

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2008

Present

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

38) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, County Cllr John Edney & 9 members of the public to the meeting.

The Chairman stated that he would be changing the agenda so that the presentation of the draft Parish Plan could be made after the minutes of the previous meeting had been dealt with.

39) Apologies for Absence

The Chairman reported that PC Tony Freeman was unable to attend the meeting due to being actively engaged in an arrest on another part of his Beat.

40) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

41) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 June 2008 were agreed & signed.

42) The Parish Plan

Mr Solomon gave a presentation of the collated & analysed data in the form of a draft vision for Wembdon. The content was directly taken from the responses received to the Wembdon Vision questionnaire & was therefore the views of the residents, not the Parish Council or the steering group. Mr Solomon reported that there had been a magnificent response rate of 76% to the questionnaire.

Mr Solomon explained that the plan wasn't about a list of things to do in the next 12 months. It was all about the long-term vision for the village & hopefully would help influence the Local Development Framework being developed by Sedgemoor District Council.

After the presentation paper copies of the draft plan were given to the Parish Council to consider in detail. The draft would also be presented to key outside agencies including S.D.C.

On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman thanked Mr Solomon for giving a stimulating presentation & thanked Mr Solomon, Mr Bagg & all the members of the steering group for all their hard work to date & for undertaking a splendid job.

43) Matters Arising

43.1) Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau A.G.M

Mrs Riddle had attended the AGM on 4 July on behalf of the Parish Council & had placed information provided at the A.G.M. in the correspondence folder.

43.2) Flooding – Church Road

The Chairman & attended a site meeting on 16 June to discuss the flooding that had occurred on 29 May 2008. Several local residents were also in attendance.

The drainage board was proposing to undertake some detailed survey work so that a complete understanding of the causes of the flooding could be identified & possible actions needed to reduce the risk of flooding happening again could be considered. They acknowledged that local knowledge of the area would be invaluable & Mr Bagg agreed to provide this on behalf of the Parish Council.

The drainage board believed that minor modifications to the road kerbing in the area could reduce flood levels & they would be consulting with the Highways Authority on this.

43.3) Verge – Church Road

Following a further look at the kerbstones it was agreed that they did not require replacement. The tyre tracks would be filled in.

43.4) New Bridge – South side of Playing field on footpath BW 34/2

Mr Solomon reported that a grant of £5,000 had been received from County Cllr John Edney of which £4250 was from the Somerset Local Initiatives Budget. The remaining £750 was as previously notified. A cheque for £750 was handed over at the meeting.

The drawings for the bridge had been seen by Somerset Rights of Way & the landowners on the NDR side of the bridge. The landowners had confirmed in writing that they had no objections to the plans & Rights of Way had given verbal approval. Written approval was expected shortly.

It was RESOLVED that Mr Solomon should sign the Copy Contract on behalf of the Parish Council.

Work was expected to commence sometime after Village Day & will require a temporary closure of a Right of Way Notice.

43.5) Parish Council Website

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would write to the administrator of the existing Wembdon website advising that the Parish Council was probably going to set up its own website.

43.6) New Planter Boxes

Replacement boxes will be purchased later in the year.

43.7) Verges along Homberg Way

The Clerk reported that S.D.C. had not responded to his request for the verges to be cleared of weeds, in particular, the withy vine. Cllr Ann Bown agreed to pursue this on behalf of the Parish Council.

43.8) Carriageway near Barton Farm

Repairs to the edge of the carriageway had been completed. The delay had occurred because the contractors had originally repaired the wrong section.

44) Highways Issues

County Cllr Edney stated that no member of the traffic division had been available to address the Parish Council.

Having considered the issues raised at the June meeting he advised that the Parish

Council had 3 options available to them

1. PC Tony Freeman & the PCSO's to increase, if possible, the number of occasions they use the speed gun & check on the parking around the school
2. The use of a flashing sign – The County Council has 20. There would be a cost element to the Council of around £750. This would cover a period of one year with the sign being positioned for 2-week periods on 3 or 4 separate times during the course of the year. Priority was given to roads with a high incidence of accidents & County Cllr Edney said that the accident criterion for Wembdon was being reviewed.
3. A village speed watch scheme – this required volunteers who go out with a speed gun & report details to the police. Again there is a cost element to this.

The Parish Council resolved that a special highways sub-committee should be formed to consider the options & report back to the Council at the September meeting. It was RESOLVED that the committee members would be Mr Brown, Mrs Riddle & Mrs Lumber with Mr Brown acting as Chairman of it.

45) Correspondence

45.1) Chairman's Award for Service to the Community

This was a Somerset County Council initiative aimed at awarding individuals that had served the community in a voluntary capacity. Details were placed in the correspondence folder.

45.2) Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group

The Parish Council had been invited to send a delegate to the meeting on 27 June 2008. No one had been available to attend. It was RESOLVED that for future meetings Mr Western would be the delegate.

45.3) Sedgemoor Affordable Housing Open Day

The Council was reminded of the event taking place on 17 July.

45.4) Somerset Local Initiatives Budget

Details of the budget, from which the Parish Council had already benefited, was placed in the correspondence folder.

45.5) Dog Control Orders

S.D.C. had published 3 separate Dog Control Orders, one of which applied to nearly all open spaces. Information had been published in the Bridgwater Mercury & copies had been placed in the correspondence folder.

