

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 JUNE 2008

Present

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

27) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors & 3 members of the public to the meeting.

28) Apologies for Absence

These had been received in respect of Mrs Lumber, Cllr Ann Bown & County Cllr John Edney. Apologies had also been received from Mr Western who would be arriving late.

29) The Views of Wembdon Residents

Mr Templeman addressed the meeting regarding speeding drivers using the village as a rat run, the safety of children using the designated school crossing, which is currently not patrolled & pedestrians crossing the main road through the village.

The Parish Council shared these concerns & wanted a member of County Highways to attend a future meeting so that the issues could be discussed in detail. Mr Templeman requested that Highways issues be a standing item on each agenda.

The Parish Council had received a letter & supporting photographs in respect of the flooding that had occurred in Church Road, on 29 May. It appeared that most of the flooding was caused by the rhyne not being able to deal with the volume of water running through it. The rhyne, particularly by the entrance to the playing field, was full of weeds & silt. Additionally surface drains were blocked & the sewerage pumps had tripped out just before the storm. The Clerk was instructed to contact, as a matter of urgency, the agencies responsible for the rhyne & the drains & seek a site meeting to discuss what could be done to prevent further occurrences. The Council was also seeking a response from the drainage board regarding items dumped in the rhyne that had not been removed.

30) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 12 May 2008 were agreed & signed.

31) Matters Arising

31.1) Verge – Church Road

Mrs Riddle had spoken to the residents & they had agreed to move their vehicles on refuse day & this should allow the refuse lorry access along the service road without the need to drive over the corner of the verge. The kerbstones at this point were broken & Highways would be asked to replace them. The tyre tracks would be filled in.

31.2) Graffiti

A copy of a letter to a resident from Sedgemoor District Council regarding the removal of graffiti from the footbridge on footpath BW 34/6 was noted & placed in the correspondence folder.

31.3) Freedom of Information Requests

The requests had been dealt with & an acknowledgement had been received.

31.4) Area Working Panel

The Parish Council had not been represented at the meeting held on 22 May 2008. Mr Solomon reported on discussions he had held with County Cllr John Edney in respect of funding for a replacement footbridge at the NDR end of the playing field. County Cllr Edney had a fund of £15,000 available to allocate as he saw fit & the Parish Council would be seeking a grant from that funding for the bridge. Part of the footbridge was on private land & Mr Solomon had spoken to the owners to allay any fears they might have. They supported the proposed improvements but wanted to ensure that the new bridge would not be accessible by quad bike riders. Mr Solomon had confirmed that the design would ensure this did not happen. A definitive quote was being prepared & would be sent to County Cllr Edney. The landowners & Somerset Rights of Way would be kept fully informed.

32) Communications

It was agreed that, in principle, the Parish Council wanted a website. Mr Solomon was due to meet the administrator of the existing Wembdon website & following that meeting all options would be considered. It was noted that several volunteers had offered to assist the Parish Council in setting up & running a site.

33) Correspondence

33.1) Sedgemoor Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment & Economic Development Strategy – Employment Land Review

As part of S.D.C.'s development of its Local Development Framework it was seeking to identify land & buildings that could be considered for either residential or employment use. S.D.C. were interested in views from local residents, Parish Councils & landowners. The Parish Council could not immediately identify any such land or buildings in the parish.

33.2) C.P.R.E. Vacancies

The Somerset branch was seeking volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee & or become the new Chairman.

33.3) Quantock Parish Cluster Group

The next cluster group meeting was taking place on 10 June. Mr Perry was unable to attend it & unfortunately no other Councillor was available. The meeting was being split in to 2 sections. The first was a Partners & Communities Together (PACT) meeting & it was open to anyone to attend. The 2nd part was the normal cluster group meeting.

Mr Perry had attended the Bridgwater Cluster Group meeting, which was also due to have a PACT meeting prior to the main Cluster meeting. The Police, who were to facilitate the PACT meeting, had been unable to attend & therefore the PACT meeting was cancelled. There were no members of the public present. As there were so few attendees the Cluster meeting was effectively cancelled.

33.3) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Newsletter from Avon & Somerset Police reporting on their result for 2007/08
- The Clerk magazine – May edition
- Fieldwork magazine – June edition
- The minutes of the Quantock Parish Cluster Group Meeting held on 11 March 2008
- Public Rights of Way newsletter

34) Reports from Sub-committees

34.1) Footpaths

Mr Brown reported that all the footpaths had eventually been cut. The Rights of Way Department had employed new contractors but hadn't given them instructions on what to do so this had added to the delays.

