

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 JULY 2007

Present

Mr Webb (Chairman), Mrs Lumber, Mrs Riddle, Messrs, Harris, Perry, Bagg & Western.

40) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Elwyn Davies & 2 Police Community Support Officers to the meeting. The Chairman advised that due to other commitments Cllr Ann Bown & County Cllr John Edney would be attending the meeting at some later point during the evening.

41) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Mr Brown & Mr Solomon.

42) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

43) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 11 June 2007 were agreed & signed.

44) Police Report

As PC Freeman was on leave PCSO Tony Mizon provided a brief report. Following the apprehension of a number of youths it had been hoped that there would be no further damage to the church windows. However, Mrs Riddle reported that, unfortunately, more windows had been vandalised the previous weekend.

PCSO Mizon reported that a number of vehicles in Greenacre had their wing mirrors broken. One particular individual had been identified as the alleged culprit.

There had also been a couple of burglaries within the village.

At present there were no problems in the playing field.

45) Matters Arising

45.1) The Mitchell Trust

The Chairman had invited Elwyn Davies as an existing ex-trustee of the trust to address the meeting. Elwyn provided a brief description of the recent history of the trust & answered questions from the Parish Council. Effectively the trust was dormant & the existing ex-trustees had agreed that it was time to hand over responsibility of the trust to the Parish Council who were responsible for electing 4 of the 6 trustees. The Parish Council had to decide whether the trust should continue or wind it up. Currently there was around £3,000 capital & £500 in accrued income waiting distribution. Following further discussion it was RESOLVED that the trust should continue. Mr Perry, Mr Bagg & Mrs Riddle were appointed new trustees. Subject to his agreement Mr Solomon would also be appointed. All would hold office for a period of 4 years. They would appoint a further 2 trustees who would serve for a period of 6 years. Mr Perry agreed to also act as Secretary to the trust.

45.2) Area Working Panel

The sub-committee had met & was proposing submitting a bid for a new bridge at the NDR end of the playing field.

It was also possible that the grant from S.C.C. via County Cllr John Edney may also be used for the same purpose. It was RESOLVED that the proposal from the sub-committee be supported.

45.3) Verge In Church Road

S.D.C. had agreed to replace, once again, the shrubs destroyed by their workmen when the grass on the verge had been cut. The re-planting would take place later in the year. They would not, however, be providing any form of protection around the shrubs to stop any further damage from grass cutting.

45.4) Overgrown Hedges

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to owners of hedges in Blakes Road that were encroaching on to the highway. The hedge in Blakes Lane also needed cutting back as this was obstructing the speed sign. It was noted that this hedge was the responsibility of the Highways authority & was due to be cut back after 31 July when restrictions on cutting hedgerows were lifted.

45.5) Overhanging Trees - Church Road

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman would raise this issue with those responsible for the property.

45.6) Code of Conduct

It was RESOLVED that the new Model Code of Conduct for Parish & Town Councils be adopted including paragraph 12(2).

Mr Perry, Mr Western & the Clerk would attend the training event being held by S.D.C. on 16 July.

45.7) Training for New Parish Councillors

Mr Western had attended the training & reported that it had been very informative.

46) Correspondence

46.1) Operation Clean Sweep

The Parish Council had supplied S.D.C. with specific areas that they wished to see prioritised when it undertook the Clean Sweep that had been planned for the week commencing 2 July. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would ask S.D.C. to provide details of what they had actually undertaken.

46.2) Civic Service

A member of the Parish Council had been invited to attend the Bridgwater Mayoral service that was taking place on 15 July 2007. Unfortunately no one was available to attend at such short notice.

46.3) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Parish Emergency Plan Information – The Council had to determine whether it wished to adopt an emergency plan
- Thatch magazine – summer edition

- The Clerk magazine – July edition
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine – July edition
- Countryside Voice magazine

47) Report from Cllr Ann Bown

Cllr Bown reported that there were continuing problems at the house in the Oaks that was used as a Children's Home.

Cllr Bown was dealing with a letter from a resident regarding the request for a crossing at the roundabout at Quantock Road. Previously the Parish Council had referred correspondence from the same resident to the Highways Authority who had indicated that they did not see the need for a crossing at this roundabout.

