

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2009

Present

Chairman, Cllr B Webb, Cllr R Harris, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr D Lumber, Cllr R Western, Cllr M Solomon & Cllr S Bagg

113) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, County Cllr John Edney, PC Tony Freeman & Charles St George, Simon Dunford & Kate Stinton representing EDF Energy.

114) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr C Brown, Cllr K Perry & Cllr Ann Bown.

115) EDF Presentation

The representatives from EDF Energy gave a detailed presentation in respect of the plans to build 2 nuclear power stations at Hinkley Point. The Councillors were informed that they would be European Pressurised Water Reactors with planned go live dates of 2017 & 2019. Each was expected to have a life span of 60 years & it would then take 20 years to decommission them.

Large numbers of construction staff would be required & there would be around 700 permanent staff once the stations were operational.

The presentation covered the consultations that had already taken place & the issues arising from those consultations. Major concerns included the increase in traffic movement, the transportation of materials & the housing of the construction workers. The Councillors were informed that all options were being considered.

A final decision on which sites were being selected for the new power stations was due by 31 March 2009 & the planning applications were due to be submitted in 2010.

A number of publications were made available to the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked the EDF representatives for their detailed presentation & asked to be kept informed.

116) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

117) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2009 were agreed subject to noting that County Cllr John Edney had offered his apologies for that meeting.

118) Report from PC Tony Freeman

PC Freeman reported that several cars in the village had been vandalised & there had been an attempt to steal fuel from one vehicle.

119) Matters Arising

119.1) Additional Dog Waste Bins

Cllr Harris had held a meeting with Sedgemoor District Council & the site for the new bin by the allotments had been agreed.

It was RESOLVED that a bin was needed in Wares Lane in the vicinity of where the tarmac ended. A site meeting would take place with S.D.C. to determine where the bin could be placed.

119.2) Highways Obstructions – Moores Lane

Sedgemoor Highways had written to the owner of the property, from which the fencing panels that had been found in the highway were understood to have originated & this along with the response from the owner were placed in the correspondence folder.

119.3) Verge by The Oaks

It was RESOLVED that S.D.C. would be asked to make good the verge that had been damaged by the vehicle parking on it.

120) The Parish Plan

120.1) The Parish Council Website

Cllr Solomon informed the Council that the website administrator was still in the process of building the website to the Parish Councils specifications. If the construction of it was completed a presentation would be made at the Annual Parish Meeting on 9 March 2009.

120.2) Highways

The sub-committee was asked to make a recommendation(s) as to where a flashing speed sign could be sited as it was observed that the one recently placed on the NDR had appeared to be a success.

120.3) New Bridge

Cllr Solomon had held meetings with various organisations in the previous month & he expected the final consent letter to be received shortly. Cllr Solomon informed the meeting that as part of the works the tree in the rhyme alongside the existing bridge would have to be removed.

Pre-construction work was expected to last between 6 to 8 weeks & there would then be about 10 days work on site putting the bridge in place.

121) Correspondence

121.1) Local Standards Committee

It was noted that Peter Osborn from Brent Knoll Parish Council had been elected as the 2nd Parish Council representative to the Local Standards Committee.

121.2) Quantock Parishes Cluster Group

The next meeting was due to take place on 24 February. If Cllr K Perry were unable to attend Cllr M Solomon would attend in his place.

121.3) RLT3 Funding

Guidance had been received from S.D.C. explaining how to bid for funding.

121.4) Free Funding Advice Evening for Voluntary Groups

The Parish Council would not be represented at the event being held on Thursday 5 March.

121.5) Rural Services Network

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would sign up to the network free of charge so that they would continue to receive electronic newsletters.

121.6) Members Code of Conduct Training

Councillors were advised of the training event taking place on 31 March at Bridgwater House.

121.7) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Somerset County Council Safe In your Community leaflet
- Agenda for the Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group Meeting on 27 February 2009
- Somerset Art Works newsletter

122) Report from County Cllr John Edney

Cllr John Edney informed the meeting that he would cover for Cllr Ann Bown during her absence as a result of her accident.

He welcomed the new cluster group arrangements, which meant the Parish Councils would be taking more control of these meetings.

It was expected that the Rates for 2009 would increase by around 3.5%.

123) Reports from Sub-committees

123.1) Footpaths

The fallen tree that was partly blocking the footpath off Silverdale Close had been reported to S.D.C.

123.2) playing field/Common

The playing field hedge had been trimmed.

Cllr M Solomon was due to meet the potential land drainage contractor again & following that meeting he expected to receive a quote for improving the drainage in the playing field. As it was highly unlikely that the Council would be able to afford the cost of improving the drainage of all of the playing field in one go the playing field had been sub-divided in to sections & separate quotes would be received for each section.

One of the options being considered was to raise the height of the footpath although it was recognised that this might create other problems.

It was noted that 2 of the swing seats had been damaged & Cllr R Western would see if these required replacement. Cllr Western would also speak to Wembdon Community Association regarding the bonfire embers, which hadn't been properly cleared away.

The adverse weather conditions had meant that it hadn't been possible to erect the new goalposts or bolt the seats in to position.

123.3) Allotments

The allotment holders AGM had been held on 26 January with 10 people present.

The allotment holders were pleased that a dog waste bin had been placed by the allotments & one allotment holder wanted to place a sign encouraging dog owners to use it.

Concerns were expressed about the current lease on the allotments & Cllr R Harris had explained that the Parish Council hoped that negotiations on a new lease would commence during the summer.

The state of the track leading to the allotments was also a problem. One quote had been received & another one was due.

124 Planning

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

Permission refused.

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%. **Permission granted.**

51/08/00044 – Agricultural building at, Barton Farm, Perry Green. Alterations to agricultural building to include cladding & installation of door. **Formal application not required.**

51/08/00045 – Land at, 66 Wembdon Hill. Change of use, conversion & extension of dwelling to form 2 dwellings, formation of parking, turning area & access. **No objection from Planning sub-committee.**

51/08/00046 – 18 Church Rd, Wembdon. Erection of two-storey side extension partly on site of existing store/garage (to be demolished). **No objection from Planning sub-committee.**

125) Finance

It was RESOLVED, following a request from the Ground Maintenance Contractor, that the amount paid under the contract would increase by £200 per annum.

The following payments were authorised

- Dog waste bin emptying (S.C.C.) £150.10
- Clerk's Expenses £28.65

Balance at 12 January 2009	£16968.97	
W.C.A. Donation	£ 350.00	
Allotment Rent	<u>£ 170.00</u>	
		£17488.97
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£ 265.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 37.09	
Salary & Income Tax	£ 933.40	
Room Hire (S.C.C.)	£ 159.60	
Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau	<u>£ 150.00</u>	
		<u>£ 1545.09</u>
Balance at 9 February 2009		£15943.88

126) Any Other Business

The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 9 March 2009, commencing at 7.00pm & would be followed by the normal Parish Council meeting.