

# 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 07859911204

Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

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

County Councillor M Caswell.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay.

105/21 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Edwards, Gliddon, Hall, Phillips, Searle and Webber.

106/21 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.

There were no declarations of interest received.

107/21 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

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

108/21 To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had requested to speak.

109/21 To receive the Clerk's report.

Jodene Hall has moved out of Wembdon and now resigned as a Parish Councillor. All Councillors thanked Jodene for her hard work and commitment in her time as a Councillor, especially in the role of editor of the Parish Newsletter. The casual vacancy will be notified to SDC.

The planning application for additional CCTV to be installed at the Parklands is being processed by SDC. If approved, this will be in addition to the CCTV cameras which have already been approved.

GB Sports have increased the price of their monthly playground inspections from £18 to £25. This is the first increase in ten years, and still represents

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good value for money. The council resolved that we should continue using the services of GB Sports to carry out the monthly inspections.

A member of the public has reported that two of the PROWs in the parish are blocked. These are BW 34/18 and BW 34/35. The Clerk will notify the SCC Rights of Way officer.

The drainage works at the Parklands have been carried out to an excellent standard.

110/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on Highways.

An overgrown hedge is blocking the highway in Blake's Road, Wembdon. This is causing a danger to pedestrians and cyclists. The Clerk will write to the landowner, asking that the hedge is cut back urgently.

The problems with the streetlights on Wembdon Hill continue. Western Power are working on a solution.

County Councillor Caswell confirmed that he will be submitting a bid for a small improvement grant to pay for the installation of a pillow top at the pedestrian crossing on Wembdon Rise.

111/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on the Footpaths and Verges.

A site meeting has taken place regarding the proposed upgrade of the footpath between Church Road and the NDR. Quotations for the work are being obtained, and fundraising will begin.

112/21 To consider whether the Parish Council should pay for the trees overhanging Gypsy Lane to be cut back as a 'one off' gesture. This is a public right of way.

A site visit has taken place, and it was found that there are a number of dead elm trees in the verges of Gypsy Lane. Brambles and nettles are obstructing the pathway.

The Clerk has carried out a check with the Land Registry which shows that both sections of Gypsy Lane are unregistered. As it is a public right of way then SCC must ensure that the path itself is unobstructed, but they have no responsibility for the cutting of any overgrowing vegetation above ground level.

It was unanimously resolved that as they are a potential safety risk the Parish Council will pay for the dead elm trees to be removed as a 'one-off' gesture. The Parish Council's contractor will carry out regular strimming work to keep the brambles and nettles under control.

The Parish Council is not adopting Gypsy Lane or admitting liability for the lane in any way.

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113/21 To receive an update from Councillor Hall on the Playing Fields and Common.

There was nothing to report.

114/21 To consider the purchase and installation of two additional square litter bins to be situated on Wembdon Green.

It was unanimously resolved to replace two of the smaller bins with larger ones, and to purchase and install one additional litter bins to be located near the swings.

115/21 To consider a request from a Parishioner that the Council applies for a grant from Basketball England to update the basketball court.

The Clerk will liaise with the Parishioner who made the request and provide support as necessary for him to submit an application.

116/21 To receive a report from Councillor Hall on the Parish Paper.

A new Parish Paper editor will need to be appointed following the resignation of Councillor Hall. The Chairman will approach a local resident who may be interested in taking on this role.

117/21 To receive a report from Councillor Claydon on Allotments.

The new allotment tenants have been very busy cultivating their plots. The annual invoices will be sent out at the start of September. The allotment AGM will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> September in the village hall.

118/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The Sandford Hill SID recorded a top speed of 85 mph, along with a number of readings in the 70's. This is in a 30 mph limit.

The Wembdon Rise SID recorded a speed of 70 mph and a few in the 60's - again in a 30 mph zone.

Councillor Gliddon and County Councillor Mike Caswell had a meeting with Katherine Tyson from SCC Highways on Monday July 19<sup>th</sup> and await her report on new measures that might be implemented in the Sandford Hill area and on Wembdon Rise.

119/21 To receive an update from Councillor Searle on the Village Hall Community Youth Project.

Funding for the project is now in place. The work is scheduled to begin in September. This is being used as a learning/training project by the students of Bridgwater College.

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120/21 To consider the adoption of a Parish Council CCTV policy.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the adoption of the CCTV policy/public space surveillance code of practice.

121/21 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

Councillor Reed has attended a recent meeting. The minutes will be circulated when received. It was reported that the Comwich Wharf is almost completed.

122/21 To consider whether the Parish Council wishes to hold any events in the Parish to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Anniversary in June 2022.

A working group of Councillors will be set up to consider the arrangements for the Platinum Anniversary celebrations. Suggestions include the lighting of a beacon at the allotments, and a 'picnic in the park' event.

123/21 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract July	1417.00
SDC	Dog bin emptying April – Sept 2021	1839.55
GB Sports	Annual playground inspection	102.00

The payments were noted.

124/21 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses July 2021	133.45
P. Phillips	Water drainage duct installation	7224.00
SALC	FOI training for Clerk	30.00
Wembdon Village Hall	Reimbursement of Planning fee for CCTV camera	243.00
Wembdon Village Hall	Reimbursement of bond fees for NDR access	844.13
Avalon Landscapes	Extra village work £225. Parklands work £580	805.00

The payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

125/21 To receive any matters of report.

Councillor Claydon has been in touch with the Art Group regarding their offer to illustrate the footpaths map. It was agreed that the group can illustrate the

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existing sheets which will be updated and published in a series of editions of the Parish Paper.

- 126/21 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 the public.

- 127/21 To consider whether the Parish Clerk's contracted hours should be increased.

It was unanimously resolved to increase the Clerk's contracted hours to twenty four per week.

- 128/21 Date of next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

End of minutes.