

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2007

Present

Mr Webb (Chairman), Mrs Lumber, Mrs Riddle, Cllr A Bown, Mrs Coombes & Messrs Perry, Solomon, Harris, Brown & Bagg

91) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, County Cllr John Edney, PC Tony Freeman, PCSO Nick Mizon & 1 member of the public to the meeting.

92) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were given on behalf of Cllr Ann Bown who was due to arrive late as she was attending another meeting.

93) Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

94) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 11 December 2006 were agreed & signed.

95) Report from PC Tony Freeman

PC Freeman stated that neighbourhood policing officially started on 8 January 2007 & that PCSO Nick Mizon had been assigned to his beat, which included Wembdon.

Realistically no other PCSO would be assigned to the beat.

PC Freeman advised that the Wembdon part of the beat was generally quiet at present.

96) Matters Arising

96.1) New Notice board

The favoured position was likely to be on the Notaro development currently under construction.

96.2) Unitary Authority Status

All of the Parish Councillors had received a letter & questionnaire from the Chief Executive of Sedgemoor District Council. Two Parish Councillors were attending the special Bridgwater cluster meeting on 9 January, where this issue was being discussed & one was attending the Quantock Parish cluster meeting on 11 January.

County Cllr John Edney advised that the County Council would make a final decision on whether to submit an application for Unitary Authority status on 22 January 2007. If the submission were taken forward there would be a formal consultation period later in 2007. Details of who would be consulted were not available. If formal approval were given the new authority would commence during 2009. County Cllr Edney confirmed that Taunton would be the head quarters for the new authority. There would also be area committees & it was envisaged that more power would be given to Town & Parish Councils.

96.3) Verge in Church Road

Mr Harris advised that S.D.C. had assured him that they would be replacing the damaged shrubs shortly.

97) Correspondence

97.1) Perry Green Ditches

The Clerk was in correspondence with the owner of MacLintocks, Perry Green who was concerned that the ditch opposite him had not been cleared although other parts of it had. The Clerk had written to the Highways Authority but was waiting for a response. County Cllr Edney advised that he was meeting Lawrence Hackling from the Highways Authority the following day & would raise this with him. County Cllr Edney also agreed to ask why bollards still marked the area, 300 yards from Sandford Corner, where a car had left the road 3 months earlier.

97.2) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Clerks & Councils Direct – January edition
- The Clerk magazine
- Minutes of the Quantock Parishes cluster meeting dated 5 October 2006
- Minutes of the Bridgwater Parish cluster meeting dated 25 July 2006

98) Report from Cllr Ann Bown

The Chairman of the Ambulance Trust had stated that she believed the direction finding equipment used by them was up to date although it would be checked.

Faults to street lights in Inwood Road & Brantwood Road had been reported.

The Children's home had quietened down & there was a possibility that the number of children staying in the home at any one time would be reduced.

99) Reports from Sub-committees

99.1) Footpaths

Mr Brown reported that due to the recent wet weather the footpaths were, currently, in a poor condition.

There were further problems with bagged dog waste along the NDR & this would be reported to S.D.C.

One of the dog waste bins in the playing field was again not being emptied & perhaps hadn't been for 6 weeks. This would also be reported to S.D.C.

One of the footpaths off Blakes Road across a field had been partly taped off. It was RESOLVED that Mr Brown would approach the owner of the field.

99.2) Playing field

Mr Solomon advised that a ceremony where Ian Liddell-Grainger MP would hand over a cheque for £6,000 from Awards for All to the Chairman of the Parish Council would take place on 12 January. The local press were to be informed & the Parish Council gave approval to the press release prepared by Mr Solomon.

A potential further source of fund raising, Viridor, had been identified & it was now possible that the larger project originally envisaged for the playing field could be undertaken. It was therefore RESOLVED that further to the Parish Council meeting of 11 September 2006 Mr Solomon would be asked to seek additional funds as necessary to continue the phased replacement & upgrading of the playing field equipment.

Mr Brown reported that a tree at the far end of the playing field had fallen. In view of the potential health & safety risk Mr Bagg was asked to determine the risk & make arrangements for its removal as necessary.

99.3) Parish Plan/Village Design Statement

Mr Bagg reported that he had received no news on the grant application or feedback from the Wembdon Community Association meeting in December when volunteers to assist with the preparation of the plan were being sort.

99.4) Allotments

It was RESOLVED that the rent for each plot would remain at £8 per annum.

Work on the potholes was ongoing.

Mr Harris reported that it was not possible, at this stage, for the Parish Council to enter discussions regarding the purchase of the allotment field.

100) Finance

100.1) Precept for 2007-08

The finance sub-committee, who had met earlier that evening, were recommending a precept of £13,000. This was to take account of the significant reduction seen in the Amenity Award Grant & to commence building up the reserve that would reduce in the current year as work on the playing field project was undertaken. Due to an increase in the number of houses within the Wembdon tax base the increase on each household was expected to be less than £1. It was therefore RESOLVED that the sub-committees recommendation be accepted.

100.2) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made

- Wessex Water £26.68
- Ground Maintenance £200.00
- Clerk's Expenses £23.73
- Salary & Income Tax £790.00

100.3) Balance

At 11 December 2006		£12550.44
+		
Grant – Award for All	£6000.00	
Bank Interest	£ 86.77	
Insurance Premium Refund	£ 33.61	
Wayleave	<u>£ 18.09</u>	<u>£ 6138.47</u>
		£18688.91
Less		
S.L.C.C. Subscription	£ 65.00	
Lock Repairs	£ 25.00	
Ground Maintenance	<u>£ 200.00</u>	<u>£ 290.00</u>
Balance at 8 January 2007		£18398.91

101) Planning

51/06/00035 – Outline Planning Permission. Land to the West of, Wembdon Hill.
Erection of two-storey dwelling.

Permission refused.

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.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

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.

51/06/00049 – Grange Farm, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Listed Buildings Consent. Internal Alterations.

Permission granted.

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.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/06/00051 – 3a Church Road, Wembdon. Erection of 1st floor extension, including installation of dormer windows & roof lights.

Permission granted.

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

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

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

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

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.

102) A.O.B.

102.1) Footpath at the bottom of Wembdon Hill

Cllr Ann Bown agreed to ask S.D.C. to clear the compacted leaves from the footpath by the bus stop as it had become slippery.

102.2) Future Meetings

It was agreed that the April meeting would be held on Monday the 16th, starting at 7.00pm, with the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the normal Parish Council meeting.

Date of next meeting - 12 February 2007