

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Clerk, 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 virtually on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 that commenced at 7.30 pm 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, K Searle and R Webber.

District Councillor B Bolt. County and District Councillor M Caswell.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

164/20 To receive any apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

165/20 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.

Cllr Reed declared an interest in agenda item 185/20.

166/20 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting that took place on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

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

167/20 To receive the Clerk's report.

The Clerk will not be available to attend the Parish Council meeting scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> December due to personal reasons. It was agreed to bring the December Parish Council meeting forward a week until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Internet banking has now been set up, with payments already being made by BACS. The signatories on the Council's bank account are Cllrs Gliddon, Hall, Phillips, Reed and Solomon.

The conversion of Parish Council documents to make them compliant with the Website Accessibility Regulations continues.

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- 168/20 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.
- The Spring Monster in the children's play area has broken. GB Sports will be attending to repair or replace the unit.
- 169/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Highways.
- Wembdon Hill has re-opened after the recent work by the water board.
- Potholes in Perry Green were recently reported to SCC Highways, and were repaired within three days which was an excellent service.
- The Parish Council is still awaiting the adoption of the access to the Village Hall from the NDR. County Councillor Caswell will once again chase this up.
- 170/20 To consider recommendations for the restoration of the fingerposts in the parish.
- Cllr Gliddon had previously circulated a briefing report to all Councillors.
- Cllrs Gliddon and Reed have identified five fingerposts in the parish which require renovation or replacement. This is specialist work, and only one local contractor has been identified. A quote of a maximum of £6,750 has been received for the renovations and/or replacements. A s171 approval will be required from SCC.
- It was unanimously resolved to repair or replace the five fingerposts in the parish at the quoted price.
- 171/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on the Footpaths and Verges.
- The temporary maintenance contractor has been keeping the footpaths and verges in good order. He has also been carrying out a lot of work in preparation for the winter.
- The Sedgemoor Ramblers and Martin Cooper from the 'Rights of Way' team have been working in Wembdon recently and have placed one new wooden fingerpost in Skimmerton Lane. They secured more fingerposts in Moores Lane and cleared the kissing gates on paths. This is a fantastic job, and those concerned are thanked for their efforts.
- Cllr Phillips will be undergoing strimmer training and will be provided with all necessary equipment. He will be available to carry out strimming tasks in the Parish.
- Cllr Reed gave an update regarding the proposal to upgrade the footpath BW 34/4 (Crowpill Lane) to a shared cycle/footpath. The landowner is in favour of the footpath across her land being made more 'user friendly' for cyclists as long as the PCC agree with the idea. A site visit has taken place, and the Vicar is of the view that an improved cycle path should not run alongside the

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rhyne or the wall and that his preferred route would be along the middle of the car park. This may mean that the whole of the area would have to be tarmacked, which would involve considerable cost. The PCC could be asked to contribute towards the cost.

The Chairman explained that this would be an important way of diverting cyclists from crossing through the playing field and parklands when cycling between Cannington and Bridgwater. The Bridgwater Cycling Campaign is supportive of this suggestion.

172/20 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Parish Paper.

The next edition of the paper is due to be printed towards the end of November, for distribution in early December.

173/20 To receive a report from Cllr Claydon on Allotments.

The new allotment plot signs are now in place. A Saturday morning clearing session has taken place, with the footpaths on the allotments being cleared. Allotment holders are pleased with the results.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Claydon and her husband for all their hard work at the allotments.

174/20 To consider whether the Parish Council should adopt a protocol for the size of the vehicles using the lane to the allotments.

There has been a recent incident where a tractor was driven along the narrow lane leading to the allotments to deliver manure. The walls on the sides of the lane were scraped by the tractor. Allotment holders will be asked to contact Cllr Claydon or the Clerk in advance for permission to allow large vehicles to be brought to the allotments.

175/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The SID was moved from its location on Wembdon Rise (coming from the NDR) to a position on Wembdon Hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. It will now remain there until after the current lockdown ends.

The traffic statistics have not changed greatly from when it was last placed on Wembdon Rise.

The maximum speed recorded was 60 mph on 22.10.20 at 9.15 pm. This location is less than 100 metres from the Zebra Crossing. There were 1,814 average daily vehicle movements, taken over a seven-day period. The average speed of vehicles was 26 mph. The average speeding vehicle was doing 44 mph. An average of 46 vehicles per day exceeded 36 mph.

Councillors confirmed their desire for a speed reducing pillow top to be installed on the zebra crossing on Wembdon Rise. County Councillor

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Caswell will take up this matter with the leader of SCC Cllr Fothergill. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Fothergill confirming the Parish Council's concern about the danger of speeding vehicles near the crossing.

Concerns were expressed that the new Cokerhurst development will cause an increase in the number of vehicles passing through the village, and that the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit, with appropriate traffic speed management measures constructed, would be appropriate along Wembdon Rise.

