

# 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> September 2019 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

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

District Cllrs B Bolt, L Duddridge, I Dyer.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay          Police: None

The Chairman advised that this was a meeting of the Parish Council held in public, not a public meeting. Members of the public who had submitted a request to speak in advance of the meeting, could do so at the start of the meeting for up to three minutes. That would be the only time that the public could speak.

Prior to the meeting commencing, two members of the public who had requested to speak in advance spoke in relation to agenda item 177/19.

164/19          To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs N Harrison and J Prowse.

165/19          To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

There were no declarations.

166/19          To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

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

167/19          To receive the Clerk's report.

Neil Harrison has resigned as a Parish Councillor due to increasing family commitments. The usual procedures will now commence to allow a replacement to be appointed. Neil was thanked for his eight years of service as a Councillor, many of which were as Vice Chairman, his work with the Give a Day team and his duties as Councillor responsible for the allotments.

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A request has been received from a member of the public for Holywell House and the Old Wembdon Primary School building to be considered for listing. The Bridgwater Heritage Society suggests that the first step might be to establish a 'local list' to be adopted by the Parish Council, of historic buildings without formal listing, but are officially recognised as important to the historic fabric of the village. They would be happy to help devise this list and to host it on one of their heritage sites. They advise that once the buildings are adopted locally, it can make getting national listing slightly easier.

The Clerk will approach the owners of both buildings to ask their views in regards to a listing application.

168/19 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

There was no police presence and no crime report had been received. No items were raised.

169/19 To receive a report from Cllr Prowse on the Playing Fields and Common.

The Chairman announced that the playing fields had been awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the 'Playing Field of the Year' category at the Somerset Playing Fields Association annual awards. This is a tremendous achievement as the area covered is the old Somerset area, covering places such as Weston super Mare and Bath. A £100 prize cheque was presented to the Chairman along with the trophy.

Thanks were given to everyone involved in the upkeep of the fields, in particular Dan Bingham and Andrew Sutton.

The net on the basketball goal needs to be replaced. This could be wear and tear, or it could be vandalism. It is not known when damage took place, if that is the case, so CCTV cannot be checked. It was resolved to replace the net, preferably with a chain link net.

Two Councillors will be attending a playground inspection course shortly.

The trampoline rubber edging plates need regluing. This task will be undertaken by Councillors.

170/19 To consider the installation of additional fully accessible swings at Wembdon Playing Field (see minute 146/19).

The plans have been circulated to Councillors. A grant application has been prepared for submission to Variety to cover the cost of this work.

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171/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Highways.

Three street lights are not working on Wembdon Rise. This has been reported, and Western Power has attended but has yet to carry out the repair work. The Clerk has already chased this.

Resurfacing work took place in Church Road for three days from 2<sup>nd</sup> September, with the road closed for one day. The Parish Council and local residents were not informed of this closure. The Clerk will check to find out why we were not informed.

Despite the road closure, Skimmerton Lane continues to be used by motorists ignoring the road closure signs. The PCSO will be informed of this, for enforcement action to be taken.

172/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on the Footpaths and Verges.

All rural and village footpaths that we are responsible for are in a good state of repair. The only problems relate to vegetation. The Give a Day team has done an excellent job clearing vegetation and weeds on the raised footpath section in Church Road. There is a low thick branch blocking the way on the path in Gypsy Lane. This needs cutting back with a chainsaw. The Clerk will report this to Clean Surroundings.

The pavement in The Oaks, just off Wembdon Rise, get very slippery in wet conditions and is a hazard. This needs pressure washing. This will also be reported to Clean Surroundings.

The post and bar barrier on Crowpill Lane next to the rhyne has been knocked or fallen over. Once there was probably a similar rail along the length of the rhyne but most of this has disappeared over time. A new rail needs to be considered. The rail is probably a concern when clearing the rhyne but this was where someone fell into the rhyne and drowned a number of years ago.

The drainage board will have a view on what happens next to the rhyne. The owner of the land may have concerns on what happens on their land, as may the SDC footpath officers. The Parish Council may not have the power to deal with this issue. District Cllr Brian Bolt was asked to take up this matter.

173/19 To consider a report from Cllrs Edwards, Harrison and Phillips to a request to install a chicane on the footpath from Greenacre to Wares Lane between houses 12 and 14 Greenacre (see minute 136/19).

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A further site meeting will take place between Councillors to make recommendations to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

174/19 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Parish Paper.

Articles are required for the next publication in the next fortnight. The next edition should be produced by the end of September.

WCA were thanked for once more organising an excellent village day. The Clerk will email them expressing thanks to everyone involved.

The new website working group has held its first meeting. The next meeting will be in October. It was decided that the village needs a logo. Suggestions are welcome as to the design.

175/19 To receive a report from Cllr Phillips on Allotments.

Asbestos sheeting has been found at one of the allotments having been used to edge the plot. This sheeting has been there for many years. A local and fully licensed asbestos removal firm have examined the sheeting, and state that it poses no risk unless it is disturbed. The cost of the removal will be £837.85 plus VAT.

The Chairman and Clerk decided that this removal work would be classified as urgent and needs to be carried out as soon as possible so using their delegated powers have authorised the removal company to go ahead.

