

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL A.G.M. HELD ON MONDAY 12 MAY 2008

Present

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

13) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, 1 member of the public, PC Tony Freeman, PCSO Nick Mizon & Special Constable Nicki Rickards to the meeting.

14) Apologies for Absence

These had been received in respect of Cllr A Bown who was recovering from a broken foot & County Cllr John Edney.

15) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

16) Election of Chairman

The Vice Chairman, Mr Harris, took the Chair & nominated Mr Webb for the position of Chairman of the Parish Council. This was supported unanimously. Mr Webb signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

17) Election of Vice Chairman

Mr Harris was unanimously re-elected to this position.

18) Election of Parish Council Sub-committees & Liaison Reps

The following sub-committees were elected

Planning – Mr Harris, Mr Perry & Mr Brown

Finance – Mrs Lumber & Mr Perry

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

Parish Plan – Mr Bagg & Mr Solomon

The Chairman of the Parish Council would remain an ex-officio member of all committees.

It was agreed that the liaison reps would be

Footpaths – Mr Brown

Allotments – Mr Harris

Highways – Mr Harris

19) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 21 April 2008 were agreed & signed.

20) Report from PC Tony Freeman

PC Freeman reported on the incident in the pub & the assault in the shop. The culprit has been apprehended.

There had been press coverage regarding the fire at Perry Green. PC Freeman informed the meeting that it was being treated as arson.

There had been some problems at the Children's home & a number of meetings had been held to resolve the problems.

The Parish Council, once again, stated how good it was to see PC Freeman & PCSO Mizon regularly patrolling the Beat.

21) Matters Arising

21.1) Crowpill Rhyne Watercourse Fencing

The Drainage Board had written to the Parish Council stating that they hoped to work in partnership with Sedgemoor District Council re-instating the damaged fencing.

The Council raised further concern that the rubbish in the rhyne, which included at least 3 bikes, by the footbridge on footpath BW 34/6, had not been removed, despite an earlier request from the Parish Council. The Clerk was instructed to pursue this matter & advise the drainage board that one of the main problems was when the rhyne was cleared the rubbish was left on the side for weeks rather than being removed immediately & consequently the rubbish was then thrown back in.

21.2) Verge on Wembdon Hill

Mr Harris reported that the tree, with a supporting stake, had been planted but had subsequently been vandalised. Fortunately it appeared that the tree had survived.

21.3) Verge – Church Road

S.D.C. had finally planted shrubs replacing those they had previously damaged. As S.D.C. were not prepared to put protection around the base of the shrubs, to prevent further damage when the grass was cut, it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider an appropriate form of protection for the shrubs.

With regard to the damage to the verge, due to the rubbish vehicle being driven across the corner, it was agreed that Mrs Riddle would speak to the owners of the house where the cars were parked.

21.4) Graffiti on Footpath BW 34/6

S.D.C. had responded to a letter from the Parish Council explaining that the delay in removing the graffiti was due to the fact that a steam cleaner was needed, which required access from the Wembdon Motors end of the footpath. Unfortunately it had not been possible to do so until the ground had dried up.

It was agreed that S.D.C. should be asked to write directly to the resident who had questioned the Parish Council's actions explaining the reasons for the delay in removing the graffiti.

21.5) Highways Damage

The Highways Department had confirmed that the damage to the edge of the carriageway close to Barton Farm, Perry Green would be repaired.

22) Correspondence

22.1) Freedom of Information Requests

The Chairman of the Parish Council would be responding personally to 2 very similar requests for information within the Freedom of Information Act and copies of his proposed responses were placed in the correspondence folder. Separately the Clerk

would be sending copies of the minutes for the past 2 years, electronically, as requested. It was agreed that should hard copies be required a charge would be considered. Unfortunately minutes of meetings were still not being placed on the Wembdon.com website & separate administrator access to the site was discussed. It was RESOLVED that the June meeting would include Communications as an agenda item.

22.2) Affordable Housing Site Identification Project

The Parish Council had been asked whether it owned any land that may be suitable for affordable housing or could identify any other land in the village that might be suitable. The response was no.

22.3) Sedgemoor Area Working Panel

Mr Solomon was due to represent the Parish Council at the meeting being held on 22 May.

