

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2009

Present

Vice Chairman, Cllr R Harris, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr D Lumber, Cllr K Perry, Cllr R Western, Cllr C Brown & Cllr S Bagg

101) Chairman's Welcome

The Vice Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, PCSO Nick Mizon & 1 member of the public to the meeting & wished everyone a Happy New Year.

102) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of the Chairman, Cllr B Webb, Cllr M Solomon & Cllr Ann Bown.

103) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

104) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting dated 8 December 2008 were agreed & signed.

105) Report from PCSO Nick Mizon

PCSO Mizon reported that the village had been, generally, quiet during the Christmas period. There had been one burglary & an arrest had been made. There had also been a drugs arrest.

Some graffiti had appeared in the village with a recognisable Tag. Local schools had been asked to try & identify the Tag.

106) Matters Arising

The Clerk confirmed that there would be a presentation by EDF at the February meeting in respect of the proposed building of a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point. The presentation would be at the beginning of the meeting & with questions may last up to 45 minutes.

107) The Parish Plan

107.1) Parish Council Website

The Clerk advised the meeting that the website was still under construction. At the December meeting it had been agreed that a presentation of the website would be made to the Councillors prior to it being launched. In view of the EDF presentation at the February meeting it was RESOLVED, that subject to a suitable venue being found & the website being ready, a separate meeting would be held purely for the purpose of presenting the website to the Council, prior to the February Parish Council meeting.

107.2) New Footbridge

In a written statement to the meeting Cllr Solomon stated that a method statement had been agreed with Somerset County Council for carrying out the bridge works & that

access for the construction work would be through the playing field. Final construction drawings had been prepared & agreed by S.C.C. They were also undertaking an ecological survey. Tender documents were being drafted & a copy of the current draft was placed in the correspondence folder.

107.3) Highways

Cllr Brown reported that the Community Speed watch co-ordinator would be inviting all speed watch & potential speed watch teams to an event in the spring & confirmed that the Parish Council would be represented at the event. A copy of the presentation made to the Council at the December meeting was to be made available to the speed watch co-ordinator for commenting on.

Once the Council had reflected, fully, on the report from the Highways sub-committee a decision would be made as to whether any additional speeding controls were required in the village. At this point County Highways would be consulted.

108) Correspondence

108.1) Involving Young People in Building Stronger Communities Conference

The Parish Council was made aware of the event taking place on 17 February.

108.2) Somerset Safer Stronger Neighbourhood Roadshows

Two roadshows had been planned with one taking place in Bridgwater on 12 February.

108.3) Dog Fouling

The Parish Council was shown the winning poster from a local competition asking people to clean up after their dog had fouled in public places. The poster was to be placed around the village.

A discussion followed regarding the availability of dog waste bins in the village & it was RESOLVED that Parish Councillors would identify places where they believed additional dog bins were required & these would be considered at the February meeting.

108.4) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine – January edition
- The Clerk magazine – January edition
- Thatch Magazine – winter edition
- A Somerset Community Safety Newsletter
- Proposals for the Development of Mental Health Services in Bridgwater
- Review of Tendered Bus Services in West Somerset
- Consultation on the Recommended Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity

109) Reports from Sub-committees

109.1) Footpaths

Cllr Brown reported that the County Council had already undertaken ¾ of the issues he had identified in the recently completed survey. He was also due to attend a seminar organised for the local footpath co-ordinators across the district.

109.2) Playing field/Common

A company had been asked to provide a quote for improving the drainage in the playing field. This did not include the area near the gate by Crossacre, which may also require attention.

It was confirmed that ROSPA would be asked to undertake the annual inspection of the playing field & that the Council would like Cllr Western to be present during the inspection.

Poor weather conditions had meant that it had not been possible to erect the new goalposts or bolt in position the seats.

Cllr Western indicated that some of the fencing towards the top of the playing field where the brambles were growing over it was beyond repair.

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Harris, confirmed that the pollarding & other works on the trees on the Common had been completed.

Cllr Harris also expressed a view that at some stage the Council should consider an extra piece of equipment in the playing field, perhaps targeted at older children.

The bonfire ashes would be removed when the weather permitted.

109.3) Allotments

The allotment holders AGM would take place on Monday 26 January. It was RESOLVED that the rent for 2009 would remain at £10 per plot.

The Vice Chairman advised that he had received one quote, in the region of £1,000, for the laying of about 30 tonnes of stone on the allotment track. Another quote would be obtained.

110) Planning

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

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.

Permission granted.

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

The Parish Council sub-committee has objected to this application.

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.

The Enforcement Notice in respect of Moorhen farm has been quashed on appeal, basically because notice wasn't served against all the interested parties. The Council is, however, free to re-issue the Enforcement Notice. S.D.C would be asked whether they intended re-issuing the enforcement notice & if not why not.

111) Finance

The Finance sub-committee was recommending that, in view of the current financial state of the economy, the relatively healthy balance held by the Parish Council & the fact that no major expenditure, other than already accounted for, was planned the

Precept for 2009/10 should remain at £14,000. The recommendation was unanimously approved.

Balance at 8 December 2008		£19991.79
Bank Interest		£ 64.36
Western power Distribution		<u>£ 18.70</u>
		£20074.85
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£ 265.00	
Stadia Sports (Goal Posts)	£ 828.38	
S.L.C.C.	£ 82.00	
Rodway Fencing	£ 460.00	
Wessex Water	£ 28.15	
Tree Surgery	£1230.00	
S.D.C. (Dog Bin Waste Emptying)	£ 212.35	<u>£ 3105.88</u>
Balance at 12 January 2009		£16968.97

It was RESOLVED that the donation to the Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau would be £150 to take account of increased demand on the service provided. No donation was to be made to Sedgemoor Community Transport, without providing the additional information requested or Sedgemoor Volunteer Centre.

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made

- Salary & Income Tax £933.40
- Clerk's Expenses £37.09
- Ground Maintenance £265
- Room Hire £159.60

112) Any Other Business

112.1) Highways Obstructions

It was noted that on several occasions it had been necessary to remove fencing etc. from Moores Lane in the vicinity of a house that was to be renovated & this would be reported to County Highways.

112.2) Verge by the Oaks

It was noted that there had been further damage to the verge as a result of a vehicle being regularly being parked on it. PCSO Nick Mizon agreed to speak to the owner of the vehicle regarding this.

Dates of Next Meetings

Monday 9 February 2009

Monday 9 March 2009 – the Annual Parish Meeting would be held prior to the Parish Council meeting

Monday 20 April 2009 – moved back a week to avoid Easter.