34.2) Playing field/Common

Work on the grass area near the church had been completed & the team that undertook the work were congratulated on a splendid job well done. It was noted that there was still one part where cars were being parked on the green. This would be reviewed & it was possible that more posts would be placed around the green. The Church had agreed to undertake the grass seeding of the area.

The Clerk reported on correspondence he had received regarding an alleged dog attack in the park. The owner of the dog attacked had accused a Parish Councillor of being the owner of the other dog. Enquiries were continuing.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would continue with its subscription to the Somerset Playing fields Association at a cost of £10 per annum.

Mr Western reported that the existing seats on the Common required re-varnishing & undertook to do the work.

It was RESOLVED that at least one set of goal posts would be erected on the playing field & several volunteers offered to assist in its re-installation. It was reported that the junior football club would not be using the playing field for matches in the forthcoming season. This was mainly because of the lack of toilet facilities in the area.

Mr Harris reported that the church had received a donation, with the stipulation that it was spent in the village. Several options were currently under consideration.

34.3) The Parish Plan

The steering group were due to meet on 10 June. The data from the questionnaire had been analysed & a presentation was to be made to the Parish Council at its meeting on 14 July.

34.4) Allotments

The middle of the track leading to the allotments was high & rubbing against the underside of vehicles. It was agreed that it should be skimmed.

35) Planning

51/08/00013 – Harp Lodge, Perry Green. Erection of two-storey extension to North elevation, partly on site of garage (to be demolished) & replacement front porch & conservatory to South elevation.

Permission granted.

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

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

51/08/00016 – 45 Wembdon Rise. Conversion of garage to living accommodation, erection of first floor extension, porch & two-storey extension to North elevation.

Permission refused.

51/08/00017 – (Tree Preservation order). 54 Wembdon Hill. Crown clean & thin up to 20% one Cedar Tree.

Consent given.

51/08/00018 – 73 Wembdon Hill. Erection of rear conservatory & conversion of loft to living accommodation including installation of dormer window in rear elevation.

Permission refused.

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

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

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

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00021 – 6 Wares Lane. Extension to East elevation with new chimney & internal alterations.

Referred to Parish Council sub-committee.

36) Finance

Balance at 12 May		£16138.42
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£265.00	
Insurance	£740.74	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 18.84	<u>£ 1024.58</u>
Balance		£15113.84

A Recreational Amenity Grant application had been made for £4061.06 although the Parish Council was unlikely to receive any more than 10% of this. The Grants Awards Committee of S.D.C. was due to decide on the grants to be paid at its meeting on 15 July 2008.

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made to St Margaret's Hospice (Somerset) but there would be no donation to the Cossington Concert Trust.

A further donation of £750 was to be made to the Parish Council from the funds held by County Cllr John Edney. This meant there was now a total of £1850 waiting to be spent. A decision on how this money was to be allocated would be made at the July meeting

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made

- Ground Maintenance £408 (this included the cost of top soil for the goalmouths on the playing field)
- Clerk's Expenses £32.82

- Marmax Products Ltd (New Seats for the playing field) £1139.75
- Harris Bros & Collard (Scalpings for the Common) £48.96
- Posts & railings for the Common, tree & stake for the verge on Wembdon Hill £116.16

37) Any other Business

37.1) New Planter Boxes

It was RESOLVED that 2 new planter boxes would be purchased.

37.2) NDR Verges

Once again there was a large amount of withy vine in the verges from the roundabout at Quantock Road to Church path. After pressure S.D.C. had removed this last year. The Clerk was instructed to write & ask S.D.C. to clear it once again & then continue to maintain the verges.

37.3) Edge of Carriageway near Barton Farm

As the promised repairs had not been undertaken by the Highways Department the Clerk was instructed to seek an explanation & action from them.

37.4) The Standards Board

Complaints about Councillors had been passed down to local Standards Committees controlled by District Councils. A notice explaining the new procedures was to be placed on the notice board opposite the entrance to Inwood Road.

37.5) Possible Enforcement Action

It was reported that a number of residents had complained about a procession of electrical wholesale vehicles going to one particular property in Perry Green & it was suspected that a business was being run from the premises. The Clerk was therefore instructed to contact the Enforcement section at S.D.C.

Date of next meeting – 14 July 2008