

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Clerk, Tony Jay, 11 Wyvern Mews, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3GZ.
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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held virtually on 8th March 2021 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors M Solomon (Chairman), D Claydon, D Gliddon, J Hall, P Major, M Phillips, A Reed, K Searle and R Webber.

District Councillor I Dyer and County Councillor B Bolt joined the meeting at 8pm

Locum Parish Clerk: Sally Diaz

44/21 To receive any apologies for absence.

Councillor L Edwards sent her apologies.

45/21 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.

The were no declarations of interest.

46/21 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th February 2021.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes as being a correct record of the meeting.

The Chairman signed the minutes AS ~~of~~ being a true record.

47/21 To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had requested to speak.

The Chairman gave an update regarding the problems which took place at the Village Hall on Friday 5th March. A group of young people were seen committing four types of offence. These were underage drinking; drug taking; anti-social behaviour including the smashing of bottles and breaches of the Covid restriction rules. These events were captured on three CCTV cameras. Two hours of footage from each camera was sent to the Police who identified twelve people that they wanted to speak to. The Police gave the authority for a number of images showing faces to be posted on the Parish Council's Facebook page in an effort to identify these people. This authority was given as the events took place on private property, and the required signage is in place. All measures were confirmed as fully legal by the Police.

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The twelve people have all been identified. All were under 18 and some were under 16. The Police will be speaking to them.

Councillor D Gliddon was thanked for his work in posting the images on Facebook and managing the many responses.

48/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on Highways.

The damaged crossroads sign on Sandford Hill has been repaired and moved to the other side of the road. Drain clearance work on Moores Lane will be starting in the next few weeks. The drainage board have now become involved, and a larger bore pipe will be fitted to help take the flood water away.

49/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on the Footpaths and Verges.

The railings and posts in the raised section of Church Road have been painted. This is a super job.

The reflective tape has been put on the chicane in Wares Lane, as required by SCC. The chicane will now be adopted by the SCC footpaths team.

There are some problems identified on the SCC footpaths maps in the outlying areas of the parish. Most of these are historic problems. The SCC footpaths officer said that these are not unusual in a rural area and he is aware of them.

There has been a problem with water on a footpath in the wildflower meadow area. This has been inspected by the SCC footpath officer, who notes that water does sit on the footpath when it rains, but that this problem occurs on most footpaths. He will not be taking any immediate action.

The pedestrian priority signs for the footpaths through the park and in the Parkland area have been approved by the footpaths officer, and they will now be installed by the council.

50/21 To receive an update from Councillor Hall on the Playing Fields and Common.

The rubber floor tiles next to the trampoline are sticking up. The Chairman will inspect these and secure any tiles that need fixing.

The new litter bins will be delivered shortly. They will be embossed with the Parish Council logo at very little extra cost.

51/21 To receive a report from Councillor Hall on the Parish Paper.

The latest edition has been published and circulated. A young man who is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh award helped with the deliveries and

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is thanked. More companies are now advertising in the Parish Paper which is bringing in a good source of income.

Councillor J Hall was thanked for her works in producing the magazine.

52/21 To receive a report from Councillor Claydon on Allotments.

There has been a lot of interest from people wanting allotments, although there are currently no free plots. The secretary of the Bridgwater allotments says that they have vacant plots.

The allotment holders now have their own Facebook page where lots of information is being exchanged.

54/21 To receive an update from Councillor Major on the Website Project.

Councillor P Major has been working on the project, updating pages and adding structure. It will be a time-consuming task to upload the historic documents.

53/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The new SID posts have been installed. One on Sandford Hill and one on Wembdon Rise. There have been issues with overhanging branches, but these are being sorted out.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Speedwatch team for its work regarding the installation of the new SID and the moveable one.

The hire of a cherry picker to install the next SID on Sandford Hill was approved.

The mobile SID has been on Wembdon Hill since January. The average speed has dropped to 22.9 mph from 23.5mph. There was an average of 715 vehicles a day, and the average speeder is doing 43mph. On 22nd February at 11.10 pm a speed of 70 mph was recorded going down Wembdon Hill. The SID is now at the top of Wembdon Hill.

