

## **WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Clerk  
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**Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council** held at St George's School Wembdon on **12<sup>th</sup> December 2016** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted

**Present:** Cllr M Solomon, Cllr D Gliddon, Cllr N Harrison, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr A Reed, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr T Thake, Cllr B Webb, Cllr R Webber, Cllr J Woods.

District Cllr J Edney.

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

**135/16      To receive any apologies for absence.**

County Cllrs A Bown, L Duddridge and I Dyer

**136/16      To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.**

No declarations were received.

**137/16      To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.**

No Police report was received.

There have been a number of RTCs where sections of railings have been damaged on the NDR. One was close to the junction with Wembdon Rise and another further down near to the Notaro estate. This needs to be reported to County Highways. There have been RTCs at the junction of the NDR with Wembdon Rise where drivers have jumped the traffic lights. There should be a slightly longer time delay to allow drivers to pass through the junction before other drivers enter it.

**138/16      To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016.**

**It was unanimously resolved** to approve the minutes as a correct record.

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a correct record.

Signature of Chairman

**139/16 To receive the Clerks report.**

Precept capping will not take place for any Parish or Town Council in 2017-18. This was never going to be the case for Wembdon, but it could have applied to larger Town Councils. Capping could still take place in future years.

Companies who display advertising signs in the village have been contacted and will be removing their signs.

County Highways state that the kerbs in Crossacre are not considered to be a public highway asset therefore they will not pay for the dropping of the kerbs. The dropping of the kerbs in Greenacre will be added to their list of work for consideration, but this will not be included in the 2017-18 budget.

SDC will not be supporting the Cluster meetings in the future. This decision had been expected. There will still be meetings, but they may not hold any weight towards any decision making. Cllr Reed will still attend these meetings.

**140/16 To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges**

Cllr Webber will investigate the cost of the tarmacking of the footpath from Wares Lane to the NDR.

**141/16 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on Highways and Speedwatch**

The footpath and cycle path on the NDR is overgrown. Clean surroundings will be asked to cut back the brambles and vegetation.

The landowner of the footpath from Wembdon Motors to the Notaro Estate Bridge has been asked to reconsider his decision to allow the path to be improved to encourage cyclists, but he refuses to change his decision so the plan is now not achievable.

The speedwatch team has lost some members so new volunteers are needed.

The SID will be in use shortly, after the posts have been installed.

John Wilkins is no longer involved with the speed watch team. All of his hard work and commitment was acknowledged and the Clerk will write to him thanking him for all the work that he has done.

Unfortunately the figures from the Wembdon speedwatch team have not been included in the Police reports for the last six months. This is very disappointing as so much work has been done by the team.

Cllr Thake asked that the cutting of the verges at the roundabout close to the school should be included in the new maintenance contract to be renewed in the New Year.

**142/16 To receive a report from Cllr Thake on the Playing Fields**

There was nothing to report, apart from a couple of broken bottles which have been left on the fields. The two sets of goalposts previously stored at the edge of the field can no longer be located. These were full sized posts and the Council suggested that a smaller set of posts that could be moved from location to location (to avoid excess wear of the grass) be considered for positioning on the cricket outfields during the football season. This would be raised by the Chairman with the Village Hall Trust.

The rubber strip on the top of the children's climbing frame has been damaged by rough usage and may need replacing. GB Sports will be contacted for advice regarding this.

**143/16 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments**

There was nothing to report.

**144/16 To receive a report from Cllrs Jackson regarding communications.**

Dog fouling on the playing fields has been mentioned on social media sites. There continues to be a small but hard core of people who allow their dogs to exercise on the playing fields, but are not prepared to pick up the mess.

A discussion took place regarding whether dogs should be allowed to exercise on the playing fields. Concerns were raised that even if dogs are allowed to be walked on a lead then there will still be owners who do not pick up mess.

Cllr Harrison noted that it had been agreed by the Village Hall Trust that volunteers wearing high visibility jackets will patrol the park, and challenge any dog owner who does not use a lead in the designated areas, or pick up the mess. This will be for a trial period, and if it does not work then the situation will be further reviewed. The Parish Council supports this scheme. It will be described in the next Parish Magazine.

**It was unanimously resolved** to approve paying the cost of emptying an additional dog bin and an additional litter bin to be positioned adjacent to the maintenance track for a 12 month period. The organization of the installation of the bins will be done by the Parish Council, and the Village Hall Trust will reimburse the installation cost. The Chairman will make the necessary arrangements.

**145/16 To receive an update on the Village Green and Village Hall project from Cllr Solomon.**

There was a fantastic response to the latest 'give a day'.

**146/16 To consider possible actions by the Council to maintain and generally improve the "Wembdon Street Scene".**

Signature of Chairman

Cllr Webber will be painting the railings by the Millennium Bridge.

**147/16 To consider if there are the correct number of notice boards in the Parish.**

This will be adjourned to the March 2017 meeting.

**148/16 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
300579	Wembdon Cricket Club	Grass cutting	£300.00
300580	Scribe 2000	License renewal	£308.40
300581	J Liddall	Land rent	£160.00

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

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

The reimbursement of the grass cutting costs to the Cricket Club is a one-off payment and will not be repeated in future years.

**149/16 To consider matters of report:**

Cllr Woods will submit an application for lottery funding for the purchase of one or more new defibrillators.

The Chairman spoke regarding the precept for 2017/18. Following discussions between himself and the Clerk (the Responsible Finance Officer), he will be recommending to the finance committee and the next Parish Council meeting that the precept demand be increased by: approximately 3% to cover inflation, an amount to give the Clerk a 1% pay increase and the full cost of the PWB loan repayments, which are now known.

The Chairman has written to the Parish Council's solicitor for advice regarding potential action which could be taken regarding vexatious comments on social media and emails. Specialist legal advice is now being sought on this.

**150/16 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the items of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.**

**It was unanimously resolved** to exclude the press and public

**151/16 To receive tenders submitted for the installation of the railings at the playing fields, and agree the detail of the RLT2 funding submission.**

Signature of Chairman

Four tenders were received.

**It was unanimously resolved** to award the contract to Rodway Fencing, who tendered at the lowest cost.

The Chairman will arrange for the RLT2 funding application to be submitted. The Clerk will write to the unsuccessful tenderers thanking them for their interest in our project.

**152/16**

**Date of next meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at St. Georges School, Wembdon.

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

Signature of Chairman