

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM HELD ON MONDAY 14 MAY 2007

### **Present**

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

### **12) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed 3 members of the public & PCSO Nick Mizon to the meeting. The Chairman congratulated the Parish Councillors on their election to the Council & welcomed Rodney Western to his first meeting as a Parish Councillor. Former Parish Councillor, Mrs Lucy Coombes, had written to the Council & the letter was read out at the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs Coombes & thank her for her time on the Council.

### **13) Apologies for Absence**

These were received in respect of County Cllr John Edney & PC Tony Freeman.

### **14) The Views of Wembdon Residents**

The following concerns were raised

- The vandalised car, parked, on land off Church Road - The Parish Council had spoken to the owner, previously, and understood that the vehicle would be removed once a legal matter had been dealt with, which it was believed had now been settled. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman would speak to the owner once more.
- The narrow footbridge at the NDR end of the playing field - The Council reported that a site meeting, with Somerset County Council (S.C.C.) was due to take place the following week.
- The provision of a bin at the Post Office - A member of the Parish Council had donated one.
- The condition of footpath BW 34/12 - Following the recent heavy rain mud had been in to Church Road – It was agreed that Cllr Ann Bown would raise this with Sedgemoor District Council (S.D.C.)

### **15) Election of Chairman**

Mr Webb was elected, unanimously, to the post.

### **16) Election of Vice Chairman**

Mr Harris was elected, unanimously, to the post.

### **17) Declarations of Acceptance of Office etc.**

All the Parish Councillors signed the Declarations.

The Parish Councillors were informed that they had to complete the Declarations of Interest within 28 days of their election. The completed forms were to be returned to the Clerk who would then forward them to the S.D.C. Monitoring Officer.

All the Parish Councillors were advised of the requirement to complete Gifts & Hospitality Declarations within 28 days of receiving any Gift or Hospitality.

## **18) Election of Sub-committees & Liaison Reps**

### **18.1) Sub-committees**

Planning – Mr Harris, Mr Perry & Mr Brown

Finance – Mrs Lumber & Mr Perry

Playing field & Common – Mr Harris, Mr Solomon, Mrs Riddle & Mr Western

Parish Plan – Mr Bagg & Mr Solomon

The Chairman is an ex-officio member of all committees.

### **18.2) Liaison Reps**

Footpaths – Mr Brown

Allotments – Mr Harris

Highways – Mr Harris

It was noted that Mrs Lumber serves on the Board of Governors at Wembdon St George's School having been nominated by the Parish Council.

## **19) Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated 16 April 2007 were agreed & signed.

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

In the absence of PC Tony Freeman, PCSO Nick Mizon gave a report.

The main concern was the continuing damage to the church. Lots of patrols were being undertaken but, to date, no one had been apprehended, although one person using the grounds for sleeping had been moved on.

Due to the lighter nights more young people were using the playing field. Thankfully there had been no reports of problems.

Nick reported that there had been a couple of shed burglaries during the past month. PCSO Mizon was happy for to provide his mobile number should anyone wish to contact him in respect of issues that needed reporting to the Police. It is 07825125096.

## **21) Matters Arising**

### **21.1) Mulched Vegetation at the bottom of Wembdon Hill**

Mr Brown & Mr Harris had removed all apart from one small area where access had been blocked by a parked car.

### **21.2) Verge in Church Road**

S.D.C. had planted some new shrubs in place of those lost through accidental damage.

### **21.3) Area Working Panels**

It was confirmed that Mrs Lumber & Mrs Riddle would represent the Parish Council at the meeting on 16 May.

### **21.4) Unitary Authority Status**

Mr Perry agreed to represent the Parish Council at the S.C.C. facilitated meeting on 17 May.

Mr Perry had attended one of the meetings organised by S.D.C, where Team Somerset was explained & provided a brief report back. There were as many S.D.C. Officers present as there were outsiders. Team Somerset is a grouping of District Councils and is

being offered as an alternative to the County Unitary Authority status. They expected to make savings of £22 million per year & would run everything apart from the likes of Education & Social Services. They were supporting a petition against Unitary Authority status & would also be organising a referendum.

The Clerk advised the meeting that guidance from the Somerset Association of Local Councils stated that S.C.C. & S.D.C. Councillors commenting on the issue were deemed to have a personal interest.

#### **21.5) The Mitchell Trust**

A decision on the future of the trust was deferred until the June meeting.

### **22) Correspondence**

#### **22.1) Model Code of Conduct for Town/Parish Councils**

The revised Code came in to force on 3 May 2007 & the Parish Council had six months to adopt the code by resolution at a Parish Council meeting. Particular paragraphs of the Code were not mandatory on Parish Councils & the Parish Council had to decide whether to formally adopt those parts or not. In particular the Parish Councils attention was drawn to paragraph 12(2). The Clerk also advised the meeting that adoption of the code would then require changes to their Standing orders. The new Code was placed in the correspondence folder.

S.D.C. were due to provide training on the new code.

#### **22.2) Training for New Councillors**

Mr Western was provided with details of planned training events. The cost to the Parish Council was £30 per Councillor.

#### **22.3) Wembdon St George's Church**

The Parish Council had received a request from the Church Trustees for financial assistance towards the cost of purchasing & fitting grilles to protect the stained glass windows from further damage. The cost of which was estimated to be at least £3,000. Cllr Ann Bown & Mrs Riddle declared a personal but not prejudicial interest. The Parish Council was deeply concerned about the recent vandalism & wished to support any action that would protect the windows from future damage. The Parish Council therefore RESOLVED to underwrite the cost of the grilles up to a maximum of £1,500.

