

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2008

### Present

Cllr B Webb (Chairman), Cllr D Lumber, Cllr Ann Bown, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr M Solomon, Cllr C Brown, Cllr R Western & Cllr S Bagg.

### 76) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, PCSO Nick Mizon & one member of the public to the meeting.

### 77) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr's K Perry, Cllr R Harris & County Cllr J Edney

### 78) The Views of Wembdon Residents

A resident of the Parish highlighted the potential highways issues if a new power station was to be built at Hinkley Point & wanted to know if there were any plans to alleviate the potential problems.

Cllr Western advised that he had attended one of the events held by British Energy, in Cannington and their Parish Council had stated that the potential highways problems was their biggest concern. British Energy had responded by stating that nothing had been ruled out & that they were sensitive to the issues. There was a possibility that the wharf at Comwich would be used for the transportation of unusual loads & consideration was being given to building a dock to bring in very large loads by sea. Consideration was also being given to where to house contractors so as to reduce the volume of traffic going to & from the site.

EDF Energy was holding an exhibition at Bridgwater Town Hall on Saturday 15 November. As it was open to the public this gave anyone the opportunity to ask questions & raise any concerns that they had. They were also holding a number of events for stakeholders with one taking place on 24 November in Cannington. Cllr Western & Cllr Brown indicated that they might be able to attend the event.

### 79) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 13 October 2008 were agreed & signed.

### 80) Report from PC Tony Freeman

As PC Freeman was on duty elsewhere PCSO Nick Mizon provided the Parish Council with the following information.

There had been a few alcohol seizures in the playing field in the past couple of weeks. During the same period there had been one telephone call from the public regarding people in the playing field. PCSO Nick Mizon urged members of the public with concerns to contact either him or PC Freeman.

Cllr Brown asked PCSO Mizon about the complaint he had submitted to the police 6 weeks previously regarding excessive speeding in the village as, to date, he had received no response. PCSO Mizon explained that he was aware that similar complaints from other Parish's had taken a long time to be dealt with & he offered to speak to the

Community Speed watch Co-ordinator, Chris Fry, regarding the complaint from Cllr Brown.

## **81) Matters Arising**

### **81.1) Wembdon Flooding**

The Parrett Drainage Board had acknowledged receipt of the evidence supplied by the Parish Council & explained that once their own investigations had been completed, which included further discussions with other public bodies, they would contact the Parish Council again.

### **81.2) Dog Fouling**

Sedgemoor District Council had confirmed that the dog warden would be asked to patrol the playing field more regularly and would place additional notices around the village if there were any suitable places to do so.

It was noted that walkers were continuing to allow their dogs off their leads in the park & as it wasn't clear whether the warden had actually started her patrols Cllr Ann Bown agreed to speak to the warden & explain the Parish Councils concerns.

The Clerk had written to S.D.C. seeking the cost of placing an additional bin on the footpath at the top of the allotment field.

### **81.3) New Notice board**

A site inspection had taken place & it was reported that there was no obvious place to erect a new notice board as very few people walked in that area. It was RESOLVED that the erection of a new notice board would be considered again once the promised new play areas had finally been completed.

### **81.4) Pioneer Somerset – Questionnaire**

It was RESOLVED that the website committee would review the questionnaire and bring it to the December meeting for approval by the full Parish Council.

### **81.5) Local Standards Committee**

3 nominations had been received from Town/Parish Councils for the additional representative on the Standards Committee.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would support the nomination of Peter Osborn from Brent Knoll Parish Council.

### **81.6) Victim Support Somerset**

The Parish Council had been informed that Victim Support had assisted 13 people in the Wembdon area in the period April to October 2008.

## **82) Highways**

On behalf of the sub-committee, Cllr Brown informed the meeting that they had looked at a number of nearby villages to see how they controlled speeding. Within Wembdon they had identified positions where speed-warning signs could be placed & would be recommending several sites where they considered road crossings were needed. Due to technical problems it had not been possible to provide a full written report but confirmed that this would be presented at the December meeting.

PC Tony Freeman had confirmed that no infringement was taking place in respect of the vehicles parked on the hill as long as they were parked facing on coming traffic from the opposite carriageway.

The repairs to the damaged carriageway edge near Barton Farm had been completed. However, there had been further damage nearby, caused by large vehicles regularly using this road. County Highways would, therefore, be asked to undertake further repairs.

### **83) Correspondence**

#### **83.1) RLT 3 Funding**

S.D.C. were holding a number of workshops, based around the Clusters, to explain its revision to the policy in allocating RLT3 funding & the types of projects that could attract funding.

The Parish Council had been advised that, currently, there was £26992 available to the Quantock Cluster & £200,926.15 available to the Bridgwater one.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr's Solomon, Bagg & Western would attend the Quantock Cluster workshop on 19 November & Cllr's Webb, Riddle & Lumber would attend the Bridgwater meeting on 25 November.

#### **83.2) Quantock Parish Cluster Meeting, 4 November 2008**

Cllr Ann Bown gave a brief report on the meeting, as no other Parish Cllr had been available to attend the meeting. The main topic had been a proposal from Nether Stowey Parish Council to change the direction of future meetings & make them more meaningful for Parish Councils. The meeting had approved the proposal.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2008 was placed in the correspondence folder.

#### **83.3) Strategic Housing Market Assessment**

Information relating to the consultation meeting on 26 November was placed in the correspondence folder.

#### **83.4) Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) Funding**

Details of the meeting being held on 13 November in Wiveliscombe, where funding to develop a sustainable economy for Somerset would be discussed, was placed in the correspondence folder.

