

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2008

Present

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

51) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors, County Cllr John Edney & 3 members of the public to the meeting. PCSO Nick Mizon was also present for part of the meeting.

52) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Mrs Riddle, Mr Brown and from Mr Western for his slightly late arrival.

53) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

54) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 14 July 2008 were agreed & signed.

55) Matters Arising

55.1) Flooding – Church Road

The meeting was shown a short video, made by a local resident, of the flooding that occurred on 29 May 2008.

Mr Bagg reported that he had provided the Drainage Board with some of the information they had requested & was in the process of gathering more information, which would be forwarded shortly. The flooding video would form part of the evidence.

55.2) New Footbridge

Mr Solomon reported that the Somerset Rights of Way team were progressing the plans. They had already obtained approval from the Drainage Board & were in the process of obtaining structural approval from County Highways.

55.3) Parish Council Website

Mr Solomon had provided the Parish Council with a discussion paper listing the options available to them should they wish to proceed with a website. The domain name Wembdon.org had been purchased for the Parish Council to ensure control of the name. From the 3 options available the Parish Council agreed to the option where the setting up of the website was subcontracted out & the management of regular updates was controlled by the Clerk &/or a named Councillor. The setting up cost would be in the region of £150 & the Parish Council would have to pay £14 per annum to retain the domain name & £200 for the cost of website hosting & software.

It was agreed that a small sub-committee would be created to determine the initial content of the website. Mr Solomon & the Clerk would be members of the sub-committee. Mr Western also volunteered.

Mr Solomon, on behalf of the Council, would enter into an agreement with the company responsible for parishcouncil.net to set up & host the website & provide the Parish Council with appropriate instructions for the monthly updates of content.

55.4) Verges along Homberg Way

It was confirmed that the hedges were being cleared of the withy vine & other weeds.

55.5) Play Areas off the NDR

Cllr Ann Bown reported that Sedgemoor District Council was still trying to reach an agreement with the developers regarding the provision of play equipment etc. but at this time it was not a priority issue for the developers.

The Clerk had received an acknowledgement to his letter to the developers asking whether they were prepared to consider donating the play areas to the Parish Council.

56) Highways

The newly formed sub-committee had not yet met.

The Clerk reported that Mr Brown was investigating the requirements for a village speed watch scheme & that he had identified that there was a training requirement. The Parish Council expected a more comprehensive report at the next meeting by which time the sub-committee should have met.

The Clerk had received some information regarding Driver Awareness Courses & this was handed over to the sub-committee.

57) Correspondence

57.1) Housing Strategy Seminar

The Parish Council was reminded of the event taking place on Thursday 25 September 2008.

57.2) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- The Clerk magazine, September edition
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine, September edition
- Somerset Water Management Partnership Information sheet
- Community Policing Awards notification
- Fieldwork magazine, September edition
- Recycling newsletter
- Somerset Local Area Agreement newsletter
- The Playing Field magazine, summer edition
- Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group Minutes dated 27 June 2008, HSE quarterly report & British Energy Corporate Social Responsibility Report
- Somerset Local Transport Plan summary

58) Report from Cllr Ann Bown

Cllr Bown stated that the drainage problems in Whitegate field were being investigated. The Parish Council was made aware of the potential highways problems for the village should the decision be made to rebuild Haygrove School on Queenswood Farm. Entrance to the site would be from the Cannington end of the A39 in to Skimmerton Lane & there were concerns that the traffic could back up to Sandford Corner with motorists then using the village as a short cut. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Programme Director of The Building Schools for the Future project to state that they wished to be fully consulted on this.

59) Reports from Sub-committees

59.1) Footpaths

The Council was advised that the footpaths were due to be cut within the next week.

59.2) Playing Field/Common

Mr Western reported that the Parish Council had won an award for its playing field & this was to be presented at the Somerset Playing Fields AGM being held on 2 October 2008 that Mr Western would be attending.

Mr Western was asked to obtain quotes for the replacements of the goals, which the Wembdon Community Association had offered to make a contribution towards.

There were increasing problems with dogs fouling in the playing field & the Clerk agreed to research the legal position.

Repairs identified in the RoSPA inspection were being undertaken.

The Parish Council had received a letter from residents of one house regarding potential damage to their fencing due to anti-social behaviour. They were asking for a hedge to be put in front of their fence, which they had offered to pay for & maintain, so that the fence could be protected. The Parish Council could not agree this request as it meant effectively handing over part of the playing field.