176/20 To receive an update from Cllr Gliddon regarding the installation of fixed SIDs at each end of the village.

This has been a long-term project. Approval has been given for fixed SIDs to be installed on Wembdon Rise and Sandford Hill. These will be solar powered if possible, but one may need to be battery powered due to tall trees along Wembdon Rise. A memorandum of understanding will need to be agreed between the Parish Council and SCC. The cost of the SIDs will be in the region of £4,300.

It was resolved to spend £4,300 for two fixed SIDs to be purchased and installed on Wembdon Rise and Sandford Hill.

177/20 To receive an update from Cllr Gliddon regarding the replacement of the bus shelter in Wembdon village.

Cllr Gliddon had previously circulated a briefing report to all Councillors. The options available are to a) remove the shelter b) replace the present shelter with a new wooden shelter c) replace the present shelter with a new metal shelter or d) renovate the present shelter.

The Clerk has written to households closest to the bus shelter, asking for their opinions. One has replied, outlining problems that had occurred, saying that youths congregate in the shelter causing noise. He stated that youths use the shelter as a goal when playing football in the street.

Another householder has replied saying that a wooden shelter would be a fire hazard, and he would be against a developed shelter as it would be more attractive and could encourage youths to congregate.

These responses have been circulated to all Councillors.

It was unanimously resolved to retain the existing shelter and to renovate it for a quoted price of £645.

178/20 To receive an update on the website project.

Progress is being made on the new website, which should be 'handed over' to the Parish Council in early December. The Councillors email accounts have been transferred to the IONOS server.

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The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Major for all his hard work on the website project.

Cllr Major has circulated a new Wembdon logo which would be used for Parish Council business. This has been designed by a local artist, Tom Jacobs.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the new logo, and to make a gift of £50 to the artist as a token of thanks for his work.

179/20 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

Cllr Reed provided an update from the latest forum meeting. A summary of the meeting will be circulated to all Councillors when received.

180/20 To receive suggestions from Cllr Edwards on behalf of PACT for the spending of the remainder of the Viridor grant (approximately £9,000) for improvements at the Parklands.

The grant money from Viridor for equipment and improvements at the Parklands needs to be spent before the end of this year or it will be lost.

Cllr Edwards had previously circulated the design of an Adventure Trail, which is twelve low level steppingstones and a set of three or four zigzag balancing beams. These are known to encourage children (especially those with disabilities) to learn balance. The trail would be situated around the edges of the tarmac picnic area.

It was unanimously resolved to use part of the Viridor grant money to extend the facilities at the Parklands by adding a series of low-level steppingstones around the tarmacked area, and a set of balancing beams.

Planting of shrubs and hedging plants will be taking place at the Parklands shortly.

Councillors commented on the value of the Parklands to the community, especially during this year's periods of lockdown.

181/20 To review the list of Parish Council statutory payments to include:

Clerk's regular salary; PAYE payments; maintenance contractor regular monthly payments; website provider regular payments; necessary IT maintenance; playground inspections; insurance (unless the cover is amended); audit fees; SDC dog bins and waste bin emptying contracts; CCTV hosting; changing places toilet service; Liddell land rent; newsletter printing and necessary subscriptions.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the above list of statutory payments.

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Invoices relating to the above payments will be made by BACS when received without further authorisation (as permitted by Financial Regulations). Payments made in this way will be recorded on the next meeting agenda, apart from staff and PAYE payments which are excluded under the GDPR.

182/20 To note all payments made since the last meeting.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Scribe	Annual subscription	462.00
RT Signs	Allotment signs	303.17
SDC	Litter bin emptying (6 months)	781.25
SDC	Dog bin emptying (6 months)	1839.55
SCC	Posts for new SIDs	400.00
VSA Admin	Admin support	299.88
Microsoft	Office 365 subscription (1 year)	59.99

The payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

183/20 To consider matters of report:

The 2021-22 budget and precept process will be beginning shortly. Members of the finance team and the Clerk will be formulating a proposal for the budget to bring to the December meeting, for final approval at the January 2021 meeting. The Councillors agreed that the general principle to be followed by the finance team when establishing the budget should be to maintain the precept at its current level.

The 'Reaching Communities' section of the Big Lottery fund have asked if the Parish Council would still be interested in applying for a grant towards the purchase of a set of three 'inclusive' swings. These would accommodate a motorised wheelchair. Cllr Reed will progress the funding application.

184/20 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.

Cllr Reed left the meeting.

185/20 To consider tenders received for the ground maintenance contract to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

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The Clerk reported that two responses had been received.

It was unanimously resolved to award the contract for the next three years village maintenance to Avalonian Landscapes in the sum of £17,000 per year.

186/20      Date of next meeting: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

End of minutes