45.6) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- The Community Council for Somerset Annual Review
- S.D.C. Corporate Strategy
- The Clerk – July edition
- Countryside Voice – summer edition
- Clerks & Councils Direct – July edition
- Two Somerset Community Safety newsletters
- Hinkley Point newsletter

- WAVE – Water adaptation is valuable to everyone booklet covering climate change & flood risk management
- Parish Path Liaison Officers newsletter
- Thatch – summer edition

46) Report from Cllr Ann Bown

Cllr Bown thanked everyone for the many get-well wishes.

There had been no progress in respect of the play areas off Homberg Way & S.D.C. & the developers were still negotiating. As a result of a proposal it was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the developers & ask them whether they had considered donating the play areas to the Parish Council.

Cllr Ann Bown highlighted the concerns of S.D.C. in respect of the proposal to close the Tax Office in Bridgwater. The Parish Council shared these concerns & it was RESOLVED that the Chairman would write directly to HM Revenue & Customs expressing their wish to see the office remain open.

47) Reports from Sub-committees

47.1) Footpaths

Mr Brown reported that the footpaths were due for a cut within the next week & hopefully this time all would be cut unlike the last cut when some were missed. Mr Brown confirmed that he was in receipt of a map from The Rights of Way Department, which identified the footpaths to be cut during the vegetation clearance season.

47.2) Playing field/Common

The inspection of the playing field had been completed & the report received. Generally the playing field had been given a clean bill of health with only minor faults that required attention.

The goalposts had been put back up but required painting. It was RESOLVED that due to the potential cost of painting the goalposts the Council should consider replacing them. Mr Western was therefore asked to research this.

The cradle swings also required painting & a verbal quote of £300 had been received. It was agreed that subject to a written quote being provided the work should proceed.

It was reported that the fence around the toddlers play area had been damaged & required repairing urgently.

It was believed that at least 2 of the benches on the Common had been varnished.

Complaints had been received that a private fence backing on to the playing field was being damaged by balls & other things being hit against it. It was agreed that PC Freeman should be asked to investigate.

A number of people had been observed exercising their dogs, off leads, on the playing field. Mr Bagg offered to speak to 3 individuals known to do this.

The Parish Council did not support a suggestion that a relatively unused part of the playing field should be set-aside for dog walkers.

47.3) Allotments

Mr Harris reported that the centre island was to be levelled.

48) Planning

The Parish Council sub-committee agreed that the Enforcement action in respect of the two mobile homes at Moorhen Farmhouse, Perry Green should be supported.

51/08/00015 – Barn (2) Perry Croft, Perry Green. Erection of extensions to East & West elevations & erection of detached garage.
Application withdrawn.

51/08/00019 – Land to the North of, Brice Cottage, Wembdon. Erection of agricultural building on site of existing (to be demolished).
Permission granted.

51/08/00020 – The Parish Centre. Erection of infill extension.
Permission granted.

51/08/00021 – 6 Wares Lane. Extension to East elevation with new chimney & internal alterations.
No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00022 – Land to the North of, The Lodge, Perry Green. Erection of bungalow on site of existing mobile home.
No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00023 – 1 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey front extension, to include porch & single storey rear extension.
Permission granted.

51/08/00025 – 30 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of rear extension, partly on site of existing (to be demolished).
No objection from the Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00026 - Barn (2) Perry Croft, Perry Green. Erection of extension to East elevation & erection of detached garage.
Plans not received.

51/08/00027 – 73 Wembdon Hill. Erection of single storey rear conservatory & decking area.
Referred to Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00028 – 43 Wembdon Hill. Erection of single storey rear extension.
Referred to Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00029 – 45 Wembdon Rise. Conversion of garage to living accommodation, erection of first floor extension, porch & two-storey extension to north elevation with additional ground floor north extension.
Referred to Parish Council sub-committee.

49) Finance

The audit of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 had been completed & certificated by the external auditors, Moore Stephens.

The Parish Councillors were provided with a bank reconciliation up to 30 June 2008. It was agreed that a decision on the allocation of the accrued grant of £1100 from S.C.C. be deferred to a later meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made for services provided

- Audit of Accounts (Moore Stephens) £470.00
- Clerk's salary & Income Tax £809.43
- Clerk's expenses £31.41
- Playing field Inspection (RoSPA) £145.70
- Dog waste bin emptying (S.D.C.) £153.36
- Ground maintenance £265.00
- Subscription to Campaign to Protect Rural England (C.P.R.E.) £28.00
- Costs of erecting goalposts £20.92

Balance at 9 June 2008		£15113.84
+ Bank Interest		<u>£ 87.14</u>
		£15200.98
Less		
Ground maintenance	£ 408.00	
Water rates	£ 14.21	
Clerk's expenses	£ 32.82	
Somerset Playing fields Association	£ 10.00	
New Seats	£1139.75	
Scalpings for Common	£ 48.96	
St Margaret's Hospice Somerset	£ 100.00	
Tree & stake	£ 18.96	
Railings & posts for Common	£ 97.20	<u>£ 1869.90</u>
Balance at 14 July 2008		£13331.08

50) Any Other Business

It was RESOLVED that a special sub-committee be created to consider land availability within the village for the provision of parish amenities. The committee would look at the availability of land to purchase or rent.

It was agreed that Mr Harris would be Chairman of the committee with Mr Solomon & Mr Bagg also serving on it.

Date of Next meeting – Monday 8 September 2008