

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2008

Present

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

63) Chairman's Welcome

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

64) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Mr Western.

65) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

66) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 8 September 2008 were agreed & signed.

67) Matters Arising

67.1) May Flooding

Mr Bagg reported that he had sent a report to the Parrett Drainage Board detailing the extent of the flooding. The report had included a number of photographs & also a DVD produced by a local resident, whom the Parish Council wished to thank for allowing them to view a copy of it.

It had not been possible to report the depth of the flood as witnesses had observed it at different times. The report had included the, believed, breakdown of the sewerage pumps in Church Road at the time of the flash flooding along with details of several blocked surface drains in the same area.

67.2) New Footbridge

Mr Solomon provided an update. The bridge & parapet design had been approved, as had the land drainage requirements.

Due to the request from the owner of the land, on the NDR side of the existing footbridge, for a barrier to stop access by mini motorcycles there was the possibility that lighting may be required. A survey had been undertaken & the outcome was awaited. The potential cost of a light was £2000.

67.3) Parish Council Website

The sub-committee was due to meet shortly to define the content, layout & style of the website & then seek endorsement from the Parish Council.

67.4) Building Schools for the Future

The Programme Director had confirmed that the Parish Council's views would be taken in to account before an outline planning application was submitted at the end of 2008 & that the Council would be able to comment further at that time.

Most Parish Councillors had attended the consultation event held on 9 October. Mr Brown commented that it appeared that the architects of the Queenswood Farm scheme believed that motorists wishing to get to the school would not use Skimmerton Lane.

67.5) Dog Fouling

It was RESOLVED that the dog warden should be asked to patrol the playing field on a regular basis.

67.6) Police Presence

The written response from Inspector Nic Croker regarding the perceived reduced police presence in the village was placed in the correspondence folder. The letter explained that from time to time other demands meant that all parts of the beats under his control suffered a reduced police presence but that generally it was only of a temporary nature.

67.7) Perry Green Verges

County Highways had confirmed that they had updated the records to ensure that the future programme of hedge cutting included those originally missed by them during the 2008 cut & had provided a map showing the hedges they would cut.

67.8) Highways Visibility

Work was being undertaken to remove the vegetation growing over the wall on the corner of Wembdon Rise & Wembdon Hill, which had been partially obscuring motorist's visibility up the hill.

Some concern had been raised regarding the legality of vehicles parked on Wembdon Hill, without lights on, at night. PC Tony Freeman would be asked to clarify.

67.9) New Notice board

As the footpath running through the Notaro development was at an advanced state it was RESOLVED that Mr Bagg & Mr Harris would meet to identify a suitable site for the notice board & then Mr Harris would contact Mr Notaro to seek his approval.

68) Highways

Mr Brown had made enquiries of the speed watch team in Cannington who had purchased their own speed gun. After an initial promising start with a number of volunteers taking part the numbers has dwindled to just 2 people, mainly because of unwelcome pressure from some residents.

A complaint about speeding vehicles through the village had been registered with the Police with the aim of them undertaking more speed gun checks.

During the past month the sub-committee had been looking at the approach taken in other villages to speeding vehicles & a full report was to be put before the Parish Council at the November meeting.

69) Correspondence

69.1) Pioneer Somerset

The Parish Council were being asked to consider what services, currently undertaken by the County & District Councils, they would be prepared to manage in the future. A questionnaire was placed in the correspondence folder & it was agreed that it would be reviewed in detail at the November meeting.

69.2) County Council Question Time Events

In partnership with the District Councils the County Council was going to different venues in Somerset & offering residents & others the opportunity to observe one of their meetings & also ask questions.

The Sedgemoor event was due to take place on 15 October.

69.3) Parish Council Representatives on the Local Standards Committee

The Standards Board for England had recommended that each local Standards Committee should have 3 Town/Parish Council representatives serving on it. Currently the Sedgemoor Committee only had 2 & Town & Parish Councils were being asked whether they approved the increase & if so did they have any nominations to make for the 3rd position.

The Parish Council supported the increase but did not have a nomination to make.

69.4) New Nuclear Power Stations

The Parish Council was made aware of a number of events being held in respect of the proposals to build one or more new Nuclear Power Stations at Hinkley Point & Mr Western had indicated his intention of attending one of the events on behalf of the Parish Council.

69.5) Freedom of Information Act – Model Publication Scheme

It was RESOLVED that the sub-committee looking at the creation of the website would review what was required of the Parish Council to comply with the new Model Publication Scheme that had to be adopted by 1 January 2009.

