

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk of the Parish Council Tony Jay 11 Wyvern Mews, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3GZ
Email clerk@wembdon.org Telephone 07741 461982

Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 11th February 2019 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Cllrs M Solomon (Chairman), L Edwards, D Gliddon, J Hall, N Harrison, M Phillips, and A Reed.

District Cllrs A Bown, M Caswell, L Duddridge, I Dyer.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay Police: None

21/19 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Prowse and Webber.

22/19 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations were received.

23/19 To consider the co-option of a Parish Councillor to fill the casual vacancy.

This vacancy will remain unfilled until a suitable application is received.

24/19 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th January 2019.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (6 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at previous meeting).

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

25/19 To receive the Clerk's report.

The Chairman and the Clerk will be meeting the District Police Inspector and Sergeant on 19th February to discuss the Policing of the Parish.

The period for nominations to be submitted for the Parish Council elections in May has been set as 18th March to 3rd April.

26/19 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

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There was no Police attendance. It was reported that there has been a spate of opportunist thefts in the Parish recently.

27/19 To receive a report from Cllr Reed on the progress of the Wembdon Neighbourhood Plan.

The public consultation period ends on 15th February. Any final comments received will be considered and may be incorporated into the plan. Another consultation may be required if significant comments are received. The plan will then pass to an inspector for review and examination followed by a referendum of the Parish.

Thanks were given to the Neighbourhood Plan team for their hard work in progressing the preparation of the plan in record time.

28/19 To receive a report from Cllr Reed on the Playing Fields and Common.

A new sign has been installed at the children's play area.

Dog mess continues to be a problem in the Parish, despite the fact that Wembdon has a very high number of dog bins compared to other Town and Parish Councils.

Cllrs Phillips and Harrison have met with Wembdon Cricket Club groundsman to explore the possibility of equipment being purchased for the flailing of rhyme edges and the cutting of hedges on the parkland.

The equipment would be attached to a mini-tractor owned and operated by the cricket club, who would be contracted to carry out the work on behalf of the Parish Council. This would reduce other maintenance costs currently being paid for this work.

A contract between the Parish Council and the cricket club would be drawn up in relation to them carrying out this work and using the equipment.

The Councillors recommendation was that the Parish Council should contribute towards the purchase of this equipment. Quotations for the cost of the equipment will be obtained, and this can be an agenda item to approve at the March Parish Council meeting.

29/19 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on Highways.

The quality of the road resurfacing work in Meadow Park is very poor. This has been reported to County Highways.

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The road surface problems in Wembdon Rise have not been properly addressed.

County Highways do not seem to have the resources to deal with these problems effectively.

30/19 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Footpaths and Verges.

There was nothing to report.

31/19 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Parish Paper.

A new Paper will be published shortly.

It was unanimously resolved to fully support the proposal by Cllr Hall to produce four Parish Papers a year; to charge £80 for a full page advertisement per issue; £40 for a half page and £20 for a quarter page. There will be a 10% discount if a full year's fee is paid in advance.

32/19 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on Allotments.

There are currently two allotments for rent.

The recently collapsed section of the wall adjacent to the track at the top of the allotments was discussed. The wall is a standard Wembdon stone wall, and ivy has grown over the decades. The root system has grown into the wall causing it to collapse. Upon discovery, under instruction from the Council, the situation was quickly assessed by HBC who have also cordoned off the area.

A structural survey by a qualified engineer will be required before any work can commence. A local engineer has quoted £900 for this work.

It was unanimously resolved to ask Brian Jones, structural engineer, to carry out a survey and report back.

Prior to this structural examination taking place the clearance of vegetation will be necessary and immediate remedial work needs to be carried out.

It was unanimously resolved to set up a project team comprising of Cllrs Harrison, Phillips and Webber to arrange this clearance and remedial work with HBC. Costs up to a value of £5,000 were approved for this project team.

Once the engineer's report has been received the longer term way forward will be considered.

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It is accepted that the Parish Council have the responsibility for maintaining this wall, although actual ownership will probably never be established.

The project team will contact HBC over the next few days to arrange the remedial work.

33/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The SID has been in Wembdon Hill for two weeks monitoring traffic travelling westward. Speeds of 50 mph plus were recorded every day at this 30mph location. 55 mph speeds were recorded occasionally, and one speed of over 60 mph was recorded. The average speed was 23 mph. This is a continuing problem. Low average speeds with a few high end speeders.

