

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 virtually on 12th October 2020 that commenced at 7.30 pm when the following business was transacted

Present: Councillors M Solomon (Chairman), D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, J Hall, P Major, M Phillips, A Reed and K Searle.

County and District Councillor: Mike Caswell
District Councillor: Brian Bolt

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

139/20 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor R Webber

140/20 To receive declarations of any pecuniary interests on items relating to this agenda, which have not been previously declared in the Councillors register of interests.

The Chairman and Cllr Phillips both declared an interest in agenda items 156/20 and 157/20.

141/20 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th September 2020.

It was resolved to approve as a correct record the minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th September 2020 (8 in favour, 1 abstention as the Councillor had a poor internet signal and missed part of the meeting).

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

142/20 To receive the Clerk's report.

The Parish Council is awaiting responses from SCC over two current issues:

- The signing off of the entrance to the Village Hall over the rhyne
- The retrospective application for the gates at the Parklands and the chicane on Wares Lane

County Councillor Caswell will chase the relevant SCC departments for responses.

Letters have been sent to two property owners asking them to cut back their hedges and brambles which are overhanging pavements

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The annual allotment payments are being made by tenants, with most people paying by BACs. The Parish Council only receives monthly bank statements, so the position regarding any outstanding payments will be reviewed when the next statement is received at the end of the month.

143/20 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on Highways.

Some of the fingerpost signs in the parish are in a poor state of repair. A local company repairs fingerposts at a cost of around £750 per post. Cllrs Gliddon and Reed will assess the fingerposts in the parish and report back to the next meeting.

144/20 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The SID was located on Wembdon Hill in September, monitoring westbound traffic going up the hill. The daily average of vehicle movements in that direction was 811 vehicles, an increase from 730 in July. The maximum speed recorded was 55mph at 4.45pm on 13th September. The average speed of vehicles was 25.4mph, a slight increase from 25.2mph in July.

The SID is currently situated in the Church Road 20mph zone.

These SID results were sent to the Police. The road safety officer, Dan Cox put up a temporary SID on a post coming into the village from the Cannington end. He assures us that SIDs are effective and help reduce traffic speed. He does not consider that Wembdon has a major problem compared to some areas he deals with.

Councillor Gliddon has received correspondence from the Cannington Parish Clerk regarding their traffic calming scheme:

The traffic calming scheme has had mixed reviews although the data shows that it has had some effect. You will never deter those 'who have always driven through and will always drive through the village' and those 'who see a tractor, bus or lorry go along the bypass and speed through the village to beat them'. Generally, people take notice of the speed cushions on Rodway but there are always those few that don't.

The traffic census for the Main Road shows the volume of traffic has reduced by 22% and the speed by 12% so the chicanes have had an impact, although they only work when there is a contra traffic flow. The 7.5t weight restriction in the village has been most noticeable.

The costs have not been finalised, but it looks as though the costs will be circa £260,000. There is a section of works still to be carried out by the village hall.

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The funding came from the EDF Community Impact Mitigation Fund allocated to Cannington.

A representative from Cannington PC will be joining Cllr Gliddon next Monday to see how we operate our SID throughout the village as that is their next plan of action.

Councillor Gliddon gave the speedwatch report:

The Speedwatch team operated on Wembdon Hill (No89) from 4pm to 5pm on Friday 18th September. There were 198 vehicle movements (both directions) with 3 vehicles recorded in excess of 36mph. Two vehicles were recorded at 43mph (eastbound), one of which did not attempt to slow as he passed the team. All vehicles were successfully recorded on the SWAN database.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Gliddon and the members of the speedwatch team for their efforts.

145/20 To receive an update from Councillor Gliddon regarding the installation of fixed SIDs at each end of the village.

The Sedgemoor Area Traffic engineer, Katherine Tyson, will be visiting this week to agree the best locations for fixed SIDs. Consideration will be given to a large solar powered SID at the Cannington end of the village before Rock House (similar to the one installed as you enter Ashcott), and to a SID on Wembdon Rise at a position to be agreed. This will be smaller and should not be positioned in front of residential properties.

Once locations are agreed we need to ensure that we buy approved SIDs, get a memorandum of understanding signed and agreed by all parties and insurance set up prior to installation. The cost of the SID's, including installation, is likely to be between £4k and £4.5k.

Councillor Gliddon will provide an update at the next meeting.

146/20 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on the Footpaths and Verges.

A few overgrown hedges over footpaths and pavements have been reported and the Clerk has written to two property owners on Wembdon Rise and Church Rd. A Facebook request has resulted in a few hedges being cut back.

The temporary contractor has kept the paths and verges in a good state of upkeep through September.

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The SCC Rights of Way team is looking for local people to take on a strimming role for outlying footpaths. Full training will be given and insurance cover will be provided. This has been advertised on the Council website and Facebook page.

147/20 To approve the scope of work for the ground maintenance contract tendering process.

A proposed scope had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the scope of work.

