

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 MARCH 2009

Present

Chairman, Cllr B Webb, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr D Lumber, Cllr R Western, Cllr M Solomon, Cllr K Perry & Cllr S Bagg

127) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors & County Cllr John Edney to the meeting.

128) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr C Brown, Cllr R Harris & Cllr Ann Bown.

129) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 9 February 2009 were agreed & signed.

130) Matters Arising

130.1) Dog Waste Bin

Cllr R Harris had identified the junction of Wares Lane & Greenacre as the most suitable place for an additional bin & subsequently an order had been placed with Sedgemoor District Council.

130.2) Verge by The Oaks

S.D.C. had been asked to make good the damage caused by vehicles being parked on the verge.

131) The Parish Plan

131.1) The Parish Council Website

This was now nearing completion & following final testing would be made available to the Councillors for one final check before it was officially launched.

131.2) Highways

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would ask County Highways to install a controlled pedestrian crossing on Wembdon Rise at the point where the school crossing patrol used to operate. It was also RESOLVED that the Council should proceed with an application to have access to a flashing speed sign & that one location for it was on Wembdon Rise.

County Cllr John Edney offered his support for the controlled pedestrian crossing & provided details regarding possible access to a flashing speed sign.

131.3) New Bridge

Final approval had been received for the erection of a new bridge on footpath BW 34/2 at the NDR end of the playing field & tender bids had been invited.

132) Correspondence

132.1) Somerset Cultural Forum

On this occasion the Parish Council was unable to send a representative to the event being held on 20 March 2009.

132.2) New Power Station(s) at Hinkley Point

It was confirmed that EDF Energy would be applying for permission to build 2 nuclear power stations at Hinkley Point. Information on how the sites would be chosen & how the public could have their say on it was made available to the Council.

132.3) Parrett Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy

Councillor S Bagg reported that he had attended one of the drop-in sessions that had been arranged to explain the strategy to the public. Whilst most of the proposals were, at present, vague he did report on one for Perry Green where the proposal was to raise the riverbank & that there was also a proposal for a River Parrett barrage downstream of Dunball Wharf.

Parish Councillors had the opportunity to comment on the strategy & a number of brochures summarising it were made available.

132.4) Quantock Parish Cluster Meeting

Information relating to the Cluster meeting that had been held on 24 February was placed in the correspondence folder along with proposals to change how the clusters worked, which included delegating some decision making to them.

The next meeting of the Quantock Parish Cluster was due to take place on Tuesday 19 May at Wembdon Parish Centre.

It was confirmed that the Chairman of Nether Stowey Parish Council was to be the Chairman of the Cluster Group for 12 months.

132.5) Skimmerton Lane

The Council was advised of the plans to temporarily close Skimmerton Lane for 2 weeks from 16 March.

132.6) Other Correspondence

The following had been placed in the correspondence folder

- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
- Somerset Matters magazine
- A Standards Board newsletter
- The Playing Field magazine
- Somerset Cultural Olympiad newsletter
- Briefing papers for the Hinkley Point Stakeholder Meeting held on 27 February 2009
- The Clerk magazine
- Somerset County Council Farming & Highways newsletter

133) Reports from Sub-committees

133.1) Footpaths

The Rights of Way Department would be asked to remove the shrub that was blocking part of the footpath BW 34/14.

133.2) Playing Field & Common

Replacement seats for the swings had been ordered at a cost of £125.40.

Because of the wet conditions the ashes from the bonfire had not been removed.

Cllr M Solomon reported that he had received a quote of £14,000 to improve the drainage of the whole of the playing field. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would seek RLT3 funding to undertake this project & that the Parish Council would contribute £4,000 towards the total cost.

133.3) Allotments

Cllr R Harris had agreed with the Wembdon community Association that all of the allotments would be judged in the best-kept allotment competition & that he was likely to be one of the judges.

Cllr Harris had only received one quote in respect of the cost of the repairs required to the track at the top of the allotment field & this was in the region of £1,000. As the current tenancy agreement was due to end in December 2010 & negotiations on a new one had not commenced the Parish Council was reluctant to spend this amount of money at this time. It was therefore RESOLVED that this issue would be raised with the landowners.

134 Planning

51/08/00032 – 42 Wembdon Rise. Installation of two electrically operated gates to two front accesses & build up end sections of front stone boundary wall.

Appeal dismissed.

The proposed entrance gates by reason of their proximity to the carriageway edge would be likely to result in conflict of traffic movements and are likely to be a source of hazard and inconvenience to the users of the adjoining highway.

51/08/00045 – Land at, 66 Wembdon Hill. Change of use, conversion & extension of dwelling to form 2 dwellings, formation of parking, turning area & access.

Permission granted.

51/08/00046 – 18 Church Rd, Wembdon. Erection of two-storey side extension partly on site of existing store/garage (to be demolished).

Permission granted.

51/09/00001 – 70 Wembdon Hill. Erection of single storey rear extension.

Referred to Planning sub-committee.

135) Finance

It was RESOLVED that the following payments would be made

- Allotment Rent £200.00
- New Dog Bin £158.09
- Clerk's Expenses £38.02

An invoice had also been received in respect of the emptying of the dog bins but this was currently under enquiry.

S.D.C. had informed the Council that the cost of emptying each dog waste bin was being increased to £2.63 + VAT per visit.

Affiliation to the Somerset Association of Local Councils at the cost of £673.29 would be considered at the April meeting.

Balance at 9 February 2009		£15943.88
Allotment Rent		<u>£ 90.00</u>
		£16033.88
Less		
Clerk's Expenses	£ 28.65	
S.C.C. Dog waste bin emptying)	£150.10	<u>£ 178.75</u>
Balance at 9 March 2009		£15855.13

136) Any Other Business

136.1) Verge by the Cottage Inn

The tree on the verge by the Cottage Inn had been replaced.

It was agreed that the Council would prefer trough shaped planters; similar to the one on Sandford Corner & Cllr M Solomon agreed to research this further.

136.2) Highways Repairs

Cllr K Perry reported on damage to the edge of the carriageway between the Malthouse & Sandford Corner & also near Hogg House & Highways would be asked to undertake the necessary repairs.

Date of next meeting - 20 April 2009