

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 15th June 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.

District/County Cllrs: B Bolt and M Caswell

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay Police: None

78/20 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Prowse and R Webber.

79/20 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.

No declarations were received

80/20 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th May 2020.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (7 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at the previous meeting).

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

81/20 To receive the Clerk's report.

Allotment repossession notices have been hand delivered to two allotment tenants who have failed to comply with the terms of their allotment tenancy agreement. They will need to vacate their allotments by 3rd July.

A parishioner has registered a complaint to the Information Commission Office that the Clerk had wrongly forwarded details of his address to the Wembdon Councillors, using the details held on the electoral role. The ICO has dismissed this complaint, reaffirming that Councillors are entitled to be informed of the details on the electoral role, if for lawful council business.

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Two further FOI requests have been received, which are currently under review. Dealing with these requests cannot be dealt with during the Clerk's limited weekly hours, and so overtime will be claimed at the expense of the Wembdon council tax payer.

The anti-social behaviour problems currently being experienced at Wembdon Common and elsewhere in the Parish have been reported to the Police, who have promised attendance whenever they are informed of incidents taking place. The litter caused by the people acting in this way will be collected by SDC, at an additional cost to the Wembdon council tax payer.

82/20

To debate a response to the notice served on the Parish Council from SCC Highways requiring the removal of the recently installed gates on Wembdon Parklands prior to 5pm on 24th June 2020.

District Councillors B Bolt and M Caswell agreed to contact the relevant officers at SCC to enquire whether that the notice should be revoked or suspended.

It was unanimously resolved that if the notice is not revoked or suspended then the gates will be carefully removed on 24th June.

The Clerk was asked to post a statement on the Parish Council website.

Wembdon Parish Council owns the Parklands, and has agreed that the PACT charity develops the land into an area that is inclusive to all. The project has won a 'Pride of Sedgemoor' award, and is a flagship urban facility which is leading the way in the inclusion of wildlife and nature to educate and enhance the wellbeing of those less able. The area has disabled friendly facilities and the paths have been upgraded to allow disabled people free access to enjoy the area. Therefore it has been specifically designed as a parkland for disabled people to use safely. To help achieve this safety, a grant was obtained from the Big Lottery fund to purchase gates to be installed to safeguard disabled people and animals from the very busy adjacent A39 Homberg Way. These gates were quickly purchased and installed in March prior to the beginning of the coronavirus lockdown as it was unclear at that time how long the lockdown would last. After taking professional advice, PACT thought that proper authority had been given by Somerset County Council to install the gates, but it now transpires that this is not the case and SCC has ordered that the gates must be permanently removed. Whilst understanding the legal reasoning behind SCC's decision, the Parish Council is very disappointed that the safety of disabled people may now be compromised. There has been a great deal of support for the installation of the

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gates from the residents of Wembdon, in particular from those who are disabled.

83/20 To note the notice served on the Parish Council from SCC Highways requiring the removal of the chicane on Wares Lane, and to approve a retrospective application for the installation of the chicane.

It was unanimously resolved to submit the retrospective application.

84/20 To consider the installation of 'pedestrians have priority over cyclists' signs at Wembdon Parklands and on the Green.

It was unanimously resolved to install three signs. Two will be at the metal footbridge and one at the end of the cycleway on the Parklands.

The Chairman will arrange for the signs to be purchased and installed.

85/20 To consider three quotations for the repointing of the Millennium Bridge

If this work was to take place at the present time then it would involve the closure of the public access across the bridge due to the current social distancing restrictions. It was agreed to defer the work until September or October when these restrictions may have been relaxed to allow the bridge to remain open whilst the repointing takes place.

It was unanimously resolved to support the project.

86/20 To receive an update from Cllr Phillips on the benches on the Common.

A quote for the replacement of three benches has been circulated. The Church has given agreement to replace the Millennium bench with a cast iron and recycled plastic bench, understanding that wood is not the preferred option for longevity and vandalism. The WCA and the Mitchell Trust will each contribute £500 to the cost of the bench replacements.

It was unanimously resolved to purchase three benches from Broxap for £2627 plus VAT. Installation costs will be extra.

Brass plaques will be fitted to the benches

87/20 To approve the Parish Council's website terms and conditions.

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It was resolved to approve the previously circulated website terms and conditions.

88/20 To approve the Parish Council's privacy policy.

It was resolved to approve the previously circulated privacy policy.

89/20 To approve the Parish Council's Document Retention and Deletion Policy.

It was resolved to approve the previously circulated document retention and deletion policy.

90/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The Chairman congratulated the SID and Speedwatch team for continuing to work voluntarily on behalf of the Parish during the recent period.

Thirteen weeks of data has been downloaded and circulated. The highest speed recorded was 65mph going down Wembdon Hill at 8pm on 25th May. The number of vehicles travelling through the Parish reduced during lockdown by 500 per day, however there were still over 800 vehicles passing through. The average speeder is travelling at 43mph down Wembdon Hill.

91/20 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

Arrangements have been put in place to safeguard the workers travelling on the buses.

Cllr Phillips gave an update regarding the Hinckley project.

92/20 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.

Chq no	Payee	Detail	Amount £
301049	CPRE	Annual subscription	36.00
301050	Land registry fee	Registration search	54.00
301051	Wembdon Village Hall	Village hall access fees	2554.85
301052	Andrew Sutton	Extra grass cutting	280.00

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301053	Edward Martin	Website setup deposit	600.00
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93/20 To consider matters of report:

The current public order problems being experienced in the Parish were discussed at length.

Travellers are looking for sites to move to, and there is a great fear that they may set up camp on the Parish Council land. Measures are being put in place to ensure that this will be as difficult as possible. High quality locks have been purchased to protect the Green and the Parklands. The gates that are currently open on the instruction of SCC provide an obvious current risk, but they cannot be closed.

It was unanimously resolved to donate £500 to the Village Hall trust towards the expenses involved in securing the entrances to the Green and the Parklands to discourage travellers entering these lands.

A parishioner has asked who should maintain 'Gypsy Lane' (footpath BW34/8). The Parish Council has paid for a land registry search, which shows that the lane is unregistered. The Clerk will enquire with SCC to find out who maintains unregistered paths such as this.

Wares Lane is also unregistered. It was unanimously resolved that the council should remove the dead trees in Wares Lane. Sedgemoor Tree Services will be asked to remove the dead trees.

Hemlock Water Dropwort has been found on Wembdon Parklands, and is being removed.

During the meeting it was reported that public disorder was taking place in Wembdon. Youths are running amok on the Green and the churchyard, with damage being caused and people being threatened. The Police are in attendance.

Cllr Claydon was thanked for her work at the allotments.

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94/20 Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th June at 6pm, to be held virtually on
Zoom pro.

End of minutes