

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council** held at Wembdon Village Hall on **8<sup>th</sup> January 2018** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted.

**Present:** Cllr M Solomon (Chairman), Cllr D Gliddon, Cllr J Hall, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr A Reed, Cllr T Travis and Cllr R Webber.

District Cllrs I Dyer and M Caswell

**Parish Clerk:** Tony Jay      **Police:** None

158/17 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs N Harrison and J Woods. Also District Cllrs Bown and Duddridge.

159/17 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations were received.

160/17 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**It was resolved to** approve the minutes (7 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at the previous meeting)

161/17 To receive a briefing from SDC on the role of the Council in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Apologies were received from Emma Chorley of SDC as she will also be attending the Neighbourhood Plan steering group meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January. A detailed written briefing was provided and all Councillors were invited to join the NP steering group meeting if they wished.

162/17 To receive a briefing from the Community Council of Somerset on the Neighbourhood Plan implementation process.

Hannah Burbidge gave an overview of the role of CCS. In regards to Neighbourhood Plans they can provide considerable advice and experience to Parish Councils, and work with planning and other consultants who could prepare the necessary specialist reports. CCS charge for their services, but the majority of these are able to be reimbursed through grants. Consultant fees can also be recovered through various grants.

163/17 To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan, and to consider the Parish Council's financial commitment to supporting the plan application.

Signature of Chairman

SDC are reviewing our proposal that Wembdon should be a designated area suitable within the Neighbourhood Plan process. This should be a formality, and the decision is imminent. Our steering group has already consulted with many bodies and agencies doing initial ground work. Potential planning consultants have also been contacted.

It was agreed that it was now imperative that Wembdon Parish Council begin the Neighbourhood Plan process and complete the work required to generate a final document as swiftly as possible. The Steering Group have strongly recommended that appropriate support from Consultants would be required to achieve this objective and this was fully supported by all Councillors.

The Parish Council position on possible housing on Cokerhurst Farm remains unchanged as it feels that to create additional traffic chaos on the local roads with CF construction traffic, whilst a construction project of national importance was being implemented at HPC, would be detrimental to both as well as the local living conditions. No development should commence on CF until the construction works at HPC were completed. However it did recognise the reality that CF was now a preferred development site in the current draft of the Local Plan so it was in the community's interest to ensure that any development within the Wembdon Parish fully met the local needs and that adequate mitigation payments were forthcoming to the Parish Council from the CIL funds associated.

There is a NP folder within the Parish Council's website, however it is not easy to find. Cllr Woods will be asked to address this if possible. There is also a NP Facebook page.

The public consultation process has now started. It is important that members of the public give information about what they would like to be included in the NP, as they will be asked to vote to approve it in a referendum.

**It was unanimously resolved to** approve the terms of reference for the Neighbourhood Plan team.

**It was unanimously resolved to** approve the use of the Community Council of Somerset as consultants for the duration of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**It was unanimously resolved to** approve the engagement of specialised Planning Consultant(s) and any additional consultants recommended by the Community Council of Somerset.

**It was unanimously resolved to** commit to fund up to £2500 to enable the work to start before grants arrive.

CCS advised that all grant monies received should go through the Parish Council's accounts, not a bank account owned by the NP steering group.

164/17 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics, and to receive an update on the criminal damage caused by vandals on the allotment track.

District Cllr Caswell joined the meeting.

There was no Police presence, and no Police report had been received.

The Parish Councillors are very concerned about what residents should do if their property is being attacked by vandals, but no immediate Police response is forthcoming. The Clerk will ask the Police for written guidance regarding this.

It was agreed that a sign should be installed in Hollow Lane directing anyone, including the emergency services, to the allotments.

Signature of Chairman

Cllr Reed will enquire with the owner of an adjacent wall asking for permission for a sign to be installed. Cllr Gliddon will research an appropriate sign.

165/17 To receive the Clerk's report.

Clean Surroundings say that it is difficult to notify the times and dates of kerb and gully clearances in advance, as the times often change due to operational reasons. They will endeavour to inform the Parish Council of the times and dates when possible.

Three companies have been asked to quote for the dropped kerbs in Hollow Lane. One reply has been received so far.

The Clerk said that he had reminded the other two companies of the offer from them to provide a quote but they have not responded. Therefore financial regulations have been complied with.

**It was unanimously resolved to** award the work to the contractor who had submitted the quotation, which was for £1000 plus VAT.

The Clerk will complete the necessary documentation.

The Clerk will be taking part in a webinar on 17<sup>th</sup> January regarding the new general data protection regulations. The cost will be £10.

166/17 To approve the budget and precept demand for 2018/19.

The Finance team met last week and went through the budget line by line. They recommend a budget that maintains the precept at the current level with a 2.9% inflation only increase. The Parish Council will expend £15,000 on tarmac footpaths and will budget a contingency sum for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. There will be a net reduction in our reserves from £75,000 to £71,000. This is slightly under the Local Government recommendation (of 12 months expenditure) but is considered adequate for our current needs.

**It was unanimously resolved to** approve the budget and a precept demand of £73,500, an increase of 2.98% to allow for inflation.

167/18 To discuss the SDC Local Plan.

