

## WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council** held at Wembdon Village Hall on **19<sup>th</sup> June 2017** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted.

**Present:** Cllr M Solomon (Chairman), Cllr N Harrison, Cllr D Gliddon, Cllr J Hall, Cllr A Reed, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr T Travis, Cllr R Webber and Cllr J Woods.

District Cllrs A Bown, I Dyer and L Duddridge

**Parish Clerk:** Tony Jay      **Police:** None

**47.17 To receive any apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Jackson and County Cllr Caswell.

**48.17 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.**

No declarations were received.

**49.17 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

**It was resolved to** approve the minutes as a correct record (8 in favour, 1 abstention)

**50.17 To receive the Clerk's report.**

The Clerk had nothing to report. All correspondence received had been previously circulated.

**51.17 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.**

No Police report had been received. It was reported that burglaries have taken place in the parish, and also thefts have occurred from the sheds at the allotments. All incidents of crime should be reported to the Police.

**52.17 To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges.**

The vegetation at the footpath at Crossview Rise needs cutting back. It had been previously agreed with the adjacent landowner that they would do this work because the cutting disturbed their animals. Cllr Harrison will speak to the landowner to ask when this work will be done and failing immediate action, the Council would instruct Andrew Sutton to include this in his works.

Signature of Chairman

There are branches overhanging the road at the vacant property at 1, The Oaks. The Clerk will contact the estate agent selling the property to request that the trees are cut back.

**53.17 To consider the installation of a tarmac footpath from the Crossacre gate into the playing field running to the established tarmac path BW34/2.**

**It was unanimously resolved** that the Parish Council were in favour, in principle, to the installation of a new footpath in the park from the pedestrian gate entrance at Crossacre to the existing path.

This would be approximately 25 metres in length and is estimated to cost in the region of £2,000. This is a very busy pedestrian access route to the park and the Village Hall. RLT2 funding will be sought. Three quotations will be required. The Clerk will ask for quotes when he has received the specifications of the work.

Cllr Reed will progress the funding request for RLT2 money when quotations have been received.

**54.17 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on Highways and Speedwatch.**

The SID camera needs to be installed and put into operation. This will be arranged shortly.

The issue of Hinkley Point workers fly-parking on the streets in the parish whilst they are catching buses to work was discussed. The EDF management are very concerned about this and will take action to prevent it, but registration numbers, dates and times need to be recorded and forwarded to them. Cllr Reed will provide details of how to report this to EDF.

**55.17 To receive a report from Cllr Solomon on the Playing Fields.**

New swing seats have been fitted in the toddlers play area. The yellow binoculars which had been removed by vandals from the play area will be re-installed shortly by Cllr Webber, the necessary fixing kit having now been received from the manufacturer.

**56.17 To consider the installation on the Playing Fields of a swing suitable for use by disabled children.**

The Chairman described the need for such a swing, which needs to be vandal proof and strong enough for a motorised wheelchair.

**It was unanimously resolved** to pursue this project.

Various funding sources were available for this type of project, one example being the CIM funding from EDF. Local residents will be consulted to seek their views upon the location of the swing but all Councillors agreed that a feeling of inclusion was imperative.

Cllrs Harrison and Reed will progress this.

**57.17 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments.**

Some available allotments have been allocated. There are a few more empty ones, which will be allocated to people on the waiting list shortly.

**58.17 To receive a report from Cllr Solomon on Wembdon Parkland**

Signature of Chairman

The Chairman temporarily closed the meeting when a presentation was given by Lorna Edwards on behalf of the Voice for Wembdon Dog Walkers and Residents Group.

The meeting was re-opened.

The Chairman explained that a masterplan is in place for the whole 22 acres of the parkland. Not everything planned can be achieved immediately, but there are still a number of on-going improvements. This will all take time.

It was decided to set up a working group with Parish Councillors and Parishioners to coordinate the best way forward. The Wembdon Community Association will be invited to join. A charter will need to be established. This may evolve into an extended project over a period of years as further improvements are consulted on and agreed and funding established. The group will report through Cllr Harrison to the Parish Council on a monthly basis. As this is Parish Council land, public support for any proposals will need to be demonstrated. This approach has been used before with the Council and has proven to be a mechanism for turning good ideas into concrete plans.

Cllr Harrison was appointed to be the Councillor to work with this group and will report back to the next meeting after meeting with Lorna Edwards and others.

**59.17 To receive a report from Cllr Jackson regarding communications.**

The Parish newsletter will need a distribution plan. District Cllr Duddridge said that he would help with the distribution in the Notaro estate area.

