

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk
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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at St Georges School Wembdon on **December 15th 2014** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted

Present: Cllr M Solomon (Chairman), Cllr J Riddle (Vice Chairman), Cllr D Bingham, Cllr N Harrison, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr A Reed, Cllr T Thake, Cllr J Woods. Ward Cllr Bown.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

160/14: To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

161/14: To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

162/14: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th November 2014

The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(6 in favour, 2 abstentions - as not present at the previous meeting)

163/14: To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics

The Clerk read the Police report.

164/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Footpaths, Verges and Land working group.

The community day was very well attended. A large amount of the brambles on the Persimmon land were removed, but further bramble clearing work will be required. Another session will be planned in the New Year.

Signature of Chairman

165/14: To approve the expenditure of £1,000 plus VAT for a new path between Greenacre and Wares Lane

Resolved: To approve this expenditure

(Unanimous).

166/14: To approve the expenditure of approximately £400 plus VAT to tarmac the path at the bottom of Wares Lane

Resolved: To approve this expenditure

(Unanimous).

167/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Highways and Speedwatch working group

Research continues into the speed of vehicles through the village. The speedwatch team reported that vehicle speeds are not generally excessive, but more information is needed.

168/14: To consider a response to the Somerset County Council survey regarding bus services.

Resolved: To respond to the survey stating that the Parish Council would not be prepared to contribute to the cost of the bus service.

(Unanimous)

169/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Playing Fields working group

The Council noted the recent damage to the play equipment. The Clerk has arranged the repair of the broken item. Other maintenance repairs are in hand (using GB Sports and Leisure).

170/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Allotments working group

The litter bin has now been installed. The new arrangements regarding locking the entrance gate overnight are working well.

171/14: To discuss whether to 'split' allotments to enable individuals to have smaller plots if they desire.

It was agreed that it would be a good idea to split plots as many people find it difficult to manage a larger plot. The annual allotments meeting will be arranged for January.

Signature of Chairman

Resolved: To allow the splitting of plots.

(Unanimous)

172/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Communications working group

The Facebook site has received an increased number of 'hits'. It was agreed that the newsletter should continue. The Chairman thanked Cllr Jackson for her excellent work in editing the newsletter. Cllr Reed will assist with this in the future. All Councillors were asked to provide articles for the newsletter.

173/14: To consider correspondence received

- a) A letter has been received from Mr. and Mrs. P. Saunders regarding the number 6 bus route, and a suggestion that a bus shelter be situated in Homberg Way.

The Council supports the continuation of the number 6 bus route, and the Clerk will respond accordingly to the Somerset County Council consultation.

The Parish Council have no budget to maintain a bus shelter, or to match funding with Somerset County Council regarding the installation of a shelter.

- b) Wembdon St. Georges School has written thanking the Parish Council for their grant towards the cost of the school crossing patrol.
- c) The owners of 6 Wembdon Hill have responded to a request to repair the wall at the front of their premises. They will do so when they have the required funds to carry out the work.

174/14: To consider a financial update and to approve payments

Financial update reports were supplied. No questions were asked.

Statutory payments as per agreement under minute no 324/13

Clerks Salary December 2014	£ 404.40
HMRC Tax December 2014	£ 101.00
GB Sports for November 2014	£ 18.00
Andrew Sutton Contract for November 2014	£ 651.50

Resolved: To make the statutory payments

(Unanimous)

Non statutory payments list

Signature of Chairman

Somerset County Council – Room hire	£ 196.00
Glasdon UK Ltd. Litter bin purchase	£ 236.37
St. George’s Parish Centre – Room hire	£ 8.50
Clerk’s annual SLCC membership	£ 61.33

Resolved: To make the non-statutory payments

(Unanimous)

175/14: To consider a draft budget, and precept figure, prior to ratification at the January 2015 meeting.

Resolved: To formally approve the budget and precept figure as circulated by the Clerk. The precept figure will be £60,330 (which includes the council support grant of £2,722).

(Unanimous)

The Clerk will prepare an article for the newsletter, explaining the reasoning behind the increase in the precept figure.

176/14: Matters of report

a) Agenda items for the next meeting

No items were mentioned.

b) Chairman

The land transfer documents have now been signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. Charges on the land have been requested, and these requests will be submitted to our solicitor who will advise us accordingly. This advice will be brought to the Council for decision.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Clerk is temporarily acting as locum Clerk for Puxton Parish Council in North Somerset.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact BT to request the removal of the telephone box in the centre of Wembdon.

c) Clerk

The Clerk reported that he had been made aware of s134 of the Local Government Act which basically states that if a Parish Council does not own a suitable room to hold its meetings then the council may use, free of charge, a room in any school maintained by the local education authority to hold their meetings.

Signature of Chairman

St. Georges School have been charging the Parish Council to use the school for meetings. The Clerk has contacted the School Secretary and made her aware of this legislation. The Clerk has asked for a response to this issue prior to the Parish Council meeting to be held on 19th January 2015.

The Clerk informed the meeting that staging date for his pension is 1st May 2017. The Parish Council will be obliged by law to offer the Clerk some form of pension scheme on that date, but can bring this forward if the Council wishes to do so. The Clerk said that he had no desire for a pension scheme to start before May 2017.

d) Members

No items were mentioned.

The next meeting will be held on **19th January 2015** in St Georges School Wembdon at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 9.10pm