#### **22.4) Council Tax & Rent**

A number of leaflets advertising help towards Council Tax & Rent had been placed in the Post Office. Additional copies were placed in the correspondence folder & the Councillors were asked to hand one to anyone that they knew might qualify for assistance.

#### **22.5) Local Development Framework**

A discussion paper in respect of the Local Development Framework document, which would eventually replace the current Local Plan, was placed in the correspondence folder. The Council had until 21 June to respond.

#### **22.6) Buildings of Local Interest**

S.D.C. was considering adopting a list of buildings of local interest & was seeking help from Town/Parish Councils in identifying suitable ones.

Details explaining the necessary criteria were placed in the correspondence folder.

## **22.7) Other Correspondence**

The following was also placed in the correspondence folder

- Patient & Public Involvement Forum (Health Care & Services) – The forum was seeking individual volunteers or representatives of a particular group
- 2 Somerset Rural Youth project newsletters
- The Clerk magazine – May edition
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine – May edition
- The Playing field – This included an important article on smoking in public places following the introduction of the new legislation from 1 July 2007.
- Somerset Partnership NHS & Social Care Trust – consultation paper regarding the application for NHS Foundation Trust status. Responses were due by 15 July 2007
- 2007/08 Policing Plan & an update regarding the introduction of neighbourhood policing
- S.D.C. adopted Statement of Community Involvement in Planning Matters

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

Cllr Bown reported that the Enforcement Office had stated that they had no jurisdiction over the re-opening of a gateway to a field, off Blakes Road, which had caused a storm of protest.

Residents on one of the new estates off the NDR were not satisfied with the service provided by the developer in looking after the area.

As there were still problems with the landscaping & proposed play areas around the NDR, Cllr Bown had asked S.D.C. to raise the issue once more with the developers.

## **24) Sub-committee Reports**

### **24.1) Footpaths**

The County Rights of Way team were pleased with the number of responses to their consultation paper & would be holding a workshop during the summer.

Mr Brown reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> cut of the footpaths had been undertaken.

### **24.2) Playing field**

Mr Harris reported that work on play equipment was due to commence on 5 June & would take 2 to 3 weeks to complete. Whilst the work was being undertaken the area would be fenced off. Warning notices would be placed around the playing field during the work. Mr Harris noted that although one of the main drivers was to move the equipment away from the housing he was pleased to note that for a number of months there had been no reported problems around the equipment closest to the housing.

Mr Solomon had arranged for Ian Liddell-Grainger MP & hopefully the Chief Executive of Viridor to be present at the playing field on 15 June when the press would be present to publicise the work being undertaken.

It was agreed that the Wembdon Community Association should be formally asked for the donation of £2,000 towards the work, which they had previously indicated would be forthcoming.

Mr Solomon advised that the outcome of the bid for funding from the O2 Community fund was still to be determined.

It was RESOLVED that RoSPA should undertake their annual inspection once the new equipment had been installed.

It was also RESOLVED that the annual insurance premium be paid & then adjusted once the new equipment was in place.

It was agreed that Mr Harris would speak to the junior football club regarding the goalposts & goalmouths.

### **24.3) Parish Plan**

Mr Bagg reported that 2 more community volunteers had joined the steering group, which made 9 volunteers in total. The grant of £2750 had been received & the Community Council for Somerset now required quarterly reports, which the steering committee would be responsible for completing.

### **24.4) Allotments**

Mr Harris reported that the allotments were a thriving area. It was noted, however, that concrete posts etc. had been put on one plot. Mr Harris confirmed that the cutting back of the vegetation along the wall on the track leading to the allotments had been completed.

## **25) Finance**

### **25.1) Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2007**

The Parish Council was provided with a copy of the accounts, which had been reviewed by the finance sub-committee & the Internal Auditor. The accounts were due to be sent for external audit on 30 June & would be available for public inspection between 4 & 29 June.

### **25.2) Other Finance Issues**

It was RESOLVED that the Council would not subscribe to the Local Councils Update newsheet.

A meeting would be arranged to discuss possible amendments to the Clerk's Contract of Employment.

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made

- Internal Audit £10.00
- Insurance Premium £614.40
- Hire of School Hall £210.00
- Ground Maintenance £265.00
- Clerk's Expenses £12.73

Balance at 16 April		£17155.42
VAT refund		£ 322.43
Precept		£ 6000.00
Community Council for Somerset		<u>£ 2750.00</u>
		£26727.85
Less		
Clerk's Salary & Income Tax	£ 790.00	
Community Council for Somerset	£ 25.00	
Newspaper Advertisement	£ 54.64	
Ground Maintenance	£ 331.50	
Viridor Waste Management	£2033.90	<u>£ 3235.04</u>
Balance		£23492.81

## **26) 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.**

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

**Permission granted.**

**51/07/00008** – 68 Oak Apple Drive, Wembdon. Erection of conservatory to West elevation.

**Permission granted.**

**51/07/00009** – 66 Oak Apple Drive, Wembdon. Erection of conservatory to East elevation.

**Permission granted.**

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

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

**51/07/00011** – 21 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey rear extension.

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

## **27) A.O.B.**

### **27.1) Planters**

The planters around the village were being re-stocked.

### **27.2) Wall in Church Road**

It was noted that the wall near the vandalised car was crumbling in places. The Chairman agreed to raise this at the same time that he spoke to the owner about removal of the vehicle.

**Date of next meeting – 11 June 2007**