The speedwatch team will be operating this week in Wembdon Rise. Complaints have been raised regarding the zebra crossing, including poor lighting and signage. Drivers cannot easily see people using the crossing.

There have been examples of vehicles stopping at the crossing to allow pedestrians to cross, and vehicles actually overtaking the stationary one. District Cllr Caswell agreed to take up this matter with County Highways with a view to find a solution. He has visited the site, and was shocked at the speeds he saw, along with people parking illegally on road junctions.

Suggested possibilities could include a raised crossing to act as a pillow, and/or a reduction in the speed limit to 20 mph.

EDF CIM funding may be available to help pay for road calming measures. Cllr Caswell recommended contacting SDC to find out how to access these funds.

There are now hundreds of people using the village hall who cross the NDR at the island next to the hall with pushchairs and bicycles. There is a growing call to have pelican controlled lights, as there are no footpaths on the north side of the NDR so safe crossing at the existing pelican lights is not an option. Again, Cllr Caswell strongly supported this proposal and agreed to follow this up with County Highways.

34/19 To receive a report on the 'Access for All' project and to consider making financial commitments.

i. Additional play equipment in the park

The handover of the new play equipment will take place on 11th February. A certificated engineer has been instructed to carry out a

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handover inspection to confirm that everything meets specification and safety standards before the equipment is brought into use and the grant payment can be initiated by the National Lottery Fund.

The equipment will need to be added to the asset register and added to the Parish Council insurance policy.

A replacement picnic bench is on order. CCTV installation starts on 14th February.

The Changing Places toilet facilities are now being used.

ii. PACT team report

Virador have stated that they are likely to support the project and we will receive £70,306 from them. Thanks were expressed to everyone who has been involved with the PACT team in achieving this magnificent result.

An application must be submitted to HBC community fund by 22nd March for 'phase three' which is the planting and landscaping etc. The landscape architect will be project managing the work and will be providing a quote for her work. Prior to this a surveyor will need to survey the land as a prior report will be needed. The Chairman will see what documentation is already held.

Cllr Hall will be working with the PACT. District Cllr Dyer volunteered to input as well.

The 22nd March deadline means that the team will need to move quickly regarding this.

35/19 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

The recent transport forum was cancelled due to the bad weather.

An EDF forum has taken place. There is no limit to the number of EDF buses being allowed to stop in Wembdon, however they should only stop at recognized bus stops or other places that have been suitably risk assessed. If any buses are seen to stop at an inappropriate place then Hinkley enquiries should be contacted on Hinkley-enquiries@edfenergy.com with the vehicle registration number, or the three digit number on the back of the bus, along with the time, date and location.

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- 36/19 To consider an annual payment to SCC for the upkeep of trees in Somerset Wood to be planted as a continuing memorial to those from Wembdon Parish killed in the 1st World War, and if agreed the amount to be paid.

It was unanimously resolved not to make any contribution.

- 37/19 To consider awarding the Clerk the National Salary Award for 2019-20 – an increase of 2% (to commence in April).

It was unanimously resolved to award the Clerk the 2% increase.

- 38/19 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
300882	CCS	Neighbourhood Plan consultation work	£500.00
300883	Screwfix	Key safes	£59.98
300886	Office World	Stationery	£31.53
300887	Wickes	Items for Give a Day	£65.30
300888	Andrew Sutton	Contract	£1090.00
300889	Barriers Direct	Bicycle racks	£749.47
300890	Media Orb	Website Hosting	£108.00

It was unanimously resolved to approve the payments.

A budget update sheet had been be pre-circulated to members

- 39/19 To approve the obtaining of legal advice regarding the PC granting permission for the PCC to be given vehicular access to their property across Wembdon Common.

It was unanimously resolved not to obtain legal advice, but to allow the present arrangements to continue until review in June 2019 (see minute 18/19).

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40/19 To review the Parish Council's Standing Orders; Financial Regulations, Risk Schedule and Asset Register.

It was unanimously resolved to approve these documents without amendment.

41/19 To consider matters of report:

- (a) Agenda items for the next meeting
- (b) Chairman
- (c) Members

42/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 11th March 2019 at 7pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will commence at 8pm. Presentations will be given by EDF; the Environment Agency; the Parish Centre and the Village Hall. Refreshments will be provided to members of the public after the meeting.

End of minutes