

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 JUNE 2007

### **Present**

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

### **28) Chairman's Welcome**

The Vice Chairman welcomed one member of the public, PC Tony Freeman & one Police Community Support Officer to the meeting.

### **29) Apologies for Absence**

These were received in respect of the Chairman, Mr Webb & Mr Brown. County Cllr John Edney had also tendered his apologies.

### **30) Views of Wembdon Residents**

There were none.

### **31) Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated 14 May 2007 were agreed & signed.

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

PC Freeman reported that used syringes had been found near the Church boiler house. An individual who had been seen in the area had been warned off. Following a complaint from a resident PC Freeman had dealt with late night drivers that were using the track to the allotments. 2 had been arrested for possessing drugs & the rest had been scared off.

### **33) Matters Arising**

#### **33.1) Vandalised Vehicle on Land off Church Road**

The vehicle had been removed.

#### **33.2) Liaison Reps**

Until 31 August 2005 Mrs Lumber had been an Additional Co-opted (MLA) Governor & it was a joint appointment between Wembdon & Chilton Trinity Parish Councils. However, at that time the role of MLA Governors ceased to exist & the Parish Council was only able to submit nominations for the role of ordinary LEA Governor. Therefore Mrs Lumber is no longer a Parish Council representative on the Board of Governors but has a place in her own right.

#### **33.3) Area Working Panel**

Mrs Lumber & Mrs Riddle had represented the Parish Council at the meeting held on 16 May. £60,000 had been set aside from the Panel's budget of £180,000 to spend under any of the following headings.

- Youth Provision
- Highway Safety & related issues

- Community Safety

Bids had to be submitted by 31 July. It was RESOLVED that a Parish Council sub-committee comprising of Mr Solomon, Mrs Lumber & Mrs Riddle be set up to consider a possible bid for funding.

At the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> representatives had been advised that £60,000 had been set aside for an agreed project & the Panel was considering spending the remaining £60,000 on the possible appointment of further Police Community Support Officers. The next meeting of the Panel would be on 4 September 2007.

### **33.4) Unitary Authority Status**

Notes from the County Council held events have been placed in the correspondence folder. Mr Perry had represented the Parish Council at one of these events. He reported that the meeting had been generally used by the County Council to state what they would do under Unitary Authority status & how it would affect everyone. They didn't appear keen to answer questions from the audience.

### **33.5) The Mitchell Trust**

A decision on its future was deferred until the July meeting.

### **33.6) Training for New Councillors**

Mr Western will be undertaking training on 29 June.

## **34) Correspondence**

### **34.1) Greenacre**

It was noted that a surface-dressing programme was due to be undertaken on 12 July 2007.

### **34.2) Somerset County Council Grant**

County Cllr John Edney had written to the Parish Council advising that he had set aside funding of £750 to be used on a project that benefited the whole community. It was RESOLVED that the sub-committee set up to consider funding from the Area Working Panel would also consider possible uses for this grant.

### **34.3) Sedgemoor District Standards Committee**

As a result of the recent elections a new committee had to be constituted, which would serve until May 2011. It was proposed that the new committee should have 2 Town/Parish Council representatives, an increase of 1 & 3 independent members, also an increase of 1. Councils were being asked to consider the proposed alterations & also submit nominations for the Town/Parish Council posts. The Parish Council had no objection to the increase in the size of the committee & as Mr Perry wished to continue on the committee it was RESOLVED that his nomination should go forward.

### **34.4) Victim Support Somerset**

Correspondence relating to this organisation was placed in the correspondence folder & it was RESOLVED that a donation to it would be considered at the July meeting.

### **34.5) Other Correspondence**

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Letter from Ian Liddell-Grainger MP congratulating the Parish Councillors On their election success.

- Somerset Matters newsletter – spring edition
- St Margaret's Hospice newsletter
- Fieldwork magazine – June edition

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

Councillor Bown reported on problems at the Oaks where one house, owned by an organisation in Wellington, was being used to look after young children. Children at the home had been causing problems for neighbours & Cllr Bown planned to speak to Social Services about how the issues could be resolved.