148/20 To approve the timescale for the ground maintenance contract tendering process.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the following timetable:

- The tendering process will be advertised on the Council website and notice boards on 14th October 2020.
- Parties interested in tendering will be asked to contact the Clerk for details of the scope of work.
- Tenders are to be submitted to the Clerk in sealed envelopes prior to a closing date of 3rd November 2020.
- All submitted tenders will be opened and examined by the Chairman and one other Councillor on 4th November 2020.
- All tenders received will be considered at the Parish Council meeting on 10th November 2020, when the three year contract (commencing 1st January 2021) will be awarded.

149/20 To receive an update regarding the proposal to upgrade footpath BW34/4.

Initial enquiries have been made by the working group of Councillors. The Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign has agreed to prepare plans free of charge. The working group has been liaising with SCC highways and will update future meetings with developments.

150/20 To receive a report from Councillor Hall on the Parish Paper.

Work will commence on producing the next edition of the Parish Paper to be published prior to Christmas.

151/20 To receive a report from Councillor Claydon on the Allotments.

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All the allotments are now taken. There is a waiting list of four people. All allotment holders are working hard on their plots, which is very pleasing.

The necessary tree work at the allotments has not started yet.

The central path needs clearing. This work will be carried out during the winter months.

The Chairman commented that the allotments are looking wonderful. Councillor Claydon was thanked for all her efforts.

Concerns were expressed at the state of the capping on the allotment wall that was rebuilt last year. The capping is disintegrating badly and cracks are appearing where the railings have been inserted. Cllr Gliddon will contact the contractor who carried out the work to arrange a site visit.

152/20 To approve the payment of £252.64 plus VAT for the purchase of signs to mark all allotment plots.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the purchase of the signs.

153/20 To receive an update from Councillor Major on the website project.

The Parish Council's website accessibility statement has been posted on the Parish Council website. Work is progressing on the design of the new website. The email migration is being carried out. Most Councillor email addresses have now been migrated.

154/20 To receive an update from Councillor Reed regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

Draft minutes from the recent meeting will be circulated to all Councillors.

EDF workers are not allowed to be picked up by the EDF buses at normal public bus stops.

The EDF visitor centre in Angel Place, Bridgwater has now been closed.

155/20 To consider whether the Parish Council should change to using internet banking for paying invoices.

It was unanimously resolved to change to using internet banking.

The Clerk confirmed that the Council would continue to bank with Unity Trust Bank, who can provide internet banking services at no additional charge.

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The Chairman and Councillor Phillips left the meeting.

- 156/20 To consider a grant request from the Village Hall for £1,000 towards necessary ground works on Wembdon Green.

It was unanimously resolved to grant £1,000 to the Village Hall trust.

- 157/20 To consider a grant request from the Village Hall for £500 towards the cost of installing fencing at the Village Green to prevent vandalism to storage container

It was unanimously resolved to grant £500 to the Village Hall trust.

Both of the above grants will come from the allocated annual £2,000 grant to the Village Hall trust

The Chairman and Councillor Phillips returned to the meeting.

- 158/20 To note the following payments made since the last Parish Council meeting using the powers provided by the Parish Council's High Consequence Infectious Disease policy
- a) Statutory Payments as per agreement under minute no 324/13
 - b) Non Statutory Payments List:

Chq no	Payee	Detail	Amount
301081	GB Sports	Six month fee for playground inspections	£108.00
301082	S. Webber	Allotment clearance work	£2,040.00
301083	Parish Magazine Printers	Newsletter printing	£381.00
301086	J. Liddall	Annual land rental fee	£160.00
301089	Anthony Jay	Clerk's expenses July – Sept 2020	£559.97
301090	Broxap Ltd	Benches	£3,314.40
301091	VSA Admin	Administration support	£101.76
301092	SALC	Councillor training	£25.00
301093	Avalonian Landscapes	Village maintenance Aug / Sept 2020. Allotment clearing. Millennium bridge works. Tree / limb removal	£4,150.00

A budget update sheet had been be pre circulated to members

The payments were noted.

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A review of the statutory payments will be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

159/20 To consider matters of report:

PACT has been notified by Virador that their funding offer will end on 31st December. There is still just under £9,000 available to be spent.

Councillor Edwards will present ideas on how this money could be spent on improving the Parklands at the next Parish Council meeting.

The fundraising initiative for CCTV to be installed at the Parklands is going well, with a donation of £500 received recently. A local company has expressed interest in sponsoring the CCTV system

160/20 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 members of the press and public.

161/20 To consider quotes received for work on the allotment wall.

It was unanimously resolved to award the contract for the work to Gary Lancaster, with a budget of £5,000 to be spent.

162/20 To report on the findings following a complaint regarding a member of Council staff

On 10th August 2020 a parishioner submitted a complaint regarding the Clerk's actions. This complaint was investigated by members of the Parish Council staffing group who judged that the complaint would not be upheld, as the Clerk was acting upon instructions given to him by the full Council.

163/20 Date of next meeting: Monday 9th November 2020.

End of minutes