake Holder's Meeting, in place of Rodney Western, the Council's previous long-term member. He stated that he found it 'interesting' and emphasised that without his presence the Council's vote would have been lost. The Meeting was further told of the upcoming meeting at Hinkley Power Station in February and the need to appoint a new voting member.

The Council APPROVED Cllr Harrison to be the Council's Voting Member at the February Meeting.

##### **105.2) Somerset County Council Winter Service Department**

Cllr Jackson explained of her and Cllr Brown's visit to the County Council's Winter Service Department and informed the Council of the gritting procedure throughout the village, both on the road and in terms of the correct usage of the newly installed grit bins (Wembdon Hill and Meadow Park). It was agreed that a notice would be put in the Newsletter to this effect, and also attached to the Grit Bins, before their potential usage. Winter Service Leaflets were handed out to the Cllr's and members of the public for their perusal.

The Council was notified that its allocation of grit had been collected from the County Council and had been placed in strategic locations around the Village.

##### **105.3) Sedgemoor District Council**

All Members of the Council attended legal training with the Monitoring officer and the Deputy Monitoring Officer.

### **106) To Consider the Composition of the Parish Council's Sub Committees**

The Chairman has tried to achieve two things in determining the membership of the Committees (i) that they are as broad as possible with the joining of Cllr's Burge and Thake and that Cllr's have an opportunity to join a Committee of interest, and (ii) that the Committees are as fully representative of the Council as possible.

The Chairman also aired his concerns that in the past the Chair had been a voting *ex officio* member of all Committees and that it was his intention to make the position a non-voting membership to reduce the possible influence and power of the Chair

The Committees:

**Finance:** Cllr Solomon (Lead), Cllrs Riddle and Burge. (New Cllr to be appointed Member)

**Planning:** Cllr's Harrison, Bingham, Brown, Burge and Thake.

**Playing Fields and Common:** Cllr's Bingham, Jackson, Riddle and Thake.

**Highways & Speedwatch:** Cllrs Thayer (Speedwatch), Brown, Jackson and Riddle.

**Communications:** Cllrs Jackson (Newsletter), Cllrs Bingham and Thayer (Website)

**Footpaths:** Cllr Harrison, Jackson and Thake. (New Cllr to be appointed Member)

**Allotments:** Cllr's Harrison and Thayer.

**Land Acquisitions:** Cllr's Solomon, Harrison and Thayer.

**Staffing:** Cllr's Solomon, Harrison, Jackson and Burge.

**Appeals:** Cllr's Riddle, Brown and Thayer

It was also discussed by Cllr Thayer that it would be of benefit to the Council to receive regular feedback from Speedwatch, through a representative. The meeting further recognised their continued efforts as active volunteers in the village and were told of their 'appreciation' for the Council's previous message of thanks.

### **107) To Consider a Request from Bridgwater Town Football Club for RLT3 Funding for New Floodlights (To be considered at the Bridgwater Cluster Group Meeting)**

The Chairman mentioned that this was a new request, and explained that RLT3 was available for distributions to Parish and Town Councils. That the Grants Committee of the District Council allocates grants but is unable to do so until the 'Cluster' Group approves suitable applications to be considered.

It was further explained that Wembdon had already benefited from being part of the Quantock Cluster with funding for the playing field and drainage etc., but that as a result of recent boundary variations Wembdon may now be able to participate in the Bridgwater Cluster as a voting member and have been asked to support applications made to them. Whilst this was considered to be a good position for the Council the Chairman was keen to ensure that they did not lose representation on the Quantock Cluster. The Council was further informed that it was seeking clarification as to its positioning on the Cluster Meetings but that nothing had yet been received, as Cllr Bown reiterated.

Both the Council and Members of the Public entered discussions about Wembdon's previous participation in the Bridgwater Cluster Meeting and how they should proceed in the future, if the Village were to become a Voting Member.

In response to the Question, that the Cluster Group have been asked to approve £9, 000 for expenditure on Floodlights at Bridgwater Town Football Club, the Council AGREED that it would vote in favour of the proposal.

The Chairman considered that it would do no harm to support the application in case the Council made an application in the future, especially as parishioners benefit from the proximity of Bridgwater. It was confirmed that the next Bridgwater Cluster Meeting would be on 7 December 2011 and both the Chairman and Cllr Riddle would attend on behalf of the Council.

### **108) Planning:**

**51/11/00015** – Barns to the North of, Cokerhurst Farm, Wembdon Hill. Change of use & conversion of barn to three dwellings.

**No objection from the Planning sub-committee.**

**51/11/00019** – 1 Church Road, Wembdon. Crown lift 3 lower limbs to Evergreen Oak (T1) in order to increase clearance from property & highway.

**Permission granted.**

**51/11/00020** – Greenway Garage, Quantock Rd. Use of land to site a portacabin and portaloos to be used to continue business of garage/shop/filling station, while repairs to fire damaged business are carried out.

**Permission granted.**

**51/11/00021** – Barn A at, Grabhams Farm, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Erection of extension to North elevation.

**Permission granted.**

**51/11/00022** – Barn on land to the East of, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Change of use & conversion of barn to dwelling.

**Decision deferred subject to further information in respect of an agricultural appraisal.**

**51/11/00023** – St George's Primary School. Renewal of temporary Planning Permission for a modular building for use as a classroom.

**No objection from the Planning sub-committee.**

**51/11/00024** – 11 Wembdon Hill. Remove hanging branch in canopy & lower branch overhanging road & all dead wood from 1 No Lime Tree (T1).

**No objection from the Planning sub-committee.**

**51/11/00027** – Grove Bank, Downhall Drive. Erection of single storey extension to west elevation.

**Referred to the Planning sub-committee.**

### **109) Finance:**

#### **109.1) Precept**

The Chairman informed the Council of the need to consider the precept for the Council's expenditure and to think, individually or in groups, of ideas or projects which could benefit the village and the potential financial implications.

The question being "what would this Council like to achieve by the end of its term in office". The matter was therefore highlighted in this meeting to provide for a more forward looking

item on the Agenda for the next meeting and to enable Cllr's to discuss potential ideas at the next meeting.

Members of the Council began to raise initial thoughts in relation to the Sedgemoor District Council funding. Cllr Bown also brought attention to the fact that although Parish Council's precepts are currently uncapped this might change in the future.

### **109.2) Current Balance**

Balance at 10 October 2011		<b>£13163.40</b>
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£ 355.00	
Clerk (Refund of advertisement cost re job vacancy)	£ 749.76	
Re-painting of the Play equipment etc.	£ 480.00	
Gate Post & Fencing	£ 433.00	
Salary & Income Tax	£ 994.31	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 51.93	
Loan Repayment	£1363.33	<u>£ 4427.33</u>
Balance at 14 November 2011		<b>£ 8736.07</b>

### **109.3) Payment of Invoices**

The following payments were authorised

- Ground Maintenance £390.00
- Monthly Playing Field Inspection £18.00

## **110) Matters Raised by Councillors**

### **110.1) Playing Field**

The inspection of the playing field raised two issues, the benches were not bolted down and could create a hazard falling on someone and that two or three plastic covers over lock nuts were missing. The Playing fields committee would have a look at these and report back.

### **110.2) Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting**

The Council and public were informed of an Extra-ordinary meeting Set for 5 December 2011 for a Presentation to the Parish Council by The Wembdon Village Hall and Playing Fields Charitable Trust.

It will be a regular open Parish Council meeting with this being the only item on the Agenda.