#### **83.5) Other Correspondence**

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- A consultation paper on the Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members & Employees
- Somerset Fuel Poverty Partnership newsletter
- Public consultation on the Draft Cultural Strategy for Somerset
- Hinkley Point B – Site Stakeholder Group Report
- Thatch magazine – autumn edition
- Countryside Voice magazine – autumn edition
- The Playing Field magazine – autumn edition
- The Clerk – November edition
- Clerks & Councils Direct – November edition
- A litter & Fly Tipping toolkit for Parish Councils
- Reports from the British Nuclear Fuels exhibitions.

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

Cllr Bown listed the portfolios that she had responsibility for as a District Councillor & stated that some of them impacted on Wembdon. As a District Councillor she was looking in to the possibility of providing portable skateboarding facilities for the youths of the district & was in the process of identifying suitable sites.

In response to a question from Cllr Brown, Cllr Bown said that S.D.C. had been asked to host a training session for Council staff whose duties included dealing with Parish Councils & that it was aimed at Councils across the South West.

Cllr Bown informed the meeting as the Ward Councillor she had contrary views to the Parish Council sub-committee in respect of planning application 51/08/00036, the erection of 16 polytunnels, on land at Barton Farm, Perry Green.

#### **85) The Parish Plan**

##### **85.1) The New Bridge**

Highways had stated that they would not allow any barrier without lighting unless the barrier was moved back from the new bridge. After discussions with the owner of the land, on the NDR side of the bridge, it was accepted that the construction of the new bridge could proceed without a barrier. Highways had made a recommendation that to improve the natural light at the bridge the existing vegetation should be cut back.

Cllr Solomon provided the Council with a drawing of the proposed bridge & advised that he would now be preparing a tender package, which required approval by the Rights of Way Department, before it could go out to tender.

##### **85.2) Parish Council Website**

The Parish Council was provided with a copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the website sub-committee along with a copy of the structure document, which provided an outline of the layout, colour scheme & proposed content of the site. One proposal that the Council had to consider was that their photographs along with email addresses, if held, would be placed on the website.

The sub-committee were due to meet again before the December meeting of the Parish Council.

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

##### **86.1) Footpaths**

Councillor Brown reported that the footpaths were well walked. As part of a new directive Cllr Brown would be undertaking the annual parish survey of the footpaths in the village & would supply the Clerk with a copy of it once completed. As part of the directive Cllr Brown had been supplied with a map by the Rights of Way Department identifying works that they planned to undertake with timescales.

##### **86.2) Playing Field/Common**

Repairs to the damaged fence by the Willow overhanging the rhyne would be undertaken.

The Parish Council had received a revised price of £705 for the purchase of the new goalposts & The Wembdon Community Association had kindly agreed to donate £375 towards the cost of them. Cllr Western confirmed that the company providing the goalposts would also be including installation instructions.

It was RESOLVED that the new seats would be bolted in position.

Currently part of the footpath through the playing field was flooded & the hedge adjacent to the footpath required cutting back. The WCA would be asked to improve the wire fencing on the gate they had erected as it had been damaged. The Chairman advised that 2 quotes for the pollarding of the Willows & the trimming of the Silver Birches had been obtained & the quote under £1000 had been accepted. The quotes did not include the removal of the overhanging branch on the Willow near the damaged fence. It was hoped that the trimming of the Silver Birches might improve the light to the footpath leading to the church.

### **86.3) Allotments**

It was RESOLVED that Cllr's Harris, Bagg & Solomon would hold a site meeting to assess the options for dealing with the potholes on the track leading to the allotments. It was also RESOLVED that the land availability sub-committee would look at the options for increasing the number of allotments available for letting.

### **87) Planning**

#### **Applications Outstanding or Decisions Made Since Last Meeting**

**08/08/00137** – Gerber Foods Manufacturing Ltd, Wembdon Road. Erection of 313 dwellings, commercial units (use class A1-A5, B1, D1 & D2), demolition of factory buildings.

**No objection from the Parish Council sub-committee, however various concerns raised & a request for a presentation of the proposed development to the full Parish Council.**

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

**Permission refused. Appeal submitted.**

**51/08/00035** – 95 Wembdon Hill. Erection of single storey rear extension partly on site of conservatory (to be demolished).

**Permission granted.**

**51/08/00036** – Land at, Barton Farm, Perry Green. Erection of sixteen polytunnels & surface water storage lagoon.

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

**51/08/00037** – 25 Meadow Park, Wembdon. Erection of single storey rear & side extension.

**Permission granted.**

**51/08/00039** – Wembdon St George's School. Erection of canopy over play area.

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

**51/08/00040** – 11 Church Road. Erection of part two-storey, part single storey rear extension.

**Referred to Parish Council sub-committee.** Cllr Bown declared an interest.

### **88) Finance**

A decision on a donation to the Sedgmoor Volunteer Centre would be made at

the December meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the Finance Sub-committee would undertake a review of the records at the same time as considering the precept for 2009-10.

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made

Ground Maintenance £265.00

Clerk's Expenses £35.64

Balance at 13 October	£17186.69	
Grant from S.C.C.	<u>£ 4250.00</u>	<b>£21436.69</b>
<b>Less</b>		
Ground Maintenance	£ 265.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 42.16	
Website Address	£ 27.68	
Salary & Income Tax	£ 809.42	<u>£ 1144.26</u>
Balance at 10 November 2008		<b>£20292.43</b>

The member of the public present was asked to leave the meeting whilst personnel issues were discussed in private.

### **89) Any Other Business**

#### **89.1) Damage to Verge**

It was noted that there had been damage to the verge by the entrance to The Oaks & it was RESOLVED that action would be taken if the vehicles that had been parked on the verge could be identified.

#### **89.2) Minutes**

It was RESOLVED that all minutes, starting with the November ones would address all members of the Parish Councillor with the heading Councillor.

**Date of next meeting – 8 December 2008**