

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2007

### **Present**

Mr Webb (Chairman), Cllr Ann Bown, Mrs Lumber, Mrs Riddle & Messrs Perry, Brown & Bagg

### **103) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors to the meeting.

### **104) Apologies for Absence**

These were received in respect of Mr Harris, Mr Solomon, Mrs Coombes & County Cllr John Edney.

### **105) The Views of Wembdon Residents**

No one had requested time to address the Parish Council.

### **106) Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2007 were agreed & signed.

### **107) Report from PC Tony Freeman**

There was no report.

The Clerk advised that PC Freeman would be holding his next surgery at the Parish Centre on Saturday 17 March.

### **108) Matters Arising**

#### **108.1) Unitary Authority Status for Somerset**

The County Council had voted in favour of applying for Unitary Authority status and had submitted their application to The Secretary of State. Members of the Parish Council had attended 2 special cluster meetings when Sedgemoor District Council had explained why they could not support the application. All members of the Parish Council had received a letter from the leader of Somerset County Council putting forward their business case.

The Secretary of State had not responded to the letter from the Parish Council expressing concern over the lack of consultation, to date, on the issue.

#### **108.2) Perry Green Ditches**

County Highways had stated that the ditch opposite McLintocks was not their responsibility & so had the Drainage Board. The Drainage Board had offered to review if evidence could be supplied showing problems over a period of time. The resident who had raised the issue had been informed. County Cllr Edney had also been kept up to date on the issue.

#### **108.3) Footpath at the Bottom of Wembdon Hill**

Although the fallen leaves had, effectively, been cleared away through foot traffic movement there was still a large amount of rotting vegetation of the side of the road.

Cllr Bown stated that she would raise the issue once again as she had been, previously, assured that it would be cleaned up.

#### **108.4) Verge in Church Road**

Even though S.D.C. had agreed, last autumn, to replace the shrubs they had damaged & had subsequently confirmed this several times to Mr Harris the planting had not happened. It was therefore RESOLVED that the Clerk would write & remind them of their obligation & seeking an early resolution of this issue.

#### **108.5) Wembdon Common Trees**

Mr Harris had replaced two trees that had either died or had been damaged by recent bad weather. Concern was raised regarding the closeness of some of the other trees on the Common & Coppicing of these would be considered.

### **109) Correspondence**

#### **109.1) Dog Control – Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005**

S.D.C. was seeking views from Parish Councils regarding proposals to introduce new controls over dogs under the above Act. They had listed a number of areas (land in the open air) where they planned to ban dog & others where they would have to be kept on a lead. The Parish Council wanted to know if all the proposed areas were under S.D.C. control. They supported the S.D.C view that the Quantocks should be excluded from the proposals & had no suggestions for other areas where dogs should be kept on leads. The Parish Council were not in a position to assist S.D.C. enforce any new Orders & could not identify any areas where the number of dogs taken onto land by any one person should be limited.

#### **109.2) Area Working Panels**

S.C.C. was in the process of creating the above with the aim of delivering some services on a local basis in the future. The Area Working Panels would oversee these services. Each panel would be made up of all the County Councillors in that area & would also involve District Councillors & various partners of the County Council. Inaugural meetings were to be held, the one for Sedgemoor being on 15 February, with members of the public & Town & Parish Councillors being invited to also attend. Regrettably no member of the Parish Council was available to attend the first meeting but noted the importance of attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, date to be announced, when the panel would focus on the priorities of the Town & Parish Councils.

#### **109.3) Water Mains Improvement Works**

These were due to take place outside Sandford Reservoir for a period of 4 weeks commencing on 19 March. During the works the road would be closed. Details of the planned detour for road users were awaited.

#### **109.4) Parish Council Elections**

These are due to take place on 3 May 2007. Nominations for those wishing to stand for election are due to close at 12 noon on Wednesday 4 April.

#### **109.5) Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members**

The consultation paper was placed in the correspondence folder.

### **109.6) Other Correspondence**

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Annual Newsletter from Somerset Rights of Way
- Playing Field Newsletter
- Rural Youth Newsletter
- Regional Spatial Strategy Newsletter

### **110) Report from Cllr Ann Bown**

The lighting problem in Inwood Road had been rectified.

The rhyne adjacent to Whitegate Field had been cleared & the resultant waste had been deposited in the field. Following an intervention by Cllr Bown the waste was being removed & chippings were being laid.