Cllr Gliddon was thanked for his regular Facebook updates.

The Chairman will be speaking to a Parishioner who has offered to help with the website.

**60.17 To receive an update on the Village Green and Village Hall project from Cllr Solomon.**

The official opening of the Village Hall will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Lady Gass is officiating. The community open day will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, where everyone is welcome.

The final cost of the works involved in the construction of the entrance to the car park is likely to be in the region of £220,000. This increase over budget is mainly due to additional works required by the Highways Engineer on site, over which the contractor and the Parish Council had no control.

The Chairman was thanked for all his work in regards to this project, especially in light of all the difficulties experienced.

**61.17 To consider possible actions by the Council to maintain and generally improve the "Wembdon Streetscene".**

The hedge next to the raised footpath in Church Road has been cut which is very pleasing.

**62.17 To consider the maintenance and repair of the tarmac footpath from the bridge on The Green towards the NDR.**

The owner of the land through which a section of this footpath runs has been contacted to see what she is prepared to allow.

Signature of Chairman

**It was unanimously resolved** to make every effort to get this footpath up to a standard suitable for disabled users.

Three quotations will be required. The Clerk will ask for quotes when he has received the specifications of the work, which is a run of approx. 150m, taking the path width to the same as the new footpath through the park.

**63.17 To report the current position in regard to the piece of land, Council owned, in front of numbers 41 - 47 Church Road.**

An email received from resident Mr William Lockyer was circulated to the meeting.

Mr Lockyer has agreed to fill in the potholes in the future. The Parish Council agreed to this being done.

Cllr Webber left the meeting at this point.

**64.17 To consider renewing the Parish Council's membership of Somerset Playing Fields Association.**

**It was unanimously resolved** to renew the membership at a cost of £30.

**65.17 To consider renewing the Parish Council's membership of CPRE.**

**It was unanimously resolved** to renew the membership at a cost of £36.

**66.17 To consider correspondence received.**

Cllr Gliddon spoke regarding the following request which had been received from Denis Spragg of 28 Church Road and Peter Bell of 2 Crossfield Close:

The Parish Council has been requested to do 2 things:

- 1. Remove/relocate the bench which is nearest to their properties. They had fought for some time to get the bench moved to the other side of the park and then this one has returned about 9 months ago, without consulting them, and apparently they are now getting antisocial behaviour in the early hours of the morning with kids sat on the bench.*
- 2. Clear the vegetation & cut the banks in the rhynes around the Millennium Bridge, as well as cutting the verge in Crossfield Close. They would like the PC to action this as they have concerns about flooding.*

**It was unanimously resolved** to leave the bench in its current position as it is of great benefit to the parents and guardians of children using the adjacent children's play area, who sit on the bench whilst supervising them.

If anti-social behaviour is being experienced then it should be reported to the Police on 101 when it is occurring.

**It was unanimously resolved** not to cut the vegetation in the rhyne, as the drainage board insist on doing this work themselves. The Clerk will contact the drainage board and ask them to do this work as soon as possible.

**It was unanimously resolved** not to cut the verge in Crossfield Close as this is private land.

**67.17 To consider a financial update and to approve payments:**

- (a) Statutory Payments as per agreement under minute no 324/13

Signature of Chairman

(b) Non Statutory Payments List:

Cheque no	Payee	Detail	Amount
300644	Sedgemoor District Council	Dog bin emptying	£167.23
300645	J Simpson	Tree removal	£900.00
300649	STAC	Tables	£233.76

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

**It was unanimously resolved** to approve the statutory and non-statutory payments.

**68.17 To consider matters of report:**

A Hinkley Point update was provided by Cllr Reed. There are around 1900 workers on site now. 54% of these are local people, but this percentage will drop when more workers are brought in. They are currently working on a temporary jetty and an aggregate storage and welfare building.

The building of the Bridgwater accommodation campus will be started in July and the first phase will be completed by July 2018. Work on the Cannington Park and Ride will commence shortly and should be operational by May 2018.

The decommissioning of Hinkley Point A will be re-tendered as the original contractor has pulled out.

A large number of Hansen aggregate lorries are now using the NDR in bunches. This is despite of the fact that they are only allowed to leave the site at three minute intervals.

The Chairman said that he had taken responsibility for the registering of the Clerk's pension with the Pension Regulator. The Clerk said that he would not be taking out a pension, which will save the Parish Council some money.

The notice board on Wembdon Hill will be moved to the allotments shortly.

**69.17 Date of next meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The meeting closed at 9.27pm

Signature of Chairman