69.6) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Standards Board Newsletter
- Details of the next Hinkley Point Stakeholders Meeting, the Code of Practice for the group & details of a workshop in respect of the Management of Solid Intermediate Level Waste
- Somerset Community Safety Newsletter
- St Margaret's Hospice Newsletter

70) Report from Cllr Ann Bown

Cllr Bown reported that she had been dealing with a number of planning applications. All Parish Councils were to be invited to a workshop organised by S.D.C. regarding the changes to the policy on RLT2 & RLT3 funding.

71) The Parish Plan

The Parish Council had been provided with a discussion paper produced by Mr Solomon on how to take forward The Parish Plan, which suggested the creation of additional sub-committees chaired by Parish Councillors but including volunteers from the Parish as well as members of the steering group.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of what had been agreed at the September meeting.

Following a lengthy debate it was agreed that the Council would proceed on the current basis. It, currently, had 4 major items being dealt with, the new bridge, a website, highways issues & land availability. Once these had been dealt with the plan would be revisited.

At the September meeting it had been agreed that the parish Council would also look at the provision of additional dog bins as this had been highlighted as a problem in The Parish Plan.

It was RESOLVED that one should be placed at the junction of footpath BW 34/14 (Downhall Drive to the allotments) & BW 34/15 (allotments to the Cottage Inn).

72) Reports from Sub-committees

72.1) Footpaths

Mr Brown reported that all the stiles on the footpaths on the Cannington side of Wembdon had been replaced with Kissing Gates. All of the footpaths were generally in good condition for this time of year.

72.2) Playing field/Common

The Clerk gave a report on behalf of Mr Western.

The Parish Council had been awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Somerset Playing Fields Association.

The cost of repainting the goals was £500. However due to wear & tear it was unlikely that the painting would prevent further deterioration. To replace them with full size anti-vandal ones was £680 + VAT & £80 delivery. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would proceed with the purchase of new ones & at the same time seek from the supplier guidance on the installation of them.

Mr Harris reported that he was in the process of obtaining quotes for the pollarding of the trees on the Common.

Mrs Riddle repeated concerns about the poor lighting on the footpath leading towards the Parish Centre. The Parish Council had spoken to the county previously regarding additional lighting & they had stated that as the footpath was un-adopted they had no authority to undertake any lighting work. It was agreed to reconsider the situation after the pollarding of the trees had been undertaken.

73) Planning

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.

51/08/00024 – Land to the North of, 66 Wembdon Hill. Conversion of barn to dwelling & formation of access.

Permission granted.

51/08/00029 – 45 Wembdon Rise. Conversion of garage to living accommodation, erection of first floor extension, porch & two-storey extension to north elevation with additional ground floor north extension.

Permission granted.

51/08/00030 – Bridge over approach to former quarry, Hollow Lane, Wembdon. Renovation of garages, including installation of replacement doors.

Permission granted.

51/08/00031 – 138 Wembdon Hill. Erection of detached building to form annexe, on site of garage/workshop (to be demolished).

Permission granted.

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.

51/08/00033 – 11 Church Road, Wembdon. Erection of two-storey rear extension.

Permission refused.

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

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

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.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

51/08/00038 – 1 The Oaks, Wembdon. (Tree Preservation Order). To reduce the height of 1 Plane Tree T1 by 25%.

Permission granted.

74) Finance

The Finance sub-committee would undertake a 6-month review of the Councils finances.

Each Parish Councillor was supplied with a copy of the bank reconciliation as at 30 September 2008.

The following payments were approved

- Replacement cheque for cancelled one No 000911 £27.68
- Ground Maintenance £265.00
- Clerk's Salary & Income Tax £809.42
- Clerk's Expenses £42.16

Previous Balance		£10316.10
Parish Plan Sales (£180.70 - £10.00 4 th prize payment		£ 170.70
Precept		£ 7000.00
Bank Interest		£ 73.10
Cancelled Cheque 000911		<u>£ 27.68</u>
		£17587.58
Less		
Ground maintenance	£280.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 20.89	
Victim Support Somerset	<u>£100.00</u>	<u>£ 400.89</u>
Balance		£17186.69

75) Any Other Business

75.1) Other Highways Issues

It was noted that there were a number of sub standard road signs in the village & it was RESOLVED that these would be included in the Highways Report.

Mr Brown agreed to clear the foliage that was obstructing the 30mph speed sign in Blakes Road.

Mr Perry reported damage to the edge of the carriageway 200 yards from Barton Farm in the direction of Sandford Corner.

Date of next meeting – 10 November 2008