Cllr Bown was due to attend a meeting with Persimmon in July to discuss the proposed play areas on land off the NDR.

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

#### **36.1) Footpaths**

Mr Brown had provided the Clerk with a brief report.

It had been noted that land behind Greenacre towards Wares Lane had been landscaped, possibly by S.D.C.

There was an un-adopted footpath beyond the bridge at the NDR end of the playing field leading to Crossacre, which Mr Brown & his wife had cleared in the previous two years. This popular path was becoming overgrown & needed cutting back. It was RESOLVED that Mr Sutton, the ground maintenance contractor, would be asked to undertake the work.

#### **36.2) Playing field**

Work on the upgrade of the play equipment was due to commence on 12 June with the area being fenced off whilst the work was being undertaken. Mr Solomon had arranged press coverage for 15 June with Ian Liddell-Grainger MP present. On completion of the work RoSPA would undertake a post installation check at a cost of £395 + VAT.

A donation of £2,000, to be used on the replacement of the play equipment, had been received from Wembdon Community Association.

The Vice Chairman reported that the hedge over the bridge at the NDR end of the playing field had been cut back.

Following conversations with the Secretary of the Junior Football club it had been agreed that one goalpost would be re-sited during the summer in the sockets prepared the previous year & the other goalpost would be removed. The junior football club would not be using the playing field during the 2007-08 season & the goalmouths would then be repaired.

#### **36.3) Parish Plan**

The steering group had met on 21 May & minutes of their meeting had been placed in the correspondence folder. The group had decided to launch the plan to the village on Wembdon Village day.

#### **36.4) Allotments**

The Vice Chairman reported that he had received complaints regarding one allotment that was becoming overgrown & asked the Clerk to supply him with a map of the allotments so that the person responsible for that plot could be identified.

### **37) Finance**

The Clerk had submitted an Amenity Grant application for £2955.15 but based on last years grant did not expect to receive anymore than about £500.  
 Payment of £293.00 to the ground maintenance contractor, which included the provision of plants for the troughs & weeding the Ivy at the allotments was authorised.

Balance at 14 May		£23492.81
+ Donation		<u>£ 2000.00</u>
		£25492.81
Less		
Clerk's Expenses	£ 12.73	
Internal Audit	£ 10.00	
Insurance	£614.40	
S.C.C. (room hire)	£210.00	
Ground Maintenance	£265.00	
S.A.L.C. (Councillor Training)	£ 30.00	<u>£ 1142.13</u>
Balance		£24350.68

### **38) 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.

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

**51/07/00010** – 1 Old Oaks Close, Wembdon. Erection of conservatory to rear elevation.  
**Permission granted.**

**51/07/00011** – 21 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey rear extension.  
**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).  
**No objection from planning sub-committee.**

**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.  
**Submitted to Parish Council sub-committee.**

**51/07/00015** – St George's C of E VC Primary School. Erection of single storey extension to staff room.  
**Submitted to Parish Council sub-committee.**

### **39) A.O.B.**

#### **39.1) Verge Church Road**

S.D.C. had once again damaged shrubs on the verge that they had only recently replaced following damage caused by them to other shrubs in 2006. The Clerk was therefore instructed to write to S.D.C. to seek replacement shrubs & request that some form of barrier was put around them to prevent further damage when the grass cutting occurs.

#### **39.2) Wembdon Church**

It was noted that a new Vicar, Ed Moll, was due to move in to the vicarage in August.

#### **39.3) Overgrown Hedges**

It was RESOLVED that the Vice Chairman would look at the condition of hedges in Blakes Lane leading in to Blakes Road that had been reported as overgrown & obstructing the speed signs.

#### **39.4) Overhanging Trees**

Concern was expressed that trees near the entrance to Church Road were overhanging the carriageway & were so low that high-sided vehicles had struck the branches leaving debris in the road. It was RESOLVED that the trees would be inspected & if necessary the Clerk would contact the owner of them asking for them to be cut back.

**Date of next meeting – 9 July 2007**