

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 OCTOBER 2007

Present

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

64) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, PC Tony Freeman, PCSO Nick Mizon & eight members of the public to the meeting.

65) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Mrs Riddle, Cllr Ann Bown, Mr Harris & County Cllr John Edney.

66) The Views of Wembdon Residents

Mr & Mrs Steward addressed the Parish Council in respect of the planning application they had submitted (**51/07/00026**). They explained the reasoning behind the application & answered questions from the Council.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council would consider the application later on the agenda; however, ultimately it was the District Council that determined applications. He invited Mr & Mrs Steward & their family to remain for the remainder of the meeting. This was declined as they had other business to attend to.

67) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 10 September 2007 were agreed & signed.

68) Report from PC Tony Freeman

PC Freeman reported that there had been a spate of outbuilding burglaries in the district. One had taken place in Blakes Road & fortunately the culprit had been apprehended. He also reported on new anti-social behaviour powers used at Bridgwater Fair, which gave the Police powers to ban someone from an area for up to 48 hours. It wasn't clear as to whether this was an every day procedure & he was making enquiries.

Two PCSO's had undertaken a speed gun watch the previous day at the junction of Wembdon Rise & Inwood Road. Further activities of this sort will be undertaken in areas where speeding had been reported. PC Freeman explained that the PCSO's undertook a check similar to a community speed watch & sent out warning letters to anyone caught speeding.

69) Highways Issues

County Cllr Edney had responded to the resident who had raised concerns & a copy of his letter was read out at the meeting.

PC Freeman reported that it wasn't realistic to check for speeding outside the schools daily, as there are seven on his beat. Parking outside the school remained a problem & unfortunately there was still no one employed for school crossing patrol duties.

With regard to speeding in the lanes the Police were duty bound to consider the health & safety of officers asked to undertake a speed watch as well as anyone using the lanes.

Therefore it was unlikely that a speed gun would be used in the lanes.

It was noted that highway concerns was a major issue raised by those who attended the Village plan display on village day & this would be taken in to account when the questionnaire was issued.

The Parish Council had been asked, by the County Council, to identify roads through the village that were unsuitable for HGV traffic. It was agreed that basically none were suitable but on the basis of ones that HGV drivers might attempt to use it was agreed to list Wembdon Rise, Wembdon Hill through to Sandford Corner & Skimmerton Lane.

70) Matters Arising

70.1) Play Areas off the N.D.R.

Corporate Director of S.D.C. Doug Bamsay, had advised the Parish Council that pressure was being applied to the developers to finalise the agreement entered in to in 2000. The Clerk was instructed to seek further details as to what pressure was being applied & how long S.D.C. would allow this to continue & what options they had to bring this issue to a satisfactory conclusion.

70.2) Area Working Panel

Since the last meeting it had become clear that the Council's application for funding for a new bridge at the N.D.R. end of the playing field was still a possibility. A more detailed submission had been invited by early October. Whilst this deadline could not be met it was agreed that Somerset County Council be asked if the application could be re-submitted at a later date.

70.3) Standing Orders

The proposed amendments to the Standing Orders, to take account of the New Code of Conduct, were formally adopted.

70.4) Parish Cluster Arrangements & Parish Cluster Meeting

The Parish Council formally approved Mr Perry's proposed responses to the review of Cluster arrangements.

Mr Perry reported that the meeting held on 18 September had been poorly attended.

Items covered at the meeting included

- The possibility of Parish Councils being informed of the possible need to undertake Enforcement Action
- The amended Sedgemoor District Charter
- Sedgemoor Health profile 2007
- The Sedgemoor District report on Recreation Facilities in the District. Mr Perry advised that the report highlighted Nether Stowey & Wembdon as requiring football pitches although no site had been identified for one in Wembdon.

Various items from the meeting were placed in the correspondence folder.

70.5) Crowpill Rhyne

The rhyne alongside the playing field, including the culvert had been cleared of vegetation etc.

71) Correspondence

71.1) Somerset Waste Management

The County Council is seeking views on the “Issues & Options” for a plan that will set out where waste will be managed over the next 20 years. They are holding a number of road shows as part of a formal consultation process that will run through to the end of November 2007.

71.2) Other Correspondence

The following was being circulated in the correspondence folder

- DEFRA Booklet – Ways to Tackle Climate Change
- Standards Board newsletter
- Changes to the Somerset Waste Partnership
- Thatch magazine
- St Margaret’s Hospice newsletter

72) Report from Cllr Ann Bown

On behalf of Cllr Bown it was reported that the Children’s Home was due to close in 2008.