It was noted that the Police presence in the village had reduced & it was believed that this was causing an increase in the number of youths gathering in the playing field later in the evening. A discussion with PCSO Mizon followed & it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Inspector Croker seeking an assurance that Police levels in Wembdon would be restored.

It was agreed that the Willows on the Common required Pollarding. Mr Harris was therefore asked to obtain two quotes.

59.3) The Parish Plan

The plan had been published in time for village day & a number had been sold raising a total of £170.70.

The steering group would continue to monitor what happens as a result of the production of the plan & consider any future updates.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would need to create an action plan to consider how to take forward the results of the plan & it would therefore become a standing item on the agenda with additional dog bins being the first item considered.

59.4) Allotments

Mr Harris reported that the centre island had been treated with weed killer & there was now no need to level it.

60) 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.** Several Councillors had asked that S.D.C. provide the Council with a full presentation of the plans. The Chairman felt that all the Parish Councillors had been able to attend the 2 presentations of the scheme earlier in the year & that the concerns raised had been fully covered in the response by the Parish Council to S.D.C. In his opinion an additional presentation was not required. This was accepted.

51/08/00021 – 6 Wares Lane. Extension to East elevation with new chimney & internal alterations.

Permission granted.

51/08/00022 – Land to the North of, The Lodge, Perry Green. Erection of bungalow on site of existing mobile home.

Permission granted.

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

No objection from the Parish Council sub-committee but concerns regarding limited parking.

51/08/00025 – 30 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of rear extension, partly on site of existing (to be demolished).

Permission granted.

51/08/00026 - Barn (2) Perry Croft, Perry Green. Erection of extension to East elevation & erection of detached garage.

Permission granted.

51/08/00027 – 73 Wembdon Hill. Erection of single storey rear conservatory & decking area.

Permission granted.

51/08/00028 – 43 Wembdon Hill. Erection of single storey rear extension.

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.

The Parish Council sub-committee has objected to this application. A copy of objections from nearby residents had been received.

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

No objections from Parish Council sub-committee.

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

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

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.

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

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

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

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.

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

No objection from Parish Council sub-committee.

Moorhen Farmhouse, Perry Green – The appeal against the Enforcement Notice served by S.D.C. had not been determined.

61) Finance

Balance at 14 July 2008		£13331.08
Amenity Grant	£ 306.20	
W.C.A. Donation	£ 500.00	
S.C.C. Grant	£ 750.00	
Response plus refund	<u>£ 3.57</u>	
		£14890.85
Less		
Ground Maintenance	£ 530.00	
C Davis (Painting of Swings)	£ 290.00	
S.C.C. (Room Hire)	£ 168.00	
Rodway Fencing Co	£ 82.25	
Website address	£ 27.68	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 31.41	
Clerk's Salary & Income Tax	£ 809.43	
Moore Stephens (Audit)	£ 470.00	
Playsafety Ltd (Playing field inspection)	£ 145.70	
S.D.C. (Dog waste bin emptying)	£ 153.36	
C.P.R.E. Subscription	£ 28.00	
D W Jones Ltd (Parish Plan Booklet)	£1168.00	
Mark Ashton (Artwork for Parish Plan)	£ 400.00	
P J Fitzsimmons (Analysis of Wembdon Vision)	£ 250.00	
Materials for goalposts installation	£ 20.92	<u>£ 4574.75</u>
Balance		£10316.10

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made to Victim Support Somerset.
The following payments were also approved

- Ground Maintenance £280.00 – this included the cost of spraying the weed killer on the track leading to the allotments
- Clerk's Expenses £20.89

62) Any Other Business

62.1) Perry Green Verges

Mr Perry advised that S.C.C. had failed to initially cut two sections of verge in Perry Green even though they had cut them in previous years. When enquiries were made they had stated that it wasn't shown on their plans to be cut. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact County Highways to ensure that the verges, one in the centre of Perry Green & the other on the Chilton Trinity side of Grabhams Farm were not overlooked in future.

62.2) Highways Visibility

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owner of 1 The Oaks requesting that the brambles etc growing over their wall & obscuring motorists views up Wembdon Hill be cut back.

Date of next meeting – Monday 13 October 2008