

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12 MARCH 2007

### **Present**

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

### **115) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, PC Tony Freeman, PCSO Nick Mizon and 1 member of the public to the meeting. It was noted that County Cllr John Edney would be joining the meeting later.

### **116) Apologies for Absence**

These were received in respect of Mr Harris & Mrs Lumber. Mr Bagg advised that he might have to leave the meeting before it finished.

### **117) The View of Wembdon Residents**

There were none.

### **118) Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2007 were agreed & signed.

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

PC Freeman reported that windows had been smashed at the Church & also the Parish Centre.

There had, recently, been more problems at the Children's Home & at least 10 calls to the anti-social behaviour number had been registered, which were linked to the home. PC Freeman continued to work with Cllr Ann Bown on this issue.

### **120) Matters Arising**

#### **120.1) Footpath/Road at the bottom of Wembdon Hill**

The footpath had been cleared but the road sweeper had been unable to get access to the rotting vegetation on the side of the road because of parked cars. Cllr Ann Bown said she would follow up once more.

#### **120.2) Verge in Church Road**

S.D.C. had stated that shrubs had been ordered with a view to planting them during the planting season.

#### **120.3) Area Working Panels**

Cllr Ann Bown had been appointed Chairman of the Sedgemoor working panel. A budget of around £180,000 had been allocated to the panel based on £15,000 per County Councillor within the Sedgemoor Area. There were restrictions on what the money could be spent on & Cllr Ann Bown had written to the leader of the County Council to seek clarification. The next meeting was planned for 16 May when it was hoped that all Parish Councils within the Area would be represented. Minutes of the

meeting held on 15 February along with other relevant information was placed in the correspondence folder.

#### **120.4) Water Improvement Works – Sandford Hill**

County Highways had provided details of the alternative route to be used whilst the road was closed from 19 March. Skimmerton Lane was not part of the alternative route.

#### **120.5) Perry Green Ditches**

Following further concerns from the owner of McLintocks, Perry Green, the drainage board & Highways had been approached. County Cllr John Edney advised that the situation had now been investigated thoroughly & unfortunately it was inevitable that some flooding of the road outside McLintocks would occur from time to time. However, it was considered that this posed no threat to properties & therefore no further action could be taken.

#### **120.6) Parish Council Elections**

The relevant nomination papers had been made available to the Parish Councillors & notices had been placed on one of the notice boards & also in the post office. The completed nomination papers had to be returned to the Returning Officer by noon Wednesday 4 April. Although not requested on the nomination papers the Office of the Returning Officer had indicated that it was now a requirement to enter the date of birth on the forms.

#### **121) Correspondence**

##### **121.1) Leylandii Tree**

The Clerk had received a letter from a resident of the Pippins seeking help regarding a leylandii tree owned by a neighbour. The Clerk had advised the resident that the appropriate authority for dealing with such issues, if the matter could not be resolved amicably, was S.D.C. At this point Mr Bagg declared an interest.

##### **121.2) Cluster Group Meetings**

The Parish Council was not represented at the Quantock Parish Cluster Group meeting, held on 1 March 2007. Minutes from the meeting held on 5 October 2006 were placed in the correspondence folder.

Mr Solomon would be representing the Parish Council at the Bridgwater Cluster Group meeting being held on 11 April.

##### **121.3) Other Correspondence**

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Countryside Voice – Spring 2007 edition
- The Clerk – March 2007 edition
- Fieldwork magazine – March 2007 edition

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

Cllr Bown supplied a copy of the letter from Gerber Foods Ltd confirming their departure from the Wembdon Road site by the middle of 2008. The minutes of the neighbourhood liaison committee meeting dated 29 January 2007 were placed in the correspondence folder.

It was agreed that Cllr Bown would contact Highways regarding the potholes by the bus stop at the bottom of Wembdon Hill.

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

### **123.1) Footpaths**

Mr Brown reported that they were generally in good condition apart from being muddy. A hedge that had fallen on to the footpath leading from Blakes Lane to the allotments had been removed.

### **123.2) Playing field**

Mr Solomon reported that he expected a response from Viridor regarding the funding application within a couple of weeks.

Subject to funding it was agreed that as part of the playing field project the drainage of parts of the playing field subject to flooding would be considered.

Mr Brown would remind the Footpaths Officer that he had agreed to look at the concrete bridge at the NDR end of the playing field.

### **123.3) Parish Plan/Village Design Statement**

Mr Bagg reported that he had attended a follow up workshop organised by the Community Council for Somerset. The main item covered was the guidance pack for steering groups.

Mr Bagg also reported that obtaining a grant from DEFRA may prove difficult because of Wembdon's close proximity to Bridgwater & the poor response received to the press release & notices placed on the notice boards. 14 responses from a village the size of Wembdon was considered poor. Due to this further advertising will be considered.

### **123.4) Allotments**

The Clerk reported that 2 plots were still to be let.

## **124) Finance**

The Clerk reported a very small increase in the cost of emptying the dog waste bins effective from April 2007.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not affiliate to the Somerset Association of Local Councils.

The Parish Council agreed that notice of the Annual Parish meeting should be placed in the local press.

It was RESOLVED that the following payment be made

- Clerk's expenses £38.62

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance at 12 February | £17419.85       |
| Allotment rent         | <u>£ 88.00</u>  |
|                        | £17507.85       |
| Less                   |                 |
| Dog waste bin emptying | <u>£ 119.94</u> |
| Balance                | £17387.91       |

## **125) Planning**

Briefing notes in respect of planning applications relating to Micro Renewable Energy Installations & the use of a Standard National Planning Application form had been placed in the correspondence folder.

**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.**

**13/06/036 & 037** – Spaxton Road, Bridgwater. Allow continued use of land for storage, crushing & recycling of hardcore & the continued importation of waste for site restoration purposes for a period of 10 years.

**The Parish Council sub-committee has objected to these applications.**

**51/07/00001** – 23 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey rear extension, partly on site of existing (to be demolished).

**Permission granted.**

**51/07/00002** – Land at Perry Green, Wembdon. Formation of wildlife pond.

**Permission granted.**

**51/07/00003** – Barn to the South of, Perry Court Farm, Perry Green. Change of use & conversion of former agricultural barn to bungalow, including revised plans.

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

**51/07/00004** – Copperlia, Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey rear extension.

**Permission granted.**

**51/07/00005** – 17 Inwood Road, Wembdon. Erection of new porch to front elevation.

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

**51/07/00006** – 3 Church Road, Wembdon. (Tree Preservation Order). Crown lift one Lime Tree (T1) to provide at least 5.5m clearance above carriageway, remove branches to give 2m clearance above telephone lines & crown clean.

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

**51/07/00007** – 24 Wembdon Hill. Formation of parking and access.

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

## **126) A.O.B.**

### **126.1) Field off Church Road**

Due to concern about the possibility of travellers using the field in Church Road the Clerk was instructed to write to the owner & send a copy of it to S.D.C. Legal Services.

### **126.2) NDR/Wembdon Rise Junction**

It was noted that the red light had failed & that parts of the road was breaking up. Cllr Bown agreed to pursue these issues.

### **126.3) Model Contract of Employment**

It was agreed that the Clerk would compare the model contract to his existing one & refer any notable differences to the Chairman of the Parish Council.

**The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Monday 16 April 2007, starting time 7.00pm, with the Parish Council meeting following it.**