

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors M Solomon (Chairman), D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, P Major, M Phillips, and A Reed.

County Councillor M Caswell.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay.

At 7pm, prior to the meeting beginning, a presentation was given by the Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign giving details of their Wembdon Church path feasibility study.

84/21 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Searle and Webber.

85/21 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.

Councillors Claydon and Gliddon declared interests in agenda item 94/21 as they are allotment holders.

86/21 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting (6 in favour, 2 abstentions as not present throughout the whole of the meeting).

87/21 To invite public speaking.

There were no members of the public present.

88/21 To receive the Clerk's report.

The external auditors have approved the accounting return for 2020-21.

The planning application for CCTV cameras at the Parklands has been submitted. Comments are invited by 23<sup>rd</sup> July. There are currently three comments on the SDC website supporting the application, with no objections. The electric supply for the CCTV cameras will be around £360 per year.

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Sally Diaz no longer available to offer administration support to the Clerk. An assessment of the Clerk's hours will be carried out by members of the Finance/HR team prior to the next meeting. This will then be debated by full Council in closed session.

Councillor Jodene Hall is in the process of moving out of the area and intends to resign from Council when she moves. The casual vacancy will then be notified to SDC. The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks for all of the work that Councillor Hall has given to the Council and noted that she would be greatly missed.

89/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on Highways.

Potholes on Hollow Lane and Blakes Lane have been reported to SCC. A site meeting will be taking place with a traffic engineer on 19<sup>th</sup> July to discuss suggestions to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on Sandford Hill.

Some of the problems of street lights not working on Wembdon Hill have been rectified, but it is unclear if any problems still exist. If this is the case, then they will again be reported to Western Power.

The fingerpost restoration work has begun.

Councillor Caswell said that traffic small improvement grants will be available in September. He intends to propose the installation of a pillow top at the zebra crossing on Wembdon Rise. The information provided by the SIDs will be invaluable when preparing his case.

90/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on the Footpaths and Verges.

Good feedback has been received regarding the work carried out by the Parish Council's contractor. There has been an increase in shrubs and vegetation overhanging pavements. The contractor has been working on this. Councillor Phillips is thanked for the strimming work he has been doing in the village. This has received a lot of positive feedback on the Council's Facebook page.

There is a small set of steps on a footpath leading off Moores Lane which is dangerous to use. The installation of a hand rail would solve the safety problem. The rights of way team have been informed. If they will not fund a rail, then the Parish Council will consider funding it.

91/21 To receive an update from Councillor Hall on the Playing Fields and Common.

Following discussions with the Land Drainage Board and with their consent The Trust have installed a pumped drainage system to address the recurring problems with standing water on the Village Green.

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There continue to be problems with vandalism, litter and anti-social behaviour on the playing fields and common. The police are aware and are investigating.

92/21 To receive a report from Councillor Hall on the Parish Paper.

The latest edition was published at the end of May. All distributors were thanked for their efforts. As Councillor Hall will be leaving the Council a new editor will be needed.

93/21 To receive a report from Councillor Claydon on Allotments.

Three allotments have been vacated recently, and these were quickly taken by people of the waiting list. One plot was left in a poor condition, and the Council contractor has strimmed back the long grass and weeds.

The Wembdon stone on the Parish Council plot has been advertised for sale, but there have been no buyers, It was agreed to offer the stone free of charge to anyone who agrees to take it away.

94/21 To consider whether the allotment fees for 2021-22 should remain at £25 per plot.

It was unanimously resolved that the fees should remain at £25 for another year.

95/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The mobile SID was located on Wembdon Hill for three weeks, monitoring vehicles going downhill. Here are the results:

85th Percentile Speed = 32.2 MPH  
85th Percentile Vehicles = 16,815 counts  
Max Speed = 60.0 MPH on 21/06/2021 06:00:00  
Total Vehicles = 19,782 counts

## **Speed**

Speed limit: 36 MPH  
85th Percentile Speed: 32.2 MPH  
50th Percentile Speed: 26.6 MPH  
10 MPH Pace Interval: 25.0 MPH to 35.0 MPH  
Average Speed: 25.6 MPH

With permanent solar powered SIDS now installed at the main entry roads into the village we can see the main problem is with the few crazy drivers. In the 6-6.30 p.m. period on June 30<sup>th</sup> there were 31 vehicles recorded on Sandford Hill with the average speed being 33.16 mph and the maximum speed was 75 mph incoming from the A39 direction. This is in a 30 mph speed limit.

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The Clerk was asked to contact the Police Speed Enforcement team to request their attendance on Wembdon Hill and Wembdon Rise.

96/21 To receive an update from Councillor Searle on the Village Hall Community Youth Project.

Great progress being made by the team. Chris Berry is providing free project management and Councillor Searle and Peter Reed are working hard at fundraising. Bridgwater College are deeply involved, and it looks as if this will become an opportunity for many youngsters to get vocational training and this will form a formal part of their coursework.

97/21 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

A meeting is due to be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Councillor Reed will again attend and circulate the minutes when received.

98/21 To consider a request from the Wembdon Art Group to update the Wembdon Footpaths leaflets.

This was raised by the Art Group. Councillor Claydon volunteered to coordinate the Council involvement and we should consider a print run, or a dedicated Parish Paper and putting on the website.

99/21 To discuss the near miss incident when a cricket ball was hit into the Village Hall which caused a Council Planning meeting to be temporarily suspended.

A letter of apology has been received from Wembdon Cricket Club and action has been taken to instruct their players and coaches on steps to avoid a repeat of the incident.

100/21 To consider whether the Parish Council should install a fixed SID on Wembdon Rise heading eastbound.

This was planned to be installed on a lamp post but the request was refused by Western Power. There is a need for a SID at this point as vehicles approach the zebra crossing at high speeds, but we need to source a suitable location for a post.

It was unanimously resolved to purchase and install a SID when a suitable location can be found.

101/21 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract May	1417.00
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract June	1417.00

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Media Orb	Website hosting	90.00
IONOS	Email hosting	13.20 + 9.60
Parish Magazine Printing	Newsletter printing	654.50
Zurich	Insurance renewal	1076.54
Wembdon Village Hall	CCTV Base station service £125; Accessible toilet rental £125.	250.00
Wembdon Village Hall	Room hire £250; CCTV Base station service £125; Accessible toilet rental £125.	500.00

The payments were noted.

102/21

To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses May 2021	99.33
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses June 2021	116.88
PWLB	Final Allotment Loan repayment	9239.42
Eleven 10 Architecture	Planning application plans	564.11
SPFA	Annual subscription	15.00
Kori Hall	Delivery of Newsletter	69.90
SDC	Planning application fee	117.00
MB Hire	Cherry picker hire. SID installation	180.00
Avalonian Landscapes	Tree works	285.00
VSA Admin	Admin support	100.63
Elan City	Purchase of SID	2244.66
WEC Group	CCTV posts	2382.00
RT Signs	Signs	558.76

The payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

103/21

To receive any matters of report.

An article giving information about the new Parish Council website will be included in the next Parish Paper. Many positive comments have been received in relation to the website. There is a subscription facility, where automatically generated emails are sent to everyone who has signed up to receiving them every time the website is updated with new information.

Great work continues at the Parklands. The volunteers who work so hard are thanked once more.

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An application for part funding for a set of 'access for all' swings has been submitted.

104/21 Date of next meeting:

The Council does not normally meet in the month of August, however as so many meetings have been missed because of Covid a meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021 if it is felt that there are matters to discuss. If this is not the case, then the next meeting will be on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

End of minutes.