

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Present: Cllrs M Solomon (Chairman), D Claydon, L Edwards, J Hall, P Major, M Phillips, J Prowse and A Reed.

District Cllrs B Bolt, M Caswell and I Dyer.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay            Police: None

The Council and members of the public observed a one minute's silence in respect of Remembrance Day.

212/19            To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr D Gliddon and R Webber.

213/19            To receive declarations of any pecuniary interests on items relating to this agenda, which have not been previously declared in the Councilors' register of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

214/19            To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (5 in favour, 3 abstentions as not present at the meeting). The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

215/19            To receive the Clerk's report.

Correspondence has been received from two Wembdon residents regarding the work at Wembdon Parklands. One contains comments which are completely untrue and are defamatory to the Parish Council, and its volunteer Councilors. The Clerk has replied that if the person persists with such false accusations then the matter will be referred to the Parish Council's solicitor.

The Clerk has received a number of emails from residents praising the work which has taken place at the Parklands, in particular the improved access for disabled people.

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The planning application for the solar lights and the CCTV cameras at the Parklands has been approved by SDC.

The Pensions Regulator has written the regular reminder to the Chairman regarding pension arrangements for the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that he did not want to join a pension scheme, and will continue to opt out as is his right.

216/19 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

No Police report had been received, and there was no Police presence at the meeting.

217/19 To receive a report from Cllr Prowse on the Playing Fields and Common.

One of the rubber sleeves is missing from the new accessible roundabout. A replacement has been ordered. The funding application for the new accessible swings has been submitted to Variety and a reply is awaited.

218/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Highways.

The work at the bus stop at Sandford Corner should be completed shortly.

The resurfacing of patches of the highway has been completed on Wembdon Rise and continues on Wembdon Hill. (It was subsequently learned that these works are preparatory to a road re-surfacing planned for early 2020)

It was noted that the entrance to the Village Hall is not signposted on the NDR. It is easy for motorists from outside the area to miss the turning. It was suggested that a brown 'Heritage Sign' should be installed opposite the entrance, stating 'Wembdon Village Hall' and showing a direction arrow. District Cllr Caswell asked the Clerk to send the initial request for a sign to him.

219/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on the Footpaths and Verges.

The pavement on the corner of The Oaks and Wembdon Rise is very slippery. Sap drips from an overhanging tree which causes this, and it is dangerous for pedestrians.

The link footpaths on the Inwood Estate need clearing of leaves. They are very slippery and are well used by schoolchildren getting to school.

The Clerk will report these issues to Clean Surroundings.

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220/19 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Parish Paper.

The next edition will be published by the end of year. All Councillors were encouraged to write brief articles for the publication.

221/19 To receive a report from Cllr Claydon on Allotments.

There are no allotments free at present, although one should become available shortly.

There are currently nine allotments which are not being attended to properly. The allotment tenancy agreement states that the tenant needs to 'keep the allotment plot clean, and in a good state of cultivation and fertility and in good condition'. The Clerk will write to these tenants to ask them to maintain their plot.

222/19 To consider recommendations from Cllr Gliddon regarding the allotments policy document and tenancy agreement.

It was decided that amendments do not need to be made, however the tenancy agreement will be enforced as described in the previous minute.

223/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The SID was last positioned at the entrance to Wares Lane.

Max Speed = 55.0 MPH on 24/10/2019 00:45:00

Total Vehicles = 23,042 counts

Average Daily Total: 1636 vehicles

Volumes - weekly vehicle counts

	Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily		1,629	1,560
AM peak	8:00 to 9:00	131	123
PM peak	5:00 to 6:00	142	127

Average Speed: 26.0 MPH

The Speedwatch team met on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November on Wembdon Rise, and they were joined by our local PCSO Jason Wyatt. One motorist was caught exceeding the speed limit and a "near miss" was witnessed as a car failed to spot a pedestrian on the crossing.

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224/19 To consider proposals from Cllr Edwards to address the problem of litter in the Parish.

An article will be published in the Parish Paper encouraging people to become involved in litter picking initiatives in the Parish.

