

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 13th May 2019 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Cllrs M Solomon (Chairman), D Gliddon, J Hall, P Major, M Phillips, J Prowse, A Reed, and R Webber.

District Cllrs B Bolt, I Dyer.

County Cllr M Caswell.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay Police: None

74/19 To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year

It was unanimously resolved to elect Mike Solomon as Chairman for the forthcoming year

75/19 To request the elected Chairman to sign the declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Solomon signed the declaration

76/19 To receive declaration of acceptance of office notices from newly elected Parish Councillors

Declaration of office notices were received from all Councillors.

77/19 To elect a Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year

It was unanimously resolved to elect Cllr Harrison as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year

78/19 To request the elected Vice Chairman to sign the declaration of office

Cllr Harrison was not at the meeting and will sign the declaration at the next meeting he attends.

79/19 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs L Edwards and N Harrison.

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- 80/19 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.
- There were no declarations
- 81/19 To confirm that the Parish Council has the 'General Power of Competence' as it has a qualified Clerk and all Parish Councillors have been elected.
- It was unanimously resolved to confirm that the Council has this power
- 82/19 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th April 2019.
- It was resolved to approve the minutes (6 in favour, 3 abstentions as not present at the previous meeting).
- 83/19 To receive the Clerk's report.
- There will be Councillor training held at Wembdon Village Hall on 24th June. All Councillors are encouraged to attend.
- Some allotment holders have still not paid, despite receiving a follow up letter. The Clerk will report to the June meeting which debts are still outstanding, and will ask for the Council's permission to start repossession proceedings. The offering of BACS transfers has not been very successful. One person paid in March, despite a request not to, which caused problems with the accounts. One person did not give their name when making their payment. Also, I have to wait for a month to find out who has paid as we don't do internet banking.
- Invoices for advertisements in the newsletter were sent to five advertisers in March. Only two have paid. Reminders have been sent. Again I will have to wait until 1st June to find out if they have paid through BACS transfers. We could consider changing to an internet banking system, but that would involve a lot of form filling, and a major change to our financial procedures.
- The Primary School has concerns regarding parents parking close to the school during the 'school run', leaving their engines running for heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. They have been in touch with the local PCSO and asked for action to be taken.
- 84/19 To allocate Councillor roles and responsibilities
- The major projects for the next year are:

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- Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Fixing the allotment wall
- Managing traffic speeds
- Implementing the Parklands Project
- Building a new website
- Establishing a plan to address litter and graffiti issues

Plus all of the regular duties of Planning, Parish Paper, Playing Field and Village Maintenance plus the adoption of the NDR Access to the Village Hall.

The Chairman stated:

‘I am conscious that as we have a lot to achieve and that we are all providing volunteer service to our community, we need to organize our teams such that no single person is carrying all the burden but that each Councillor can lead on their own personal interest and look to other Councillors to provide cover and support.’

A matrix of Councillors and their lead responsibilities, with their support team was agreed. This matrix is attached at the end of these minutes.

85/19 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

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

It was reported that there had been a late night ‘knock on door’ problem. A well-dressed man, who was not under any influence, has been knocking on doors around 1 am saying ‘I need to use your phone to call my brother to come and get me’

86/19 To receive a report from Cllr Reed on the progress of the Wembdon Neighbourhood Plan

The inspector has reported. He has accepted the majority of the policies in the plan (which is very unusual) including preservation of the green spaces. He rejected the proposed wording of two of the policies for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan concerning Affordable homes and Parking space. These are being addressed through a 106 agreement for the Allocation of affordable homes to Wembdon Parishioners and the Planning Application for the Cokerhurst Farm development has used our policy for provision of parking spaces.

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SDC have been informed that we now wish to proceed with local referendum and this is currently scheduled for 4th July.

The Parish Council has been well represented at all of the Neighbourhood Plan meetings.

It was unanimously resolved to adopt the plan in its final form.

It was unanimously resolved to give a vote of thanks to all members of the Neighbourhood Plan team to get us to this point in record time.

- 87/19 To receive a report from Cllr Reed on the Playing Fields and Common and an update on the preparations for the Official Opening of the new play equipment by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset

The Lord Lieutenant, Mrs. Annie Maw will formally open the new Fully Accessible play equipment on Friday 17th May, meet at the Village Hall for 2.45pm. The welcome address will be at 3.00 pm. The ribbon cutting will take place at 3.30 pm when photos will be taken.

There has been an incident in the play area where young people were misbehaving. Their images were captured by the CCTV cameras on the Village Hall which clearly identified them, despite being a considerable distance away. The cameras are of the highest standards and continually monitor the activities of people using all parts of the Green. All authorities to do this surveillance are in place.

- 88/19 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on Highways and the adoption of the Village Hall access by SCC Highways.

An update was given regarding the Village Hall access. The final Stage 4 inspection has been requested from SCC Highways following which the access can be adopted. There is a contingency in our budget of £10,000 to pay for this adoption work.

The implications of the Skimmerton Road closure, and speed limits on the A39 were discussed. These are due to start on 10 June for 16 weeks. (Full details are on the Parish Council website). There are great fears that the disrupted traffic will drive through Wembdon. The SID will be used to monitor vehicle speeds. The Police will be asked to carry out speed checks during the period of the works. A suggestion was made that a set of average speed cameras could be used in the village which would help to reduce speeds as speeding drivers would then receive a fine.