48) Reports from Sub-committees

48.1) Footpaths

The un-adopted footpath leading towards Crossacre had not been cut back as yet. Concern was raised regarding the state of a hedge on the footpath leading towards the bridge at the NDR end of the playing field, which was growing over the footpath & causing an obstruction. As it was believed that the hedge was owned by Persimmon Cllr Ann Bown was asked to raise this with the developers when she next met them.

48.2) Playing field

The Clerk reported that the Council was being sued in respect of an alleged accident at the playing field in May 2006. The Insurers had been informed & the Clerk was waiting to hear from them.

Mr Harris reported that work on the upgrade of the play equipment was almost complete. Most of the tarmac work had been completed & Rodway Fencing had been asked to repair the chain link fencing. The timber fencing around the children's play area would be painted & the existing swing would be re-painted.

The new swings were not being erected until the ground around them had been made good.

Mr Harris was also hoping to move & repair the basketball post.

The Chairman reported on 2 letters received from nearby residents raising concerns about the area of metalled surface that had remained following the removal of the old swings. The concern was that skateboarders would use the area. The Parish Council had considered the options when the plans were discussed & it had been agreed that the tarmac area should remain as it was hoped that younger children & certainly not skateboarders would use it. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would continue to review & monitor the area & the local residents who had written would be advised accordingly.

48.3) Parish Plan

The minutes of the Steering Group meeting held on 18 June 2007 were placed in the correspondence folder.

48.4) Allotments

The WCA had agreed to award a prize for the best-kept allotment. The prize would replace the current one for best kept garden & would commence in the autumn of 2007 with the first award-taking place at the 2008 Village Day.

49) Planning

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.

Permission granted.

51/07/00012 – 2 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of two-storey side extension, to include garage, partly on site of garage (to be demolished) & single storey rear extension, on site of conservatory (to be demolished).

Permission granted.

51/07/00013 – Land to the South East of, 7 Keltings, Wembdon. Change of use from agricultural land to inclusion within garden.

No objection from planning sub-committee.

51/07/00014 - 3a Church Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey extension to side & rear.

No objection from planning sub-committee.

51/07/00015 – St George's C of E VC Primary School. Erection of single storey extension to staff room.

Permission granted.

51/07/00016 – Wembdon Reservoir, Sandford Hill. Change of use & conversion of redundant water reservoir to twelve dwellings & formation of parking.

The Parish Council has objected to this application.

51/07/00017 – On land to the East of, Moor-Hen Farm, Perry Green. Retention of extension to stable & horse riding arena.

No objection from the Parish Council but observation about potential highway problems to be highlighted.

Concerns from residents in Perry Green regarding the development of land to the West of Model Farm, West Barn, Long Barn off Harp Common including the potential diversion of a public footpath were noted.

The Parish Council was advised that the Sedgemoor Local Development Framework Stage 2 Issues & Options Report on the Sedgemoor Core Strategy had to be responded to by no later than 13 August. Of particular concern for the Parish Council was the issue of the potential hosing development at Cokerhurst Farm.

50) Finance

The Parish Council was provided with a bank reconciliation for the period ended 30 June 2007 & details of income & expenditure since 1 April 2007. Since the last meeting bank interest of £162.23 had been received.

The grant from Viridor had not been received therefore it was not, currently, possible to pay Sutcliffe Play in full. It was agreed that if the payment had not been received by the due date for payment of the Sutcliffe invoice a payment on account would be made.

The full amount due to Sutcliffe was £33434.66.

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made

- Wessex Water £28.07
- Parish Council Election costs £1464.31
- Ground Maintenance £265.00
- Income Tax £23.80
- Clerk's Salary £616.20
- Clerk's Expenses £21.83
- C.P.R.E. Subscription £27.00

It was agreed that a donation to Victim Support Somerset would be considered at the September meeting.

The trustees of Wembdon Church had advised the Parish Council that the total cost of providing grilles for the windows exceeded £5300 + VAT. As they had received donations etc of £4000 towards the cost of the grilles they would need the support from the Council that had been offered up to a maximum of £1,500.

A new bank mandate was placed in the correspondence folder that each member of the Council had to sign.

It was agreed that the Finance sub-committee would undertake an internal audit of the finances, up to the 30 June 2007, prior to the September meeting.

51) A.O.B.

The Clerk reported that he would be on leave between 26 July & 11 August.

Date of next meeting 10 September 2007