

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held virtually on 20th May 2020 that commenced at 3.00pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Cllrs M Solomon (Chairman), D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, P Major, M Phillips, A Reed, and R Webber.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

Police: None

64/20 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Hall and J Prowse who were both at work.

65/20 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.

There were no declarations of interest.

66/20 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th March 2020.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (6 in favour, 2 abstentions as not present at the previous meeting).

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

67/20 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th March 2020.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (5 in favour, 3 abstentions as not present at the previous meeting).

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

68/20 To receive the Clerk's report.

The Council has provided an excellent response to the coronavirus lockdown with a team of volunteers includes Councillors and other parishioners helping people who are shielding by collecting prescriptions, doing shopping etc. Everyone involved is thanked for their efforts.

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The gates at the entrance to Wembdon Parklands were installed just as the lockdown was beginning. This urgency was necessary as the funding grant from the national lottery was due to expire in May. The gates have been temporarily locked open whilst applications for additional permits are being processed with SCC. The clerk has received a large number of emails supporting the gates, including one from a mother of an autistic child who now feels that it is safe for her son to play in the parklands. Fewer than five parishioners have objected to the gates.

An unfortunate incident has happened at the allotments where two young people, male and female, spent the night on a mattress in a shed on one of the allotment plots. This is against the allotment rules. The Clerk and Cllr Claydon are dealing with the matter.

The newly passed High Consequence Infectious Disease policy has been used to provide responses to some planning applications and to pay invoices received. Details of the invoices are contained later in this agenda. The planning responses will be included on the agenda for the next planning committee meeting whenever that takes place.

- 69/20 To approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2020 (s.1 of the Annual Return 2019/20).

It was unanimously resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2020.

- 70/19 To approve the Annual Accounting Statements for the year ending 31st March 2020 (s.2 of the Annual Return 2019/20).

It was unanimously resolved to approve the Annual Accounting Statements for the year ending 31st March 2020.

- 71/20 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

The coronavirus arrangements were discussed at the Transport Forum. Concerns were raised about people not observing social distancing on buses, but this has now largely been sorted out. A large number of Hinkley workers who had been living in HMOs have been moved onto the main site.

- 72/20 To approve a plan to appoint a contractor to carry out final remediation work at Wembdon Parklands.

Steve Bull of Avalonian has agreed to include around twenty tons of soil which is required to fill the deep ruts on the Parklands free of charge should he be appointed to carry out this work. He is available to start the work in the near future, which is ideal as the work needs to be done before the ground dries out in the anticipated spell of hot weather. The Clerk confirmed that the requirements of our financial regulations to obtain three quotes can be waived in these circumstances.

It was unanimously resolved to approve a budget of up to £3,000 for this work.

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It was unanimously resolved to amend our contractor's maintenance schedule to include the maintenance of the Parklands and that the Parish Council now takes on the responsibility for future maintenance and any repairs needed at the Parklands.

73/20 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 £
301028	Chew Valley Trees	Tree Removal	261.06
301032	Anthony Jay	Clerk's expenses Jan – March 2020	642.01
301033	Parish Magazine Printing	Newsletter printing	440.00
301034	Sedgemoor DC	Litter bin emptying	781.25
301037	Harris Bros and Collard	Stone plinth	972.00
301038	GB Sports	Playground inspections	108.00
301039	Parratt IDB	Drainage rates	16.80
301040	Somerset Playing Fields Association	Annual Subscription	15.00
301041	Richard Young	Internal audit	50.00
301045	Media Orb	Website hosting	312.00
301046	Zurich Insurance	Annual renewal	1008.86
301047	WYG	Consultancy fee	810.00
301048	Sedgemoor DC	Dog bin emptying	1839.54

74/20 To consider matters of report:

The Millennium Bridge needs repointing. Three quotes for the work will be obtained. Some of the benches on the common need renovating and/or replacing. Cllr Phillips will progress this.

Work continues on the new Parish Council website.

A large group of young people are holding a party each evening in a field near to the Parrett Trail. This breaches the lockdown regulations and has been reported to the Police.

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Drugs dealing continues in the vicinity of Wares Lane. This will be reported to the Police once more by the Clerk. Our PCSOs will be asked why we are not receiving their monthly report as previously promised.

Bonfires have been reported at the allotments. Cllr Claydon will write to all allotment holders giving guidelines regarding bonfires. Now that the recycling centres are reopening, bonfires should not be necessary.

There are abandoned cars in Blakes Lane with no MOT or tax. They will be reported to SDC.

75/20 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 from the meeting.

76/20 To consider the continuation of the Parish Council's Vexatious Correspondence and Complaints policy imposed in October 2019 in regard to three members of the public.

It was unanimously resolved to end the implementation of the Parish Council's Vexatious Correspondence and Complaints policy imposed on three members of the public for a period of six months commencing October 2019. The Clerk will write to the three individuals concerned, with the letters being hand delivered.

77/20 Date of next meeting: To be decided.

End of minutes