The Speedwatch team should no longer operate with two members. The Police advise that there must be three people in future.

55/21 To receive an update from Councillor Searle on the Village Hall Community Youth Project.

The project is coming on well. A grant of £2,428 has been received from SDC. An extra person has joined the steering group. A principal designer, who can also provide Health and Safety advice has offered his services free of charge. Also, Berry and Escott have agreed to be project managers free of charge. Bridgwater College are enthusiastic in helping with carpentry and plumbing etc. They will be using this as a training project to develop the

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skills of students. Liaison is taking place with local Secondary Schools. More grant applications are being submitted. Things will move forward when Covid restrictions allow.

56/21 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

Reactors 3 and 4 will soon be generating for a period of six months. Then they will shut down again for a period, prior to running for a further final six months.

A transport forum meeting is due to be held shortly.

57/21 To consider whether the Parish Council wishes to purchase a Somerset flag and associated paraphernalia to celebrate Somerset Day 2021.

It was unanimously resolved to purchase a flag to be flown on Somerset Day. The clerk will action this.

58/21 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract February	1417.00

The payments were noted.

59/21 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerks expenses February 2021.	163.10
CJL Painting	Railings painting	200.00

The payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

60/21 To note the change of date for the 2021 Annual Parish Council meeting from Monday 10th May to Tuesday 4th May.

The change of date was noted.

61/21 To consider matters of report:

The Chairman briefed the meeting that a member of the public had been concerned that the cricket square was relatively close to Sunshiners Playgroup and he had asked SCC to examine the situation. They commissioned a company called Labosport to report on the concern. Labosport found that there is not an issue with balls reaching the playgroup, but there was a concern that balls could reach the play area. The report

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recommended that action needs to be taken. The Cricket Club are allowed to play on the field by the Village Hall trust. The outfield is on Parish Council land. A group meeting was set up including the Cricket Club, the Trust and the Parish Council to look at options. There are 13 wickets on the cricket square. The two westerly wickets are currently only used by junior players, who Labosport calculate would not be able to hit a ball far enough to reach the play area. An alternative option offered by Labosport would be to install a four metre high fence, but this was considered to be a possible target for vandalism and may be viewed as detrimental to the visual amenity of the area.

Labosport did not consider the footpath to be an issue as similar situations arose in many village greens when cricket was played. The Chairman will contact Labosport on behalf of the group to find out whether the proposal not to use the end two wickets by senior players would be sufficient. It was agreed that if Labosport charged for this advice then the Parish Council will pay the charge.

The proposed conversion of the Post Office and shop to a private residence was discussed. The owner has tried for a few years to sell the business as a going concern, but no one wants to buy it. It was accepted that there is nothing that the Parish Council can do to prevent the shop from closing. It was agreed that if a group of Parishioner volunteers were to set up a group to run a community shop then the Parish Council will support the group but would not take the lead on the project.

The PACT charity has now raised the balance of the cost of a CCTV system for the Parklands. The camera feed will go to the existing storage system in the village hall. The total cost is around £16,000. The Parish Council has budgeted to provide £10,000 in 2021-22 towards the project. Councillors L Edwards and M Phillips will work on this with the Chairman.

Councillor P Major said that we are prepared to invoke our website procedure in relation to Operation London Bridge (the death of a senior member of the Royal Family) when necessary.

There has been an increase in litter in the lanes during lockdown, and groups of litter pickers have been working hard to clean this up. There has also been an increase in dog mess. It was agreed to trial the use of a stencil and spray paint to mark dog mess. The Clerk will call Clean Surroundings to ask for their advice regarding this.

The young man doing his Duke of Edinburgh award will be doing more work in the parish. He will be asked if he would like to become involved with the Village Hall Community Youth Project.

62/21

Date of next meeting: At 7.00 pm on Monday 12th April 2021. The meeting will be followed by the Annual Parish Assembly, which will commence at 8.00 pm. After the APS there will be a 'Fun Quiz' based on Wembdon.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm. End of minutes.