

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 7th December 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 Councillors: B Bolt and M Caswell

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

188/20 To receive any apologies for absence.

No apologies were received.

189/20 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.

No declarations were received.

190/20 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th November 2020.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

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

191/20 To receive the Clerk's report.

Cllrs Edwards and Reed will be representing the Parish Council by joining with other parish/town councils for a group application to the County's Climate Emergency Community Fund. This is a new scheme to promote sustainable living and action on climate change for rural areas. This new initiative is called Somerset Action in Villages for the Environment & Climate (SAVE Climate) and has been developed by the Somerset Eco-Centre specifically for rural areas and smaller towns.

The Council must retain all invoices for seven years in case it is chosen for a VAT inspection. The Clerk has learnt that hard copies need not be retained, and the invoices can be scanned and then destroyed. This removes storage problems and makes an inspection easier as the scanned documents can be emailed to the VAT inspector. The Clerk suggested that the Council invoices

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are scanned in this way, using the services of the administration assistant who is prepared to do this. This was agreed by all Councillors.

The Clerk will not be working for a few days after Thursday 10th December, and so he will not be monitoring emails or phone calls.

Internet banking has been set up, and payments are now being made by BACS. The Clerk will send details of any invoices to be paid electronically to Councillors for authorisation every Friday.

192/20 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Playing Fields and Common.

The springy monster has now been repaired and is proving very popular with children using the playground.

GB Sports have been instructed to replace any missing nut covers as a part of their monthly inspection.

193/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Highways.

A resident of Perry Green has requested that signs be installed at the entrances to the hamlet stating, 'Perry Green – Please drive carefully'. The request was sent to the SCC Traffic Management Department on 24th November, but no reply has been received. The Clerk will chase this up.

The bus shelter in Wembdon has been refurbished and looks great. It is expected that the fingerpost renovation work will commence in the early New Year.

There has still been no progress by SCC on the adoption of the NDR access. Cllr Caswell is regularly following this up with county highways.

194/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Footpaths and Verges.

The Clerk has clarified the position of the Parish Council financing the cost of repairs and upgrades to footpaths i.e. that the Parish Council cannot finance the renovation of private land, but it can finance the improvement of footpaths even if they run along private land. The Parish Council can donate to a renovation project on private land being undertaken by a 'third party' if it can be demonstrated that the parishioners would benefit.

This is currently relevant regarding a proposal to upgrade footpath BW34/4.

Cllr Phillips has now completed his strimmer course and has the qualification and equipment to carry out strimming tasks in the parish.

The footpaths and verges in the parish are in very good order. Flooding has taken place on the footpath at Booth Way which was reported to SDC Clean Surroundings.

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- 195/20 To receive a report from Cllr Hall on the Parish Paper.
- The latest edition of the Parish Paper has been published and is currently being distributed.
- 196/20 To receive a report from Cllr Claydon on the Allotments.
- The diseased trees at the allotments have been removed. The new plot numbers have been installed, and the allotments are now looking exceptionally good.
- The repointing work on the allotment wall has been carried out to a high standard.
- 197/20 To consider a request from a group who work with adults with disabilities to cultivate an unused piece of land at the allotments.
- There is a 'spare' small piece of land at the allotments which is not large enough to be used as a plot and is not being cultivated. A group of people with disabilities have asked whether they could use the land.
- It was unanimously resolved to allow the small piece of land to be used by the group of disabled people.
- 198/20 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.
- In November the SID was located on Wembdon Hill, monitoring vehicles travelling eastwards, down the hill. The maximum speed recorded was 55 mph at 6.50 am on 7th November. The average daily vehicle count was 813, which is down from 1,160 at the same location in September. The average vehicle speed was 23.5 mph, which was the same as in September.
- The new solar powered SIDs will be delivered before the end of December. They will be installed when SCC erect the poles required to hold the devices.
- The speedwatch team hope to start operating again in the new year.
- 199/20 To receive an update on the website project.
- Cllr Major told the meeting that great progress is being made on the website. Most of the technical problems have been resolved, and the framework is now in place. A team of Councillor volunteers will begin the work involved in putting files and documents on the new website.
- 200/20 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.
- There was no update. It was noted that the closure date for Hinkley B has been set for July 2022.

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201/20 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
G J Lancaster	Allotment wall repointing	3850.00
PC Rescue	Computer maintenance and upgrades to use Office 365	235.00
T. Jacobs	Gift for designing Wembdon Logo	50.00
SALC	Councillor training	30.00
SALC	Councillor and Clerk training	75.00
VSA Admin	Administration services	237.76
Blakes Training	Strimming training	81.00

The payments were noted.

202/20 To approve the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
T. Jay	Clerk's expenses – Oct and Nov	302.70

It was unanimously resolved to approve these expenses.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

203/20 To consider and approve the budget for 2021-2022, including the precept demand.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the budget that had been previously circulated to all Councillors and an unchanged precept demand for 2021 – 22 of £98,220.

204/20 To consider matters of report:

Western Power will be pruning trees close to their electricity wires on Wembdon Hill.

A restorative justice programme is being formulated in relation to the four youths who have admitted causing damage at the Village Hall.

The leaving of dog mess is increasing at the Parklands. The Clerk will request that the SDC dog warden visits the area to deal with the problem.

205/20 Date of next meeting: Monday 11th January 2021.

End of minutes

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