

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk of the Parish Council Tony Jay 11 Wyvern Mews, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3GZ  
Email [clerk@wembdon.org](mailto:clerk@wembdon.org) Telephone 07741 461982

Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

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

District Cllrs B Bolt and I Dyer.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay          Police: None

232/19          To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr J Prowse, and District Cllr M Caswell.

233/19          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.

234/19          To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (8 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at the previous meeting).

235/19          To receive the Clerk's report.

Cllr Prowse and the Clerk attended the Cluster meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November. A very interesting presentation was given about the Bridgwater Barrier, which is due to open in 2024. The total cost will be around £100 million, with £20 million being raised locally, and £80 million being requested from Central Government. It is important that Parish and Town Councils express their support for the project whenever they can. When operational it is envisaged that the barrier will be operated tens of times per year, but when the effects of global warning are felt then this will increase to hundreds of times a year. The barrier will incorporate a cycle path and footpath.

A presentation was given by SDC regarding climate change. A series of drop in events will be held throughout the district which will engage with individuals, young people, the elderly, communities, interest groups, businesses, educational institutions, wards and Town and Parish Councils. All sections of society will have the opportunity to help develop a strategic response to climate change.

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The Clerk has written to the seven allotment holders whose plots have not been properly tended and cultivated, asking them to confirm by 15<sup>th</sup> December, whether they wish to keep their allotments. Three have replied so far, with two wishing to keep their plot and agreeing to keep it in good condition, although one may not be able to do so for a number of months due to work commitments. The other person who has replied wishes to give up her plot. Four people have yet to reply. If they do not do so by the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> December then the Clerk will start the repossession procedures in the New Year.

The Councillors will consider the Parish Council's protocol for the death of a senior Royal figure at the January meeting.

Due to persistent and lengthy email communications to the Council regarding Wembdon Parklands from a person already covered under the vexatious communications and complaints policy, following consultation with The Chairman, the matter is being escalated to the Parish Council solicitor and to legal specialists where appropriate. Initial costs will be borne by the Council and the Council insurance cover will take over once excess amounts have been reached.

236/19 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

There was no Police presence and no report had been received.

PCSO Jason Wyatt has not been seen in the Parish for a while. The Chairman will find out when he will next be at the regular Village Hall coffee morning. There has been a break in at a cottage in Hollow Lane. Trespassers have been seen in local gardens recently.

237/19 To receive a report from Cllr Prowse on the Playing Fields and Common.

The table top rotator has been replaced on the accessible roundabout. All the equipment has been serviced.

238/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Highways.

The concrete base has been completed at Sandford Corner bus stop. This is already being appreciated by bus users. The contractor did an excellent job.

239/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on the Footpaths and Verges.

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The problems reported to Clean Surroundings and recorded in minute 219/19 have not been resolved. The Clerk will chase this with Clean Surroundings and County Highways.

240/19 To consider a quotation received for a self-closing gate on the footpath between Wares Lane and Greenacre (£1,736).

It was unanimously agreed, in principle, to fit a self-closing gate with vertical bars. This will be adjourned until March 2020 to enable alternative quotations to be obtained and considered.

241/19 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Parish Paper.

The latest edition is currently being printed. Arrangements will be made for it to be distributed within the next few days. Cllr Hall was thanked for all her hard work in preparing and editing the paper.

242/19 To receive a report from Cllr Claydon on Allotments.

There are currently two allotments available to be re-let.

243/19 To approve an amended allotment policy.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the policy.

244/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The Speed Indicator Device has been at the top of Wembdon Hill during November.

- In August when the SID was in the same location, we had a daily average of 878 vehicles per day passing through – this is now 814.
- The average speed in August was 28.1 mph and now it's 26.7 mph.
- Highest recorded speed in August was 55 mph – this time it was 60 mph.

The SID will be relocated on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 09:15.

The speedwatch team has operated eight times in the Parish this year. A total of fifteen vehicles were recorded as travelling at speeds above 36 mph. This was 1.2% of all vehicles. The SID and speedwatch teams were thanked for all their efforts which are clearly making a difference.

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245/19 To receive an update on the Website Project from Cllr Major.

Progress has been made, with questionnaires sent to the six providers being considered. Four have replied. The working group will meet in the New Year to discuss these responses.

246/19 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

The Quantock Road roundabout is currently being updated. There have been very few road closures. The construction works are being kept off the road as much as possible.

247/19 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:

Cheque no	Payee	Detail	Amount
300999	PKF Littlejohn	External auditor fees	£480.00
301000	SDC	Litter bin emptying April – Sept 2019	£781.25
301001	Amazon	Flags and bunting for VE day celebrations	£53.77
301002	PC Rescue	Laptop service and repairs	£80.00
301003	SALC	VAT training	£60.00
301004	Dave Howe	Concrete base at bus stop	£480.00

A budget update sheet had been be pre circulated to members.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the payments.

The Clerk granted a dispensation to all Councillors to allow them to consider the following agenda item.

248/19 To approve the budget and precept demand for 2020-21.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the budget and a precept of £98,220.

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The Chairman gave an explanation of the budget calculations.

The background to this increased precept is included in minute 229/19 of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Notices on the Parish Council boards had offered Parishioners the opportunity to discuss the precept with the Clerk and to ask any questions prior to the meeting.

249/19 To consider matters of report:

Cllr Phillips gave an update regarding the preparations for the VE Day celebrations, which will take place on the national holiday of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020. These will include a party in the park; games; a tree planting and plaque unveiling. The Last Post will be played at 3 pm.

There will be an event at the Cottage Inn in the evening, including a raffle where the proceeds will go to the British Legion.

It was unanimously resolved to make a sum of up to £500 available to part fund the Village VE day celebrations.

The whole day is planned to be a 'non-profit making day'. The Church will be holding a special service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>. Everything will be detailed in a future Parish Paper.

It was agreed in principle that this would be an excellent opportunity to install a flag pole at the village hall.

Cllr Edwards proposed that there should be a litter bin at the Parklands. Ideally this would be a bin which separates recyclable and non-recyclable litter. There will be an agenda item in January to discuss this.

The Cokerhurst Farm planning application has yet to be considered by the SDC development committee. It may not now be considered until February 2020.

Cllr Reed has still not received a reply from Variety regarding the grant application for more accessible play equipment. She will chase this up once again.

The Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign will be invited to speak for a few minutes at the start of the Parish Council meeting in January.

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250/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Mince pies and mulled wine were enjoyed by everyone after the meeting.

End of minutes