The Parish Council are scheduled to make representations to the Inspector on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

168/17 To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges.

Blakes Lane, Moores Lane and the lanes in the Perry Green area are in poor condition. They are too narrow for the vehicles that are using the lanes, which causes the vehicles to drive on the verges cutting them up and creating mud. This mud makes the condition of the lanes very slippery and dangerous. There are a large number of potholes. Pedestrians have to stand in the hedgerows to allow vehicles to pass. The lanes are being used as a 'rat run' for people travelling from Chilton Trinity to Wembdon. They are not fit for the purpose for which they are being used. Many residents have complained to the Parish Council about this. The Clerk was asked to report this to SCC Highways to request that they inspect these roads.

Harris and Collard have been instructed to carry out the agreed work to the footpaths as previously resolved. This will need to be completed in close cooperation with the County Highways rights of way team.

District Cllr Caswell left the meeting.

Signature of Chairman

169/17 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Highways and Speedwatch.

The Parish Council is very concerned that some motorists are ignoring the newly installed zebra crossing on Wembdon Rise. Some are not slowing down when approaching the crossing, or stopping for pedestrians waiting to cross. Speed tests have regularly recorded vehicles travelling at speeds of up to 60 mph when travelling through the crossing.

Cllr Gliddon gave an update on the SID figures.

The device was based on Wembdon Hill going down towards the shop. The maximum speed recorded was 55 mph. On average there was around 11 to 14% of vehicles speeding, which has come down considerably. That could be due to the number of parked vehicles on Wembdon Hill, as well as the presence of the SID.

The SID was then placed on Wembdon Rise approaching the new zebra crossing. There were two speeds of 60 mph recorded only 50 yards from the crossing. On most days 55 mph was recorded a number of times. The average number of speeding vehicles was 22 to 26%. In 10 days 22,710 vehicles travelled down Wembdon Rise. Around 400 vehicles a day were exceeding the speed limit and Cllr Gliddon is working closely with the Police Enforcement Team to address this problem

It was remarked that the likelihood was that a large proportion of these would be Wembdon residents.

There had been concerns raised regarding the trees next to the highway at the Wembdon Rise / Wembdon Hill junction. This have been inspected, and it was felt that there was no major problem and nothing further could be done.

170/17 To receive a report on the Playing Fields.

As resolved at the last Parish Council meeting, Samson have been instructed to install a base for the new bench on Wembdon Common. The bench will be ordered once the base is in place

All repair works at the children's play area are now completed. This year the Parish Council have installed new swing seats, replaced frayed ropes on the climbing frame, replaced the binoculars, replaced the foam protectors, replaced the fencing and added nut protectors.

171/17 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments.

The potholes on the allotment track were discussed. It was agreed to purchase sufficient scalplings to repair the holes, and level out the sunken area. Cllrs Webber and Travis will enquire into this. A budget figure of £500 will be allowed.

172/17 To receive a report from Cllr Jackson regarding communications.

The next edition of the magazine is due to be produced in February.

173/17 To receive an update from Cllr Harrison regarding the setting up of a working group for the development of Wembdon parkland.

Standing orders were suspended.

A member of the Wembdon Parklands Working Group spoke, asking to make a presentation at the next Parish Council meeting. The arrangements for the auction and ball to be held in April are progressing.

Standing orders were reinstated.

Signature of Chairman

174/17 To appoint an internal auditor to complete the audit at the end of the current financial year.

**It was unanimously resolved to** appoint Richard Young as the internal auditor.

175/17 To note the appointment of PFK Littlejohn LPP as the external auditors for the end of the financial year (replacing Grant Thornton).

The change was noted. The Parish Council does not choose who the external auditors will be.

176/17 To receive an update regarding the proposal to install children's play equipment suitable for disabled children.

Cllr Reed gave an update on the progress made. An RLT2 funding form has been prepared for submission to SDC. The Clerk will make enquiries re RLT2 and RLT3 funding and submit the application form.

177/17 To consider grant requests.

**It was unanimously resolved** not to make a grant to Mendip Community Transport (the Slinky Bus) as figures show that this provides no real benefit to the residents of Wembdon.

**It was unanimously resolved to** donate £250 to Daniel Stone who is a Wembdon under 15 cricketer and has been selected to play for Somerset in a series of matches in Sri Lanka. He has been fund raising to cover his expenses of £2,000. The Parish Council agreed that there would be a community benefit in making this donation as it would encourage other Wembdon youngsters to follow his lead and take up team sports.

178/17 To consider a financial update and to approve payments:

(a) Statutory Payments as per agreement under minute no 324/13

(b) Non Statutory Payments List:

Cheque no	Payee	Detail	Amount
300719	SDC	Bin emptying	£474.19

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members

**It was unanimously resolved to** approve the statutory and non-statutory payments.

179/17 To consider matters of report:

A new dog bin has been ordered to replace the damaged dog bin.

The Cluster are due to attend the Transport Forum meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February to discuss issues affecting the whole of North Bridgwater regarding Hinkley traffic.

Eight out of ten street lights on Wembdon Hill are not working. Cllr Gliddon has reported this to Western Power and SCC who are blaming each other. He is progressing this.

180/17 Date of next meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signature of Chairman