

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk
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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Parish Centre on **19th October 2015** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted

Present: Cllr M Solomon (Chairman), Cllr N Harrison (Vice Chairman), Cllr D Bingham, Cllr D Gliddon, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr A Reed, Cllr J Riddle; Cllr R Webber

Cllr A Bown, Cllr I. Dyer.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

109/15: To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs T Thake and J Woods. Also from Cllrs J Edney and L Duddridge.

110/15: To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

No declarations were expressed.

111/15: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st September 2015.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded

Resolved: To approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting. (Unanimous)

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

112/15: To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

There was no Police attendance at the meeting. The Clerk read the Police report, which stated:

Signature of Chairman

'300 calls in the month of September to our new beat area. Wembdon break down as follows

1 x Burglary; 1 x Domestic Incident; 6 x Abandoned 999 calls; 7 x Suspicious incidents; 1 x Mud on road (new Roundabout); 2 x Concern for welfare'

Cllr Thake had reported that a man has pleaded guilty to a burglary at the School earlier this year.

113/15: To receive the Clerks report.

i) Moores Lane update

Lawrence Hackling of Somerset County Council is arranging for Moores Lane to be inspected, and any safety defects identified will be repaired.

ii) Police action at the allotments

PC Freeman has expressed his total support for an alcohol ban at the allotments. He cannot supply the names and addresses of young people congregating at the allotments due to data protection reasons. PC Freeman says that patrolling officers are regularly visiting the allotments. Councillors and members of the public stated that they had not noticed any increase in the patrols.

The Clerk said that meetings will be held shortly to progress the alcohol ban.

The Clerk has been frustrated in his attempts to get a list of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. He will continue to try to get a list.

114/15: To receive and discuss a report from the Footpaths, Verges and Land Working Group.

The public footpath leading from Blakes Road to Moores Lane was discussed. A paddock that contains the footpath has been sold, and fencing has been ripped down. Electrified fencing has been installed, which could easily be touched by people using the footpath. This has been reported to County Hall. Cllr Harrison is dealing with the matter. Councillors felt that warning signs should be installed.

Another very successful 'give a day' has been held. Lots of positive comments have been received. The next 'give a day' will be on 7th November. A digger will need to be hired and Cllr Harrison agreed to organise this.

The Chairman spoke in regard to the temporary fence at Wembdon Parkland, following a question received from a member of the public. The fence will be changed to something more permanent. Cllrs Harrison, Jackson and Reed will look at alternative options regarding the replacement fence.

Signature of Chairman

The dead cherry tree on Wembdon Common has been removed, but the stump remains to be dug out, probably at the next give a day. Two replacement trees have been planted. The trees on the Common need to be pruned. Councillors said that they would start this process shortly.

The free bulbs have been ordered, and will be planted shortly.

Positive comments have been received regarding the improvements to the Wares Lane footpath. Questions are being asked regarding when it will be tarmacked.

115/15: To receive and discuss a report from the Highways and Speedwatch Working Group.

There are three more speedwatch volunteers waiting to be trained. This will increase the number of volunteers to seven. More volunteers would be welcomed. A request will be posted on the Parish Council website.

A recent speedwatch session found that 300 cars were travelling through Wembdon in just one hour. The vehicles were travelling in both directions.

Repair work will be carried out on the traffic lights on the NDR/Church Road junction during the forthcoming school half term holidays.

The verges on Skimmerton Lane have disintegrated following an increased use of the road during the recent traffic diversion. The Clerk will contact Somerset County Council Highways Department regarding this.

116/16: To appoint members to a formal working group to liaise with Highways in preparing a Wembdon Traffic Plan based upon the safe cycle ways feasibility study.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded

Resolved: That Cllrs Gliddon, Harrison and Reed will meet with Andy Coupe of Somerset County Council on 26th October. (Unanimous)

117/15: To receive and discuss a report from the Playing Fields Working Group.

It was reported that the dip underneath the football goals needs to be filled. This would be carried out when the Council has a suitable digger available.

118/15: To receive and discuss a report from the Allotments Working Group.

Plot 1D has now been let.

119/15: To receive and discuss a report from the Communications Working Group.

Signature of Chairman

Nothing was raised.

120/15: To receive an update on the Village Green and Village Hall project.

The roof has now been installed at the hall. The windows are being fitted. The hall should be handed over to the Trust in early March, with a formal opening planned for May.

The Technical Approval for the planned road access from the NDR should be issued shortly.

121/15: To note the Sedgemoor District Council's Draft Sports/Leisure and Recreation Open Space Strategy and to agree a response

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded

Resolved: To express the Parish Council's support for the plan (Unanimous)

122/15: To consider correspondence received:

- (a) Letter received from Mr P Flaherty, Chief Executive, Somerset County Council regarding planning application 1/51/15/022.

The letter was noted.

- (b) Letter and brochure received from Andrew Turner, Highways Service Manager, Somerset County Council regarding the Highways Winter Service.

It was suggested that a link to the SCC website be put on the Wembdon Parish Council website.

- (c) Letter received from Andrew Turner, Highways Service Manager, Somerset County Council regarding the provision of de-icing material.

Cllr Thake will be asked if he can collect the de-icing material again this year.

- (d) Information sheet about 'CRISP' – Community Resilience in Somerset Project.

Cllr Harrison will write an article for the Parish magazine asking for expressions of interest from the public.

123/15: 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:

Signature of Chairman

SDC	Dog bin emptying	£1505.09
J. Liddall	Annual rental of Moats Meadow	£160.00
M. Solomon	Digger rental for 'give a day'	£50.00

The budget update sheet was noted.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded

Resolved: To approve the Statutory and Non Statutory payments (Unanimous)

124/15: To consider whether Wembdon Parish Council should start working towards producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

An article will be prepared for the Parish magazine asking for expressions of interest from people who would be prepared to be involved in the preparation of a plan. A stand-alone leaflet will be circulated to all properties in Wembdon outlining the advantages of having a plan. The steering group will initially consist of Cllrs Harrison, Reed and Webber.

125/15: To review the Councillor Code of Conduct.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded

Resolved: To adopt the previously circulated code of conduct (Unanimous)

126/15: To receive a further update regarding the recently attended affordable housing seminar.

An update was given to the meeting.

127/15: To consider matters of report:

(a) Agenda items for the next meeting

The Clerks report will include updates on all matters arising that are not covered elsewhere in the published agenda. The Cottage Inn and Neighbourhood Plan updates would be included on the agenda.

(b) Chairman

The Clerk confirmed that the Cottage Inn had now been added to the Assets of Community Value register. Cllr Gliddon gave an update to the meeting, saying that Wadsworth brewery currently intended to sell the Inn as a "going concern". New tenants/managers will be taking over in November, with the Inn being shut for about two days.

It was decided to form a steering group to investigate the feasibility of purchasing the Inn. A meeting will be held on 9th November in the Parish

Signature of Chairman

Centre at 7.30pm to gauge public enthusiasm. If there is not sufficient interest then the matter will not be progressed. The meeting will be advertised in a Mercury article, and posters being displayed around the village.

Date of next meeting: 16th November 2015 at St. Georges School, Wembdon.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signature of Chairman