Cllr Edwards will report back to the February meeting.

225/19 To consider whether the Parish Council wishes to apply for a £250 grant from Somerset Community Foundation.

It was decided that the Parish Council would not be applying for this grant. The Clerk was asked to forward the details to the PCC and the WCA for their information, as they may wish to apply.

226/19 To consider the arrangements for the Wembdon celebrations to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V.E. Day.

The next working group meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> November, when the arrangements will be firmed up. Everyone who is interested in getting involved in this project is asked to attend the meeting. The main village celebrations will be planned to take place on the bank holiday – re-arranged for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

227/19 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

There have been no recent meetings.

Cllr Prowse and the Clerk will be attending the Sedgemoor South West Parishes Cluster meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

228/19 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
300985	SLCC	Training seminar fee	£90.00
300986	Sedgemoor Services	Tree Cutting back ivy at allotment wall	£480.00

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300989	P. Phillips and Sons	Pothole repairs – allotment track	£600.00
300992	Starboard Systems	Scribe accounting package – annual fee	£416.40
300993	Parrett IBD	Rhyne clearance	£134.40
300994	GB Sports and Leisure	Playground inspections Oct 19 – March 20	£108.00
300995	Andrew Sutton	Extra grass cutting in Parkland area	£170.00
300996	GB Sports and Leisure	Basketball net replacement	£83.92

It was unanimously resolved to approve the payments.

A budget update sheet had been be pre circulated to members

229/19 To consider Councillor spending proposals to be included in the 2020-21 budget.

The Clerk, as The Responsible Financial Officer, gave an overview of the Council's financial position.

At the start of the current financial year the Council's reserves were in a healthy position with £44k being held. (Reserves should be approximately half of the precepted amount which in 2019-20 is £76k). During the last six months the Council has had to spend almost £20k on the repairs to the allotment wall. This work was completely unexpected and could not have been budgeted for. This has meant that the reserves at the end of the current financial year are anticipated to fall below £30k, which will be too low to satisfy the auditors. There is also the unfortunate prospect of further work being required to the allotment wall in the future, which could again pose a significant burden on the reserves.

In light of this potential expenditure, the Clerk recommended that the precept for 2020-21 should be increased to £100k. This extra funding will simply replenish the reserves to a working minimum, and provide a contingency amount to be held in reserve for possible further work on the wall.

The Councillors all agreed in principle there was no alternative than to raise the amount of the precept for 2020-21 to £100k. This will be voted upon at the next Parish Council meeting. The Clerk explained that this would mean that the average band D household would pay an increase of £18 per year (approximately) in Council Tax to Wembdon Parish Council, the equivalent of about £1.50 per month extra. On the basis of the data reported for the last

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financial year, this would bring the Wembdon precept into line with other Councils in the upper quartile.

The Clerk will be available to Parishioners to explain the Council's current financial position, and the background to the precept demand at 7pm on 9<sup>th</sup> December, prior to the next Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall should anyone wish to discuss this. If there is a planning meeting scheduled for that evening then this will commence at 7pm, and the Clerk will be available to speak with Parishioners at 6.30pm. If anyone would like to speak with the Clerk then they should email him at [clerk@wembdon.org](mailto:clerk@wembdon.org) before 5<sup>th</sup> December.

230/19 To consider matters of report:

The website working group has met for a second time. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated to Councillors. The detailed work involved in changing website providers is progressing.

Cllr Major attended the recent open meeting regarding Quantock Road (Whitegates) roundabout. An update has been posted on the Parish Council's website.

The SDC development committee will not be considering the Cokerhusrt Farm planning application at their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November. A new date will be notified.

Motorists are driving around the blind corner at the Blakes Road / Church Road junction at dangerously fast speeds. The PCSO will be asked to visit the junction between 8 am and 9 am on workdays to monitor the situation, when the problem is most noticeable.

New trees will be arriving at the Parklands this week and will be planted immediately. The landscapers will be building the sensory borders shortly.

231/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Mince pies, mulled wine and soft drinks will be served after the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.17pm.

End of minutes