

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2008

Present

Cllr B Webb (Chairman), Cllr D Lumber, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr M Solomon, Cllr C Brown, Cllr K Perry, Cllr R Harris & Cllr S Bagg

90) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, County Cllr John Edney, PC Tony Freeman & two members of the public to the meeting.

91) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr Ann Bown & Cllr R Western.

92) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

93) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 10 November 2008 were agreed & signed.

94) Report from PC Tony Freeman

PC Freeman reported that during November 5 calls had been received, by the Police, from local residents.

There had been a few incidents in the playing field & as a consequence the youths had been approached & warning letters sent.

Sedgemoor District Council had been asked to either repair or replace the damaged bin in the playing field as youths had been seen taking it apart & pushing it down the slide & as a consequence spreading the rubbish around the field.

95) Matters Arising

95.1) Pioneer Somerset Questionnaire

The response to the questionnaire was agreed with the Council identifying 3 areas, Grass Cutting, Grounds Maintenance & Open Spaces & Parks, that they would be prepared to take responsibility for if sufficient funding was made available.

95.2) RLT3 Funding

A number of the Parish Councillors had attended the workshops organised by S.D.C. Parish/Town Councils seeking funds were now encouraged to seek the support of their Cluster before approaching S.D.C. although if that support wasn't forthcoming an approach could still be made directly to S.D.C.

RLT3 funding came from developers & was to be used for providing new sports facilities or for upgrading existing ones.

IT was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would seek guidance & a quote for improving the drainage of the playing field prior to submitting a bid for some of the RLT3 funding.

95.3) New Dog Waste Bin

Discussions with S.D.C. were ongoing with regard to the positioning of an additional dog waste bin.

96) The Parish Plan

96.1) Highways

Cllr Brown, on behalf of the Highways sub-committee, provided a detailed presentation highlighting how other villages in Sedgemoor approached highways problems & compared these with existing speed reduction measures in Wembdon. The sub-committee had deliberately excluded the NDR from the review.

The Parish Council now had to decide which options, if any; they preferred & then seek advice from County Highways.

PC Freeman explained that if the Parish Council decided to proceed with a speed watch the Police would identify suitable places where it could be undertaken.

It was confirmed that the complaint submitted to the Police regarding speeding through Wembdon was being investigated.

96.2) Parish Council Website

A further meeting of the sub-committee had taken place with the Chairman, Cllr Webb, in attendance.

The sub-committee expected to be able to provide the Parish Council with a presentation of the draft website at the January meeting.

The Chairman highlighted the importance of the website and saw it as the cornerstone for communicating to the community the work of the Parish Council.

96.3) New Bridge

Cllr Solomon confirmed that the Somerset Rights of Way Department was processing the application to build a new bridge at the NDR end of the playing field.

96.4) Action Plan

The Parish Council agreed the following resolution

The Parish Council recognises the excellent work undertaken by the Steering Committee in the production of the Parish Plan & will identify those areas of the plan, which it believes it can take forward with the support & backing of the community. It will produce an action plan, which will list in order of priority the items to be addressed by the Parish Council & the approximate time scales for doing so. The list once produced will be made available to the community, via the Wembdon Parish Council website, for comments thereon.

97) Correspondence

97.1) Model Publication Scheme

The Parish Council formally adopted the new Model Publication Scheme that was effective from 1 January 2009. The scheme, which identified the information that the Parish Council would routinely make available, would be placed on the Parish Council website. A hard copy would also be available on request.

A notice advertising the adoption of the new scheme was to be placed on the notice board in Wembdon Rise.

97.2) Clean Sweep Programme

S.D.C. had re-launched the scheme first run in 2007 & were due to target Wembdon in August/September & November/December of each year.

A clean sweep was due to be undertaken shortly & the Parish Council had been invited to complete a customer satisfaction survey & also identify areas, which they believed required attention. It was agreed that Cllr's Solomon & Brown would address this.

97.3) Hinkley Point Power Stations

It was RESOLVED that EDF be invited to address the Parish Council at their February meeting on the proposals to build a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point. It was confirmed that Cllr Western would be attending an event on 12 December regarding the on going de-commissioning of Hinkley A power station.

