

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 MARCH 2008

Present

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

123) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, County Cllr John Edney & PC Tony Freeman to the meeting.

124) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr A Bown.

125) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2008 were agreed & signed.

126) Report from PC Tony Freeman

A Beat surgery was being held on Saturday 15 March.

The Wembdon part of PC Freeman's beat was currently quiet.

PC Freeman referred to the launch of Partners & Communities Together meetings (PACT) & Mr Bagg reported that these had been referred to at the Parish reception he had attended on behalf of the Parish Council. Full details were placed in the correspondence folder.

127) Matters Arising

127.1) Area Working Panel

Mr Solomon reported on the meeting he had attended. Even though the Parish Council's funding bid, for a new bridge at the NDR end of the playing field, had scored very highly it had not been selected for funding. Instead the limited funding available had been allocated against a number of smaller bids from other Parish Councils. The bid from the Parish Council would be considered again by the Working Panel when further funding became available. The Somerset Rights of Way Officer was visiting the site during the week to inspect the existing bridge. Once the results of the Parish Plan questionnaire were known the Parish Council would reconsider the options available to them.

127.2) Safety Fencing – Reedmoor Rhyne

The drainage board had not responded despite a reminder from the Clerk. There were also concerns about the amount of rubbish in the rhyne & the Clerk was instructed to write again to the drainage board.

127.3) Verge – Church Road

Mr Harris reported that he had been assured that Sedgemoor District Council would be planting new shrubs.

Before the tyre tracks in the verge were filled it was RESOLVED that Mr Harris would speak to the owners of the cars parked at the entrance to the service road.

127.4) New Notice board

Due to other commitments Mr Bagg was not ready to suggest a site for the new notice board but expected to be able to do so at the April meeting.

127.5) Parish Flood Fair

Mr Brown had provided a written report in respect of the event he attended on 22 February. It was placed in the correspondence folder.

127.6) Sedgemoor District/Parish Council Reception

Mr Bagg confirmed that on behalf of the Parish Council he had signed the new Sedgemoor Parish Charter.

In addition to the P.A.C.T. meetings (see **minute 126**) there had also been discussion on the S.D.C. deficit of £1.8 million & the actions taken by the District Council to address the shortfall. There had also been a report back on the review of the cluster group areas. The feedback had stated that the cluster meetings were a good idea & that the current make up of each cluster was about right.

127.7) Somerset Local Access Forums

No Parish Councillor was interested in becoming a member of the forum.

127.8) Verge – Wembdon Hill

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to Wadworth's Brewery & seek permission to plant a tree on the land that the Parish Council currently maintained.

128.8) Wembdon Road

The Clerk read out a letter from County Highways listing a number of reasons as to why they were against the re-opening of Wembdon Road at its junction with the Bridgwater NDR. It was agreed to wait for the outcome of the Parish Plan questionnaire before responding further.

129) Correspondence

129.1) A39/A358 Red Route Workshop

The Parish Council would not be represented at the meeting being held on 17 March.

129.2) HGV Pinch Point Consultation

Somerset County Council had received a large number of responses to their original request for a list of roads unsuitable for HGV lorries & were currently prioritising them. The intention was to notify hauliers of the roads selected & hopefully also identify them on navigation systems.

129.3) Quantock Parish Cluster Group Meeting

Mr Perry would represent the Parish Council at the meeting being held on 11 March.

129.4) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine – March edition
- The Clerk magazine – March edition

130) Reports from Sub-committees

130.1) Footpaths

Mr Brown reported that he had walked many of them that day. There were no fallen trees following the recent stormy weather although there was a lot of debris on them. There were a number of holes in the Wares Lane tarmac surface & it was reported that a member of the public had tripped & fallen because of one of them. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to Somerset Rights of Way in respect of the deteriorating surface & Mr Brown would make enquiries of residents living in Wares Road as it was understood that they had some responsibility for maintaining the lane.

130.2) Playing field/Common

Mr Western confirmed that he was undertaking regular safety inspections. New seats had not been ordered but he hoped to do so shortly.

Mr Harris had spoken to representatives of the Church regarding the grassy area owned by them. Mr Harris had suggested that gateposts be placed on the edge of the grassy area to ensure that cars were not parked on the verge & further damage it. A small footpath would also be formed. The Church had supported this proposal & the Parish Council formerly instructed Mr Harris to proceed. The cost was expected to be in the region of £300.

130.3) Parish Plan

Mr Bagg advised that the questionnaire had been distributed & asked Parish Councillors to speak to parishioners & encourage them to complete it. So far 85 completed questionnaires had been returned, which included a number from juniors.

130.4) Allotments

Mr Harris reported that there had been some damage to the fencing as a result of the high winds.

The Clerk confirmed that he would be writing to the agent acting for the owner of the field in respect of its future use when he submitted the annual payment for the rent of it.

131) Planning

51/08/00001 – Wembdon St George's C of E VC Primary School. Single storey extension to accommodate a new classroom.

Permission granted.

51/08/00002 – 9 Silverdale Close, Wembdon. Erection of single storey extension to West elevation.

Permission granted.

51/08/00003 – 11 Cridlands Meadow, Wembdon. Erection of rear conservatory.

Permission granted.

51/08/00004 - Wembdon St George's C of E VC Primary School. Demolition of disused storage container, erection of temporary storage container & new-boarded fence.

Permission granted.

51/08/00005 – 1 Inwood Road, Wembdon. Erection of front porch.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00006 – 1 Brantwood Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey extension to South elevation.

Application withdrawn.

51/08/00007 – 43 Inwood Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey extension & conservatory to rear elevation, front porch on site of existing (to be demolished) & erection of garden wall to Western boundary.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00008 – 2 Risedale Close, Wembdon. Erection of front porch, on site of existing (to be demolished).

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

The Parish Council sub-committee would attend the presentation of the design brief, on 18 March, prepared by S.D.C. in respect of the planned development on the Gerber's site in Wembdon Road & would then, on behalf of the Parish Council, respond to the public consultation process. The Clerk reported that since the original proposals had been put forward, for public consultation, a number of alterations had been made, which included a reduction in the number of houses, a reduction in the height of the apartments & vehicular access only being allowed off the NDR.

132) Finance

Balance at 11 February 2008		£11922.39
Allotment Rent		<u>£ 40.00</u>
		£11962.39
Less		
Dog waste bin emptying	£146.03	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 13.87	<u>£ 159.90</u>
Balance		£11802.49

There would be no affiliation to SALC in 2008/09.

The emptying of the dog-waste bins had been increased to £2.51 + VAT per visit from April 2008.

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made

- Allotment Field Annual Rental £200
- Clerk's Expenses £84.60 (this included £59.57 in respect of the public notice placed in the Mercury)
- Printing of the Parish Plan Questionnaire £1505.40

133) Any Other Business

None

Date of next meeting – 21 April 2008