Agreement had been reached in respect of the planting of a Beech Hedge adjacent to Wares Lane. The hedge was to be maintained for a period of 24 months by S.D.C. contractors & after that by the landowners of No's 66, 68 & 58 Oak Apple Drive.

### **111) Reports from Sub-committees**

#### **111.1) Footpaths**

Mr Brown reported that the footpaths were generally clear but slippery due to the wet weather. Mr Brown expressed thanks to the landowners neighbouring some of the footpaths who had cleared away several fallen trees.

The dog waste along the NDR had been improved by the placing of dog waste bins along it.

#### **111.2) Playing Field**

The Chairman read out a written report from Mr Harris. It reported that a further bid for funding, in excess of £19,000, had been submitted to Viridor Environment Company & if successful would allow the Parish Council to undertake the planned project in full. S.D.C. had stated that apart from 2 occasions they had emptied the dog waste bin at the NDR end of the playing field & the invoice for the past quarter recognised that. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would monitor its emptying.

#### **111.3) Parish Plan/Village Design Statement**

As a result of the press release & notices placed on the village notice board Mr Bagg had received 14 enquiries regarding the preparation of a Parish Plan, of which 4 had expressed a serious interest in joining the working group. Mr Bagg would shortly be holding informal meetings with them.

Mr Bagg had attended the S.C.C. Parish Plan Workshop & advised that the main purpose of it appeared to be the launch of the toolkit. Mr Bagg reported that the eventual plan may extend to 50 pages & it was possible that the questionnaire/survey may be an extensive document. He had received no response from the Wembdon Community Association following their December meeting when they were due to discuss support for the project.

Mr Bagg was thanked for his work to date.

#### **111.4) Allotments**

The allotment holders AGM was held on 5 February with 8 present. No significant issues had been raised although Mr Harris had suggested the possibility of a prize for the best-kept allotment. The Parish Council wondered if the WCA might wish to

consider this as a possibility as part of the flower/vegetable show awards on Village Day.

4 Allotments had been vacated & were available for letting. Fortunately there was a long waiting list. It was agreed that the Clerk should use the tenancy agreement to remind allotment holders that they were required to keep their allotments tidy & if they didn't they could be asked to vacate them.

Work was still ongoing in respect of the potholes.

## 112) Finance

It was RESOLVED that the following payment be made  
Emptying of dog waste bins £119.94

Balance at 8 January		£18398.91
Allotment Rent		<u>£ 120.00</u>
		£18518.91
less		
Ground maintenance	£200.00	
Wessex Water	£ 26.68	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 23.73	
Salary & Income Tax	£790.00	
Trees	£ 58.65	<u>£ 1099.06</u>
Balance		£17419.85

## 113) Planning

**51/06/00036** – Barn to the North East of Grabhams Farm, Moores lane. Change of use & conversion of 2 barns to 2 dwellings, demolition of garage.

**Permission granted.**

**51/06/00046** – Barton Farm, Perry Green. Application for Certificate of lawfulness for existing occupation of dwelling without complying with condition 5 of Planning Permission **51/91/14** & condition 2 of Planning Permission **51/91/23** restricting the occupation to a person employed in agriculture or forestry.

**No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.**

**51/06/00050** – Land on OS Field 6685 to the South of, Manor Lodge, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Erection of stables & change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian.

**Permission granted.**

**51/06/00052** – 24 Wembdon Hill, Wembdon. Erection of bungalow.

**Application withdrawn.**

**51/06/00053** – 20 Risedale Close, Wembdon. Erection of single storey extension to West elevation.

**Permission granted.**

**13/06/036 & 037** – Spaxton Road, Bridgwater. Allow continued use of land for storage, crushing & recycling of hardcore & the continued importation of waste for site restoration purposes for a period of 10 years.

**The Parish Council sub-committee has objected to these applications.**

**51/07/00001** – 23 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey rear extension, partly on site of existing (to be demolished).  
**No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.**

**51/07/00002** – Land at Perry Green, Wembdon. Formation of wildlife pond.  
**No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.**

**114) A.O.B.**

On behalf of the Parish Council Cllr Ann Bown thanked the Chairman for the reception he had arranged.

Concern was expressed in respect of the condition of several grass verges, which had been damaged by vehicles. It was agreed that, presently, it was too wet to undertake repairs & that they would be monitored & dealt with when conditions improved.

**The Date of the next meeting will be the original date of 12 March 2007 & not the 19<sup>th</sup> as agreed at the meeting.**