97.4) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Information regarding an Environmental Impact Assessment being undertaken by British Energy in respect of the proposed new power station at Hinkley Point
- A County Highways Newsletter along with details of their policy on salting roads during adverse weather conditions.
- Fieldwork magazine, December edition
- A West Somerset Police Area update
- Somerset Matters magazine, autumn edition
- Somerset NHS Annual Public Health Report
- Minutes of the Somerset Local Action in Rural Communities meeting held on 13 November 2008

98) Reports from Sub-committees

98.1) Footpaths

Cllr Brown stated that the footpaths apart from being muddy were in good condition. He had completed and submitted the winter survey of the footpaths identifying areas that required attention.

98.2) Playing field/Common

The hedge in the playing field would be cut when the weather conditions improved. The fence by the overhanging Willow had been repaired & then damaged again. The Parish Council questioned whether the Drainage Boards policy of clearing the rhyne & placing the waste against the fencing was causing problems.

Work on the pollarding of the trees & reducing the height of the Silver Birch trees was almost complete. It was agreed that the Willow branch overhanging the rhyne would be removed. A quote would be obtained for completely removing one of the Willows that had split.

Cllr Western would be asked to look at the state of the ground around the 5 bar gate & also the fence further up on the right hand side of the field.

The Parish Council did not believe that the wire on the new gate required any attention.

98.3) Allotments

Cllr Harris reported that he was looking in to the possibility of reducing the size of some of the underused plots.

Quotes were to be obtained for levelling & filling the potholes on the track way leading to the allotments.

It was noted that there was now only 2 years left on the tenancy of the allotment field. Cllr Harris confirmed that the administrators of the estate were aware of the Parish Councils interest in the land but nothing would happen for at least 6 months.

99) Planning

The owners of Greenways Farm had applied to the Camping & Caravanning Club for a 5-caravan certificate in accordance with Paragraph 5, First Schedule of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960. The club had a certificate of exemption under the Act & therefore were not required to carry out any consultations prior to issuing a certificate. However, it was their policy to consult with the local authority & this they had done.

Planning Applications determined or still outstanding

08/08/00137 – Gerber Foods Manufacturing Ltd, Wembdon Road. Erection of 313 dwellings, commercial units (use class A1-A5, B1, D1 & D2), demolition of factory buildings.

No objection from the Parish Council sub-committee, however various concerns raised & a request for a presentation of the proposed development to the full Parish Council.

51/08/00032 – 42 Wembdon Rise. Installation of two electrically operated gates to two front accesses and build up end sections of front stone boundary wall.

Permission refused. Appeal submitted.

51/08/00036 – Land at, Barton Farm, Perry Green. Erection of sixteen polytunnels & surface water storage lagoon.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00039 – Wembdon St George's School. Erection of canopy over play area.

Permission granted.

51/08/00040 – 11 Church Road. Erection of part two-storey, part single storey rear extension.

Permission granted.

51/08/00041 – Barn B North of, Grabhams Farm, Moores lane, Wembdon. Change of use & conversion from two holiday cottages to one dwelling.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00042 – 7 Wembdon Orchard. Erection of three-storey dwelling with double integral garage & formation of access.

The sub-committee were due to meet to discuss this application. They had previously objected to a similar application, which had been subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

51/08/00043 – 3 The Oaks, Wembdon. (Tree Preservation Order). Raise crown of 1 Beech Tree & 1 Horse Chestnut Tree by 4 metres & reduce height & spread by 30%.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

100) Finance

S.D.C. had written to advise Councils that the Amenity Recreational Grant was, at

best, likely to be minimal in 2009.

The finance sub-committee would meet prior to the January 2009 Parish Council meeting to discuss a recommendation for the precept amount for 2009/10.

It was agreed that a donation to the Sedgemoor Volunteer Centre would be considered at the January meeting. The Council also wanted to know how many parishioners benefited from the use of Sedgemoor Community Transport prior to considering a donation.

It was RESOLVED that the following payments would be made

- S.D.C. Dog waste bin emptying £212.35
- Ground Maintenance £265.00
- Stadia Sports – new goal posts £828.38
- Society of Local Council Clerks Annual Subscription £82.00

Balance at 10 November 2008		£20292.43
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£265.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 35.64	<u>£ 300.64</u>
Balance at 8 December 2008		£19991.79

Date of next meeting – 12 January 2009