22.4) Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau

Mrs Riddle would represent the Parish Council at the A.G.M. being held on 4 July.

22.5) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Somerset matters – spring newsletter
- Clerks & Councils Direct – May edition
- North Devon & Somerset Shoreline Management Plan
- Somerset Community Safety newsletter
- Two County Highways newsletters
- Somerset Waste newsletter
- The Playing field – spring newsletter
- Bath & Wells Diocesan synod resolution regarding Post Office closures

23) Reports from Sub-committees

23.1) Footpaths

Mr Brown reported that they were generally overgrown & wouldn't be cut for at least another 2 weeks. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the head of the Rights of Way Department with the aim of have the cut brought forward & to provide County Cllr John Edney with copies of correspondence if there wasn't a satisfactory resolution. Mr Brown also reported that a couple more residents in Wares Lane had offered to tarmac part of the footpath.

23.2) Playing field/Common

It was agreed that the ground maintenance contractor would be asked to level the ground on the Common dug up by the utility company & spread topsoil with the aim of it being undertaken in the autumn.

Mr Western reported that the 2 new seats for the playing field had been ordered. The goalmouths had been seeded & Mr Western would liase with the junior football club regarding the goalposts being put back in place.

There was some graffiti on one of the seats that would be removed.

The entry form for the playing field competition had been submitted.

23.3) Parish Plan

It was reported that the analysis of the questionnaire should be available for the steering group meeting on 19 May.

A framework had been drafted showing what the Parish Plan would incorporate.

A presentation to the Parish Council was planned for the July meeting

One winner from the prize draw had now claimed their prize.

The minutes of the steering group meeting held on 28 April was placed in the correspondence folder.

23.4) Allotments

The waiting list for an allotment continued to increase.

The Clerk had received a request from an allotment holder to use part of their plot to park their car, similar to what other allotment holders had done previously. There was no objection to this.

24) Planning

51/07/00016 – Wembdon Reservoir, Sandford Hill, Wembdon. Change of use & conversion of redundant water reservoir to twelve dwellings & formation of parking. **The Parish Council has objected to this application. The appeal against the non-determination has been dismissed.**

51/08/00009 – (Tree Preservation Order Regulations 1999). Land to the West of 66 Wembdon Hill. Fell Beech Tree, crown thin by 10% Beech Tree & Oak Tree & re pollard Lime Tree.

Consent given.

51/08/00011 – 1 Brantwood Road. Erection of porch to South elevation.

Permission granted.

51/08/00012 – 7 Wembdon Orchard, Wembdon. Erection of four-storey dwelling, with triple integral garage & formation of access.

Application withdrawn.

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.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00014 – 45 Wembdon Rise. Erection of double garage & alterations to access.

Permission granted.

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

Referred to Parish Council sub-committee. Mr Perry declared an interest & would take no part in the decision process.

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

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

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

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

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

Referred to Parish Council sub-committee.

25) Finance

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| Balance | | £16854.18 |
| Less | | |
| Internal Audit | £ 10.00 | |
| Ground maintenance | £265.00 | |
| Royal Mail (Response plus Service) | £ 41.50 | |
| Income Tax | £ 61.80 | |
| Clerk's Salary | £647.62 | |
| Clerk's Expenses | £ 16.72 | |
| Photocopying | £ 13.20 | |
| S.P.F.A. | £ 5.00 | |
| Community Council for Somerset | £ 25.00 | <u>£ 1085.84</u> |
| Balance | | £15768.34 |

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made

Ground maintenance £265.00

Annual Insurance £740.74

Clerk's Expenses £18.84

26) Any Other Business

26.1) Graffiti

The graffiti on the green telephone control box would be removed.

26.2) Waste Collection

Mr Brown reported that he had been provided with waste collection pickers, free of charge, by S.D.C. & that he had some spare ones for anyone wishing to volunteer to help pick up litter in the village.

26.3) Unitary Authority Campaign

Mr Perry reported that S.D.C. had spent £34309.30 campaigning against the bid by Somerset County Council to gain Unitary Authority status.

26.4) Field next to the Playing field

It was understood that the field adjacent to the playing field was being let on a short-term lease & the Parish Council was asked to consider whether they might want to consider renting it if they believed there was a potential use for it.

Date of next meeting – 9 June 2008