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89/19 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Footpaths and Verges.

There was a problem at the allotment footpath during recent high winds. A tree fell across the allotment footpath, which has been removed. Somerset Tree Services attended, and noted that there are twenty dead elm trees along the footpath. This is from the crossroads at the top of the footpath to Blakes Lane. Arrangements are being made for a meeting with the footpaths officer.

90/19 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Parish Paper.

Articles to be included in the next edition include:

- Opening of Access for All Play equipment and Changing Places facilities by the Lord Lieutenant.
- The new entrance to the village hall with car park, trees, shrubs and fencing.
- The Neighbourhood Plan referendum.
- Details of Parish Councillors.

The distribution of the next edition will be on 14/15/16 June.

A Neighbourhood Plan Referendum flyer will be produced and distributed on 28/29/30 June. The content will be responsibility of the NP team.

91/19 To receive a report from Cllrs Harrison and Phillips on Allotments and repairs to the trackside wall.

A meeting has taken place with Harris and Collard a month ago, but progress has been slow. One section needs to be repaired now, but the rest of the wall can be replaced when finances allow. Harris and Collard will be chased regarding this.

It was unanimously resolved that the wall will be reinstated in approx. 20m sections depending upon the position of buttresses. It will be replaced with Wembdon stone to 66% of the current height and topped with iron railings to the current height. Block and render the rear side rather than double face wall. Harris and Collard will act as our Agents for the work and to tender out the work to qualified stonemasons and agree the final stonemason with the Parish Council.

92/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The usual problems exist. A speed of 65 mph was recorded going up Wembdon Hill at 7 am in the morning on 15 April. The average speed going up the hill was 23 mph. At the top of the hill the maximum speed was 55 mph

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for a vehicle coming into the village from the Cannington end, with an average speed being 27 mph.

The speedwatch team needs volunteers.

93/19 To consider the Council priorities for the coming year.

This has been already covered under minute 89/19. Councillors were reminded of the Council budget cycle, so if there are suggestions which would have precept implications they need to be discussed in October. The Finance team will be meeting in December and will bring a budget and precept proposal to Council in January.

94/19 To consider planning applications:

51/19/00007. 134 Wembdon Hill, Wembdon TA6 7QB. Erection of a two storey extension to side (east) elevation on site of existing shed (to be demolished) and single storey flat roof extension to rear (north) elevation. Formation of rear patio terrace and porch to front (south) elevation (amended scheme).

It was unanimously resolved not to comment on the application.

51/19/00008. 8 Risedale Close, Wembdon TA6 7QD. Erection of first floor extension above existing rear kitchen extension and erection of single storey extension to rear (west) elevation.

It was unanimously resolved not to comment on the application.

51/19/00010. 66, Wembdon Hill, Wembdon, TA6 7PX. Fell 1 No. Oak tree in G2.

It was unanimously resolved to submit the following comments

The Parish Council objects to the application on a number of grounds:

The arboricultural expert who submitted the tree report is also the applicant's agent. The Parish Council would like a second report to be obtained from a completely independent arboricultural expert before a decision is made.

The arboricultural report states that when it was written the tree was not in leaf. The tree is now in leaf, so this is another reason that a second report is obtained.

As the tree is now in leaf that that would indicate that the tree is not dead.

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95/19 To receive a report on the 'Access for All' Parklands project.

A Community consultation will be arranged. Drawings have been circulated to all Councillors. Full funding for the project is now in place.

96/19 To consider whether the Parish Council makes a grant of £1000 to Wembdon Primary School towards refurbishment works.

This is for new library equipment. The project is being supported by £500 from the WCA.

The Chairman explained that in the current financial year it was decided that the Parish Council would not have a budget for grants, to help keep the precept demand as low as possible. Unexpected expenditure had occurred since the precept was set, in particularly the problems with the allotments wall. If a grant was to be made then it would have to come from a budget heading which is already stretched.

A long discussion took place. Some Councillors expressed the opinion that the Parish Council should not be contributing to education funding. Some thought that the WCA contribution should be matched.

It was resolved not to make a grant (seven in favour, two abstentions).

97/19 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
300915	Zurich Municipal	Insurance renewal	£704.83
300916	WYG	Neighbourhood Plan Consultation work	£2722.44
300917	Mowtech	Parish Playing fields maintenance	£120.00
300918	Wembdon Cricket Club	Wine and snacks for Annual Parish Meeting	£60.00
300919	Wembdon Cricket Club	Donation to drill seeding	£1000.00

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300920	Brian Jones	Structural Report re Wall at Allotments	£1080.00
300921	Andrew Sutton	Extra cutting at Liddall Parkland	£180.00
300922	Media Orb	Website provision	£312.00

It was unanimously resolved to approve the payments

98/19 To consider matters of report:

The Quantock roundabout work improvements have been temporarily suspended, as work is being done to find the best contractor quote.

Work is going to be done to improve the footpaths and cycle paths in the Bridgwater area, including coming in and out of Wembdon. The work taking place in the Drove is a dual piece of work. EDF are doing footpath work at the same time as gas improvement work is taking place. The benefit is that the road will only have to be closed once.

There are parking problems in Church Road on Saturdays and Sundays. Sometimes the parking is so bad that emergency vehicles would not be able to get through. The PCSO will be asked to attend to assess the situation, firstly issuing warning notices for bad parking and then parking tickets if necessary.

99/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 10th June 2019

End of minutes