

# 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 virtually on 14<sup>th</sup> September 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 R Webber.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

117/20 To receive any apologies for absence.

All Councillors were present

118/20 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.

Cllr Edwards declared an interest in agenda items 121/20 and 122/20. Cllrs Claydon and Gliddon declared an interest in agenda item 127/20

119/20 To receive presentations from candidates who have submitted written applications to fill the casual vacancy for the Victoria Ward of Wembdon Parish Council

Presentations were received from two candidates.

120/20 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. Cllr Edwards left the meeting.

121/20 To consider the written applications and verbal presentations from candidates for the office of Parish Councillor in private session, but not to vote

The written applications and presentations were considered

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Members of the press and public were readmitted to the meeting

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122/20 To vote to co-opt a candidate to fill the casual vacancy for the Wembdon/Victoria ward of Wembdon

It was unanimously resolved to co-opt Kathryn Searle to the Parish Council.

Mrs. Searle will be appointed Councillor when she has signed the declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk

It was resolved to approve as a correct record the minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (6 in favour, 3 abstentions as not present)

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

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123/20 To receive the Clerk's report

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The existing numbering system used at the allotments was complicated and hard to administer. Cllr Claydon has done an excellent job in simplifying the numbering. In future there will no longer be full and half plots. Each plot will be of one size, being the equivalent of an old half plot. Previous full plots will now be split into two for administration purposes. This will mean that when an old 'full plot' becomes available it will be let as two plots. The existing rules stated that no-one could hold more than one full plot or two half plots. This will be amended to state that no-one can hold more than two plots.

124/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Highways

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A reported pot hole in Blakes Lane was repaired within three days. The traffic lights at Quantock Road roundabout are now operational.

125/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on the Footpaths and Verges

The previous maintenance contractor finished working with the Council at the end of July. A temporary contractor has carried out this work to a high standard. A tendering process for the new maintenance contractor will be taking place in the next two months. Invitations to tender will be posted on the Parish Council notice boards and website. Cllrs Edwards and Gliddon will prepare the scope of work for the tendering process which will be agreed at the October Parish Council meeting.

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Some of the SCC maintained footpaths are overgrowing and need cutting back. Cllr Gliddon will report this.

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126/20 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Parish Paper.

The latest edition of the newsletter has been published and distributed to most households in the parish

127/20 To receive a report from Cllr Claydon on the Allotments, and to consider the allotment fees for 2020-21

Two plots have recently been let. There are two more vacant plots and viewings will be taking place shortly. There have been problems with the Elm Trees at the bottom of the allotments. Sedgemoor Tree Services have been asked to look into the problem, along with the dead trees and those with Dutch Elm disease.

The rubbish has been cleared from the site, and some of the middle ground will be cleared and a pathway established.

It was unanimously resolved that the fees for a plot should be £25 for 2020-21.

128/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch. The SID was placed on Wembdon Hill for the past couple of weeks. There are more vehicles coming through the village again with the daily average rising from 943 per day in June to 1,087. The average speed has fallen slightly from 23.8 mph to 23.5 mph.

There were two instances of drivers at 60 mph, one being at 6 p.m. on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The average speeder is doing approximately 43 mph in a 30 zone. On average 0.4% of vehicles are in excess of 36 mph down from 0.6%

The Speedwatch team met on 4<sup>th</sup> September on Wembdon Rise and caught 4 vehicles in excess of 36 mph. Their details have been passed onto the police.

There have been speed calming measures introduced in Cannington recently. A request has been made to their Parish Council to ask about the effectiveness of the measures, but no replies have been received.

A meeting will be set up with SCC to assess the viability of fixed SIDs at the entrances to the village on Wembdon Rise and Wembdon Hill.

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129/20 To receive an update from Cllr Major on the website project.

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The design of the new website is in the process of being refined by our supplier. We hope to have a satisfactory design by the end of October, following which we will add our data.

The separate project to change our email provider is under way. The Clerk and four Councillors have been moved to the new server, and the remainder of the accounts will be moved shortly. The project is expected to be completed before the end of October.

- 130/20 To receive an update from Cllr Reed regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.  
The next EDF forum is due to be held next week.
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- 131/20 To note the nationally agreed pay increase of 2.75% for Parish Council employees.  
The increase was noted.
- 132/20 To consider a proposal to provide some back up and support for the Clerk and to carry out specific tasks which can be suitably packaged and monitored, with a view to reviewing this need in the longer term at the time that the Parish Council considers the 2021-22 budget.  
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The Clerk had previously circulated a paper which stated that his current sixteen hours per week is no longer enough to carry out the requirements of the role. Instead of asking for an increase in hours, he had requested that an assistant be appointed to work a maximum of four hours a week.  
It was resolved to appoint an assistant, on a self-employed contractor basis for a temporary period of three months when the situation will be reviewed.
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- 133/20 To consider whether the Parish Council should submit a bid for the Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund  
  
This was debated, and it was felt that if the footpath from Church Road to the NDR was to be upgraded to cycle path standard then this would encourage more cycling and less vehicle use. A working group consisting of Cllrs Edwards, Reed and Searle will compile and submit a bid to the fund.
- 134/20 To consider a request that an additional part of the playground should be enclosed with a fence.

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Cllr Reed explained the difficulties in submitting a bid for a grant for accessible swings, and the likelihood that the Parish Council would not be successful in receiving funding. Other organisations may be successful in bidding. The Chairman explained that the accessible play equipment is enjoyed by many children from outside the Parish as well as our own, and so it would not be fair for the whole cost of new equipment to be paid by the Wembdon taxpayer. He will liaise with Teresa Harvey at SDC to see if funding is available.

135/20 To receive an update from Cllr Claydon regarding her attendance at a Stronger Somerset briefing

Cllr Claydon reported that she had tried to join the briefing, but was unable to do so because of technical problems. It has been reported that some District Councillors experienced the same difficulties. The Parish Council has been invited to take part in the SDC consultation regarding Stronger Somerset. The Parish Council needs to decide who will consider the responses.

136/20 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
301069	PKF Littlejohn	External audit fees	£480.00
301070	Andrew Sutton	Extra grass cutting	£340.00
301071	Sedgemoor Tree Services	Section fell 5 dead elm trees	£540.00
301072	Wembdon Village Hall	Room hire £500. CCTV base station rental £250. Accessible toilet rental £250. All for April – Sept 2020	£1000.00
301075	SALC	Planning training	£30.00
301076	Tim's Tipper / Viridor	Rubbish removal from allotments and landfill charges	£447.20
301077	J P Services	Repairs to vandalism at Wembdon Parklands	£320.00
301080	Rabbit Holdings	Tree supports	£45.00

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A budget update sheet had been be pre circulated to members

The payments were noted and approved. The room hire payment was made as when the Covid 19 lockdown began and it was not known how long the hall would be unavailable for meetings, and so it would not have been wise to cancel the regular Monday Parish Council slots. Now that it is unlikely that face to face Parish Council meetings will be allowed for the rest of the financial year then the Council will suspend it's booking until April 2021, with the provision that the Council booking will then resume.

137/20 To consider matters of report:

Agenda items for the next meeting

There will be an update on the installation of a new bus stop shelter.

Councillors

The repointing on the Millennium Bridge has finished. The contractors have done an excellent job

Three quotes will be obtained for repointing work on the allotment wall.

An eight year old schoolgirl has asked whether we would display 'no littering' posters that she has designed in the Parish. It was agreed that this is an excellent idea, and the Parish Council will be delighted to display the posters

138/20 Date of next meeting: Monday 12th October 2020.

End of minutes