73) Reports from Sub-committees

73.1) Footpaths

Mr Brown reported that all footpaths had been cut & were in good order, this included BW 34/2 behind the playing field. The Clerk reported that he had placed guidance in respect of foot & mouth & Public Rights of Way on the village notice boards.

73.2) Playing field & Common

Repairs to the damaged fence at the N.D.R. end of the playing field had been completed. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Wembdon Community Association in respect of the fence they opened on Village Day.

Mr Western reported that one goal post would be replaced & that he would be speaking to the secretary of the junior football club regarding repairs to the goalmouths.

The Clerk was still waiting for RoSPA to supply a weekly playing field inspection checklist.

Mr Solomon was asked to obtain quotes for repairs to the tarmac on 2 parts of the Common, one on that part of the road leading to Wembdon Motors under the responsibility of the Parish Council & the other near the laurel hedge. The Chairman declared an interest in respect of the area by Wembdon Motors.

A review of the seating in the playing field & Common was due to be undertaken, which would take account of the number of seats & their condition.

73.3) Parish Plan

A summary of the responses received on Village Day had been placed on the notice boards.

The steering Group had met on 27 September & a copy of the minutes were placed in the correspondence folder. The meeting had been arranged to meet a representative from the Community Council for Somerset, unfortunately they had been unable to attend. Mr Bagg had met with Julie Cooper from S.D.C. to discuss the production of the plan. A draft of the Parish questionnaire would be submitted to the Parish Council, S.D.C. & Community Council for Somerset for comment prior to its distribution.

74) Finance

The Council was provided with a bank reconciliation, revised balance & Income & Expenditure Statement for the period ended 30 September 2007.

It was RESOLVED that the Finance Sub-committee would now undertake a mid term review of the financial records.

The following payments were authorized

- Ground Maintenance £265.00
- Fence Repairs £105.75
- Clerk's Expenses £43.85
- Salary & Income Tax £790.00

It was also RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made to St Margaret's Hospice Somerset.

Balance at 10 September		£5306.83	
Precept		£6500.00	
VAT Refund		£5860.92	
Amenity Grant	£ 318.70		
Bank Interest		<u>£ 111.20</u>	£18097.65
Less			
Ground Maintenance	£ 265.00		
S Bagg (Parish Plan)	£ 153.11		
Victim Support Somerset	£ 100.00		
St George's Church	£1500.00		
Playing field Seat	£ 515.83		<u>£ 2533.94</u>
Balance			£15563.71

75) Planning

Changes to the Sedgemoor District Local Plan were placed in the correspondence folder. They had no impact on Wembdon.

23/07/00005 – Land & property, 14 Spaxton Road. Bridgwater. Erection of log cabin to form recreation room.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/06/00040 – Stable Block at Manor Farm, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Erection of stable block comprising three stables & a tack room.

Permission granted.

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.

51/07/00017 – On land to the East of, Moor-Hen Farm, Perry Green. Retention of extension to stable & horse riding arena.

No objection from Parish Council, however, they do have concerns about the potential increase in highway traffic.

51/07/00021 – Barton Lodge, Barton Lodge Farm, Perry Green. Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of the building as dwelling (class C3).

No objection from the Parish Council sub-committee.

51/07/00022 – 14 Church Road, Wembdon. Erection of two-storey side extension, partly on site of existing (to be demolished).

Permission granted.

51/07/00023 – Perry Croft, Perry Green. Erection of part two-storey, part single storey side extension.

Permission granted.

51/07/00024 – Land to the South of, 24 Wembdon Hill. Erection of bungalow.

The Parish Council sub-committee has objected to this application.

51/07/00025 – On land to the South of, Manor Lodge, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Erection of stables, barn & “sand school”.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/07/00026 – Land to the South West of Staddlestones, Skimmerton Lane, Wembdon. Erection of dwelling.

The Parish Council raised no objection to this application.

76) Any Other Business

76.1) Community Council for Somerset AGM

Mr Bagg reported on the AGM that he had attended & placed a copy of the accounts & leaflets highlighting activities that they undertake in the correspondence folder.

76.2) Highways Issues

The Clerk was instructed to contact County Highways regarding damage to a sign identifying the end of a cycle path & also damage to the side of the road 300 yards from Sandford Corner going in to Perry Green.