The wall repairs are now completed to a very high standard. The remainder of the wall needs to be examined before the bad weather in the winter. An initial site meeting will be arranged with Sedgemoor Tree Services for their opinion regarding the cutting back of the vegetation on the wall.

The allotment policy document and tenancy agreement need to be reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose. Cllr Gliddon will bring ideas to the November meeting.

176/19 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The SID has been in two locations. When on Wembdon Rise in August a high speed of 65mph was once recorded at 3.05pm. An average of 2012 vehicle passed through per day, coming from the NDR towards the zebra crossing. The average speed was 27.2mph, which is higher than previous readings. At the top of Wembdon Hill the top speed was 55mph approaching the blind bend. This occurred twice, along with a number of speeds in excess of 50mph. The average number of vehicles was 878 per day. The average speed was

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28.1mph coming towards Wembdon, which again is an increase over previous readings. The Police vehicle speed enforcement officer says that these figures are not excessive in comparison with some other villages in Somerset, who would be pleased to have these figures.

The County Council SID team has now been disbanded.

It was suggested that extra 30mph signs should be placed along the NDR. District Councillors advised that County Highways would be very unlikely to approve extra signs as they wished to avoid 'sign clutter' on highways. If a new pedestrian crossing can be installed by the Village Hall turning then this would slow vehicles down.

177/19 To receive an update on the Wembdon Parklands Project from Cllr Edwards.

Cllr Edwards provided an update, stating that since the Parish Council's last meeting SDC had asked for detailed plans to be submitted to them, not as a planning application but simply so they could scrutinise them. SDC were pleased with the plans, approved them and gave their agreement for the work to begin. SDC has written to Viridor Credits saying that they are happy for the work to go ahead, so Viridor Credits have now agreed to release their funding.

The PACT team has held their regular monthly meeting in public. The planned work will commence on 16<sup>th</sup> September with the staking out of the site.

A member of the public began to make unsolicited comments. The Chairman asked him to stop. The comments continued and the Chairman said that if the member of the public wished to continue to make comments then could he please leave the meeting. The member of the public left the room.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Council had debated the Parklands Proposals at a previous meeting and had supported the proposals once changes were made to recognise public concerns over play equipment. Only the CCTV and solar lighting required planning permission and these applications were being pursued.

178/19 To nominate additional Parish Councillors to work alongside the PACT team.

Councillor Reed offered to work with the team when time allowed.

179/19 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

There was no update.

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- 180/19 To consider repairing the footpath which runs across the common from the Parish Centre to Church Road (see minute 121/19).
- This will be adjourned until March 2020.
- 181/19 To consider the replacement of the bus shelter at the bottom of Wembdon Hill (see minute 145/19).
- Applications for community funding have been submitted to Hinkley Point A, B and C. The Hinkley Point A social fund may be able to give some financial support.
- The design of the replacement shelter, and the appointed contractor need to be approved by SCC Highways Dept.
- 182/19 To consider replacing the currently adopted NALC approved Councillor Code of Conduct with the SDC approved Code.
- It was unanimously resolved to replace the code of conduct.
- 183/19 To consider an email received regarding the pothole in the lane leading to the allotments.
- Councillors will make enquiries to ascertain the ownership of the lane and report back to the Clerk. If the enquires fail then the Clerk will request a land registry search.
- 184/19 To consider proposals from Cllr Edwards to address the problem of litter in the Parish.
- This will be adjourned until the November meeting.
- 185/19 To consider suggestions regarding the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day in May 2020.
- A meeting of interested parties will be taking place shortly.
- 186/19 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:

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Cheque no	Payee	Detail	Amount
300953	Sally Diaz	Clerking services	£132.16
300955	Lucie New	Design work / printing for Wembdon Parklands Project	£281.20
300958	Andrew Sutton	Extra work at Liddall Parkland area	£460.00
300959	GB Sports	Annual playground inspection	£90.00
300960	Media Orb	Website hosting 10.9.19 – 9.12.19	£72.00
300961	Lucie New	Design work / printing for Wembdon Parklands Project	£1646.00
300962	RT Signs	Warning sign for allotments	£122.40
300963	Dave Gardner	Hedge cutting	£80.00
300964	Andrew Sutton	Extra work at Liddall Parkland area	£120.00
300965	Purnells	Parklands printing	£52.80
300966	Viridor	Third party contribution to the Viridor grant towards the parklands project	£7030.60
300967	S. Roberts	Removal of asbestos from allotments	£1005.42
300968	Wembdon Village Hall	Neighbourhood Plan Meeting April 2019	£15.00
300969	Sedgemoor DC	Planning application fee	£117.00
300970	Somerset Drainage Board	Application fee	£50.00
300972	Harris Bros and Collard	Disabled facilities work	£3967.93
300973	Harris Bros and Collard	Allotment wall	£15626.40
300974	Somerset Assoc. of Local Councils	Annual subscription	£846.85

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It was unanimously resolved to approve the payments.

A budget update sheet had been be pre circulated to members

187/19 To consider matters of report.

There were no matters to report.

188/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

End of minutes