

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 at Wembdon Village Hall on 13th September 2021 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors M Solomon (Chairman), D Claydon, L Edwards, M Phillips, A Reed and J Wellings (from item 135/21 onwards).

District Councillors B Bolt and I Dyer.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay.

129/21 To receive any apologies for absence.

Councillor K Searle will not be able to attend meetings for the following three months. It was unanimously resolved to grant Councillor K Searle a dispensation from attending meetings for this period.

Councillors D Gliddon, P Major and R Webber were not present at the meeting.

130/21 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.

131/21 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th August 2021.

It was resolved to approve the minutes as being a true record of the meeting (3 in favour, 2 abstentions as not present at the meeting).

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record.

132/21 To receive presentations from Candidates who have submitted written applications to fill the casual vacancy for the Victoria Ward of Wembdon Parish Council.

Julian Wellings addressed the Councillors.

133/21 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.

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It was unanimously resolved that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting.

- 134/21 To consider the written applications and verbal presentations from candidates for the office of Parish Councillor in private session, but not to vote.

Members of the press and public were readmitted to the meeting.

- 135/21 To vote to co-opt a candidate to fill the casual vacancy for the Wembdon/Victoria ward of Wembdon.

It was unanimously resolved to co-opt Julian Wellings to the Parish Council.

Councillor Wellings signed the declaration of office and joined the Council.

- 136/21 To invite public speaking.

No members of the public had requested to speak.

- 137/21 To receive the Clerk's report.

The dead elm trees in Gypsy Lane will be removed at the end of September. The Parish Council are paying for this work without taking responsibility for further maintenance work in this unregistered lane. There is another dead tree at the end of the road section of Wares Lane. The contractor will be asked to remove that tree along with those in Gypsy Lane.

A dead willow tree at the Parklands was removed this morning. The sleeper steps are due to be installed by the end of the month.

A request for a junior basketball net to be installed at the playground will be considered at the October Parish Council meeting.

A site meeting will be held tomorrow with the Probation Service. They have offered the services of the community service team to carry out tasks in the parish.

Three new litter bins have been ordered for the playing fields.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be taking place next June. Councillors Claydon and Reed agreed to form a working group to consider the celebrations in the parish. Other local organisations will be approached to join in the preparations.

- 138/21 To receive a report on Highways.

SCC Highways have reported following the Sandford Hill site meeting in July as follows:

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1. Improved Motorway directional signs will be added to the A39 Sandford Hill Roundabout for traffic coming from the Cannington direction towards Bridgwater.
2. Existing warning sign for cyclists on Sandford Hill just east of the roundabout will be improved and highlighted, with the addition of 'pedestrians' on the sign.
3. A new location has been identified on Wembdon Rise to install a new post to house the parish council bought SID device.
4. The Zebra Crossing road markings need to be repainted. (NB. This work has already been done).
5. An in depth risk assessment will take place to investigate the option of a virtual footpath on sections of the 40 mph Sandford Hill (A white line painted on the road with pedestrian symbol to indicate a safe section to walk).

The Wembdon Village Hall trust chairman and the Parish Council Chairman had a site meeting with our MP and County Councillor to promote a conclusion to the adoption of the NDR access.

139/21 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.

The footpaths are all looking very good.

The fingerpost restoration work is due to be completed by the end of September.

Councillor Phillips is liaising with the SCC footpaths officer regarding the installation of steps on a PROW in Moores Lane. A site visit is being arranged with the landowner, whose permission will be required.

140/21 To consider whether the Council's contractor should be asked to cut back the vegetation adjoining footpath BW 34/4 on a regular basis.

It was unanimously resolved to include this in the contract scope.

141/21 To receive an update from the Playing Fields and Common.

Massive vandalism problems are arising again, including litter and underage drinking. They are now spilling over into parklands at 4:00 in the morning. The Police have been made aware and promise increased presence.

All underground works have now been completed on the parklands CCTV. The electric cables need to be pulled through, and the columns (now delivered) to be erected. The power is scheduled on during the last week of September and the cameras operational by 4th October

142/21 To receive a report on the Parish Paper.

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We are still seeking an editor to take over from ex Councillor Hall. Councillor Reed and the Clerk agreed to organise the next issue.

We need to make a major feature of the problems with vandalism, underage drinking, how to report online and when to call 999. We can also feature community payback work being undertaken.

143/21 To receive a report from Councillor Claydon on Allotments.

There is a waiting list of eight people wanting an allotment. Most of these people do not live in the parish. Priority will always be given to parishioners when an allotment becomes available.

The WCA will be presenting prizes for the best allotment, and the best newcomer.

The allotment AGM will be held on 27th September in the Village Hall.

144/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The SID was situated between 23rd August to 8th September on Wembdon Hill monitoring eastbound traffic. The maximum speed recorded was 55 mph at 5.35 pm on 25th August. The 85th percentile speed was 32 mph, and the average speed was 25 mph.

145/21 To receive an update from Councillor Searle on the Village Hall Community Youth Project.

Work has begun and we are already seeing significant volunteering from our community in design, setting up and preparation for the next phase which will involve youth training in coordination with Bridgwater college.

146/21 To receive an update regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

The next forum is due to be held in the near future.

147/21 To consider whether the Parish Council should contribute £1,500 towards a grant application for the funding of the provision of additional tables and benches at the Village Hall and extending the existing terrace space which will provide a covered but open-air space for Wembdon Parishioners of all ages to meet. The Village Hall Trust has committed match funding of £1,500 towards this grant application. The total cost of the project would be £9,500.

It was resolved to commit a donation of up to £1,500 in principle towards the project if the grant application is approved and the project goes ahead (5 in favour, 1 abstention).

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148/21 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Details	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract August 2021	1417.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit Fees	480.00

The statutory payments were noted.

149/21 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Details	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses August 2021	200.75
Westcotec	Additional SID battery	201.00

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

150/21 To receive any matters of report.

An update on the proposal to upgrade footpath BW 34/4 into a joint cycle path/footpath will be given at the next Parish Council meeting.

151/21 Date of next meeting: 11th October 2021.

End of minutes.