

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on **12th March 2018** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted.

Present: Cllr M Solomon (Chairman), Cllr N Harrison (Vice Chairman), Cllr J Hall, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr A Reed, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr T Travis and Cllr R Webber.

District Cllr A Bown

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

198/18 To receive any apologies for absence.

Since the last Parish Council meeting Cllr Woods has resigned from his position as a Parish Councillor (Victoria Ward). The co-option of a new Councillor to fill this casual vacancy will be an agenda item for the April meeting. The Chairman thanked Jason Woods for all his work during his time as a Parish Councillor.

Apologies were received from Cllr D Gliddon and District Cllr L Duddridge.

199/18 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations were received.

200/18 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th February 2018.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (5 in favour, 3 abstentions as not present at the previous meeting)

201/18 To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The project is on track. A household survey document was recently delivered to every home in Wembdon. Responses received were delayed by the recent bad weather and associated problems with the post, so the deadline for responses to be received has been extended. From initial returns it is anticipated that the response rate will exceed 40%, which is very encouraging and higher than many other Parishes have experienced. The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their role in delivering many of the survey papers and Cllr Jackson for preparing a special edition of the Parish Paper, highlighting the importance of the survey. The draft Neighbourhood plan should be presented to the Parish Council for approval in April, and then submitted to SDC in May. The final plan will be voted in a public referendum. A minimum of 50% of the residents who vote in the referendum must support the plan for it to be accepted. The financial benefits for the Parish will be enormous if a Neighbourhood Plan is in place when any new major housing development in the Parish takes place.

To enable this project to progress at this speed will require the use of professional consultants to ensure that the first draft of the plan meets all of the requirements of SDC. Applications for grants have been submitted to part fund the costs of the professional consultants.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the use of professional consultants to write the Neighbourhood Plan and that the Parish Council will fund any shortfall of the costs involved after grants have been received.

202/18 To receive a Police report

There was no Police presence at the meeting.

A Police report had been received prior to the meeting, as follows:

*Total calls to Police during February 2018 where Logs were created for our beat AW040 - 507.
Breakdown for Wembdon area only as follows*

*2 x Thefts
2 x Harassment/threats
2 x Concern for welfare
1 x Alarm Activation
2 x Road Related Incidents
1 x Assault
1 x Complaint against Police
1 x Criminal Damage
6 x Domestic Incidents
2 x Abandoned 999 calls
1 x Missing person*

Criminal damage has occurred again in the vicinity of the allotments. A gate has been smashed on the footpath between the allotments path and Blakes Lane (footpath BW 34/16). This has been reported as a crime to the Police, and will cost £300 to repair.

203/18 To receive the Clerk's report.

GDPR is now only two months away. There has still been no decision by Central Government regarding how this will affect Parish Councils.

204/18 To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges.

The footpath project is now completed. Tidying up work will be taking place when the weather improves.

A laurel hedge on the footpath on Church Road running adjacent to Wembdon Common needs cutting back. The Clerk will contact the Parish Contractor to ask him to carry out this work.

The footpath on the Common running from Church Road to the Parish Centre has subsided and the tarmac needs filling in. The Chairman will contact the contractors who have recently been carrying out the footpath project to ask them to do this work.

The Mitchell Trust memorial bench has now been installed on Wembdon Common.

205/18 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Highways and Speedwatch.

The monthly traffic analysis report was presented to the Council. Overall vehicle speeds have reduced, but there have still been very disturbing instances where vehicles have been travelling at 60 mph close to the zebra crossing on Wembdon Rise. The number of vehicles speeding on any given day continues to be around 20%.

Speeding vehicles on the NDR was discussed. The Parish Council would like Highways to again install their SID there, but the bracket on the post previously used has been removed. The Clerk will contact County Highways regarding this.

The recently installed zebra crossing on Wembdon Rise was discussed. Complaints have been received from motorists who say that they cannot see pedestrians waiting to cross because of the poor visibility on the approaches to the crossing, and also from pedestrians who say that motorists sometimes do not see them waiting and fail to stop. There have been a number of near misses on the crossing which are causing major concerns. The Parish Council SID regularly shows vehicle speeds of between 50 to 60 mph when travelling over the crossing. Some form of speed reduction measure needs to be introduced, or preferably a traffic light controlled crossing.

The white lines on the side of the road on the approaches to the zebra crossing are already wearing away.

The Clerk will contact County Highways regarding these issues.

The road surface in Wembdon Rise between Inwood Road and the NDR is already showing signs of cracking despite being resurfaced recently. Also the road surface on Wembdon Hill close to the junction with Keltings is breaking up. The Clerk will report this.

206/18 To receive a report on the Playing Fields.

Work is progressing on the plan to install additional and fully accessible play equipment on the playing fields.

207/18 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments.

There has been a major water leak at the allotments, possibly caused by a frozen pipe during the recent cold weather. Cllr Harrison is investigating this, along with a local plumber.

The allotment AGM will take place on 26th March. There is presently one allotment available to be leased. There has already been interest from Parishioners who would like to lease the allotment.

208/18 To receive a report from Cllr Jackson regarding communications.

Thanks were given to everyone who made contributions to the recently published Parish Paper. The recently co-opted Councillors were asked to provide short pen pictures of themselves for inclusion in the next publication.

209/18 To receive an update regarding the working group for the development of Wembdon parkland.

Everything is going well. A grant has been received recently, and it was proposed that this will be spent on the provision of benches on the parkland. The arrangements for the April ball are well underway. Quotes are being obtained for the fencing work which will be required as a part of the whole project.

210/18 To consider the arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly.

Cllr Jackson was thanked for her efforts in organising speakers for the Parish Assembly in previous years. She will make the arrangements again this year, assisted by Cllr Hall.

The assembly will take place on 9th April 2018. A meeting of the planning committee will commence at 6pm, if any planning applications are received, and then the Parish Council will meet at 6.30pm for its monthly meeting. The Parish Assembly will commence at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

211/18 To review the following Parish Council policies: Standing Orders; Financial Regulations; Risk Schedule and Asset Register.

It was unanimously resolved to approve these policies, with the amendments previously recommended to Parish Councillors. The amended policies will be posted on the Parish Council website.

212/18 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
300746	Samson	Soil clearance	£148.00
300747	Parish Magazine Printing	Printing	£309.50
300748	Broxap	Bench	£966.00
300749	SDC	New dog bin	£112.10
300750	Samson	Fencing around bin	£650.00
300751	Leisure Bench	Picnic Benches	£728.94
300755	RT Signs	Allotment sign	£114.00
300756	HBC Building Contractors	Footpath construction	£12,000.00

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

It was unanimously resolved to approve these

213/18 To consider matters of report

Cllr Solomon will be representing the Parish Council at an EDF suppliers meeting on 14th March.

Cllr Harrison will represent the Parish Council at the hearing regarding the draft local development plan for the SDC area on 20th March.

The Parish Council visit to Hinckley C has been arranged for 11th April 2018.

Cllr Reed has represented the Parish Council at a recent South West Cluster Transport forum meeting. The draft minutes have been circulated to the Councillors. There is a link to the website which gives details of potential sites for the burial of nuclear waste.

Cllr Woods (now retired) attended the recent community forum meeting at Hinckley C, and has circulated notes from the meeting to Councillors.

Some of the dog bins have not been emptied by SDC for a while now. The Clerk will report this to SDC.

Date of next meeting: 9th April 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.