

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

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

District Councillors Ian Dyer.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

176/21 To receive any apologies for absence.

Councillor K Searle has been granted a dispensation not to attend this meeting.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors D Gliddon and R Webber. Also, from County Councillor M Caswell and District Councillor B Bolt.

177/21 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.

178/21 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes. The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

179/21 To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had requested to speak.

180/21 To receive the Clerk's report.

The Parish Council is receiving requests from members of the public, asking for trees and vegetation to be cut back on land which is not owned by the Parish Council. There needs to be a policy adopted to define under what circumstances the Parish Council would carry out this work. This will be an agenda item for discussion at the December meeting.

The show of public concern on 4<sup>th</sup> November at the zebra crossing was very well supported, with around 100 people attending including County and District Councillors. The petition asking for parishioners to support the Parish Council's campaign to encourage Somerset County Council to install speed

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management measures on Wembdon Rise to ensure the safety of pedestrians using the zebra crossing has now closed, with 382 signatures. This is a fantastic show of support.

The Clerk will write to the leader of Somerset County Council, David Fothergill, asking that urgent action is taken to better manage the speed of vehicles on Wembdon Rise.

Grants have been received towards the construction of an extension to the terrace at the Village Hall to the original design.

181/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on Highways.

There was nothing to report.

182/21 To receive a report from Councillor Phillips on the Footpaths and Verges.

A site meeting has taken place in Moores Lane to discuss the installation of the new steps on a public right of way. Quotes for this work are being obtained.

There are a number of streetlights not working. These have been reported to Somerset County Council.

183/21 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.

The repair to the broken swing hasn't been carried out. The Clerk will chase this up.

The fund raising for new accessible swings is going well, but more crowd funding donations are required. Grants amounting to £23,000 have been promised. A further £8,000 (approximately) still needs to be raised.

184/21 To receive a report from Councillor Edwards on the Parklands.

Councillor Edwards provided an update on recent activities. The sensory borders have been planted, and tree support work will be taking place shortly.

A tree planting project will be taking place next year to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The area will be known as the 'Queen Elizabeth Copse'.

185/21 To consider whether the Parish Council wishes to contribute to the cost of the installation of safety steps at the Parklands.

The safety steps have been installed to a very high standard.

It was resolved to contribute £2,000 to the cost of the safety steps (6 in favour, 1 abstention).

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186/21 To receive a report from Councillor Phillips regarding the Village Hall.

There is a need for additional parking at the Village Hall.

More vandalism has taken place in the vicinity of the hall.

187/21 To receive a report on the Parish Paper.

The latest edition of the Parish Paper was well received in the parish. The next edition will be published in January.

188/21 To receive a report from Councillor Claydon on Allotments.

The allotment plot holders are preparing for winter. Only one plot holder has yet to pay the fees for 2021-22.

189/21 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on SID results and Speedwatch.

The latest results from the SID on Wembdon Rise have been encouraging. The incoming 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed has fallen from 27 mph in August/September to 26 mph in October.

98.66% of drivers were below 36 mph and 0.13% between 46 - 65 mph.

190/21 To receive a report from Councillor Searle on the Village Hall Community Youth Project.

A storage container is now on site ready for materials to be delivered from next week when the work will commence. The container has been kindly loaned on a free of charges basis.

191/21 To consider whether the Parish Council should contribute to the cost of providing a school crossing patrol officer on Wembdon Rise and, if agreed, the amount of the contribution.

It was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council, in conjunction with the Wembdon Community Association, will contribute 50% of the costs of providing a school crossing patrol officer.

The Chairman clarified that the anticipated annual cost of providing the officer was estimated to be around £3,000 on the basis of previous experience. Whatever the Wembdon Community Association is able to contribute annually will be made up to £1,500 by the Parish Council.

192/21 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

Councillor Reed provided the update.

193/21 To approve a Parish Council Equal Opportunities policy.

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It was unanimously resolved to approve the Equal Opportunities policy.

194/21 To approve a Parish Council Safeguarding policy.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the Safeguarding policy.

195/21 To consider the membership of the planning committee and finance working group with the changes in council membership.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the following membership:

Planning Committee: Councillors D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, P Major, M Phillips, A Reed and M Solomon.

Finance Working Group: Councillors D Gliddon, M Phillips, A Reed, M Solomon and J Wellings. All members of the Finance Working Group will be authorised bank signatories.

196/21 To consider the replacement of vandalised signage and the setting of new waste bins and appointment of a contractor to do these works.

It was unanimously resolved to provide two concrete plinths for new litter bins; install four 'pedestrians have priority' signs and posts; install eleven CCTV signs but not to replace the vandalised Covid 19 signs.

Quotes will be obtained for this work.

197/21 To agree a final sum for the installation of CCTV in the hidden corner behind Wembdon Motors.

The already agreed budget figure of £5,000 will not be exceeded.

198/21 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract	1417.00
On Point Plugins	Website hosting	34.64
Parish Magazine Printing	Parish Paper	892.50
GB Sports	Playground inspections Oct - March	180.00

The statutory payments were noted.

199/21 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses October 2021	297.97

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Avalonian Landscapes	Supply of topsoil at the Parklands, and labour.	340.00
Westfield Fasteners	SID clips	23.09
West Country Blacksmiths	Fingerpost restoration	10340.86

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

200/21 To consider expenditure project suggestions from Councillors for the financial year 2022-23.

The following suggestions were put forward for consideration during the budget setting process:

Accessible swings:	£5,000
'Queen Elizabeth Copse'	£5,000
New benches	£2,000
Jubilee Celebrations:	£3,000
School Crossing Patrol	£1,500

201/21 To receive any matters of report.

There were no matters to report.

202/21 Date of next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

The meeting will commence at 7 pm. Following the meeting Councillors, their partners and any Parishioners are invited to join an informal reception and enjoy mince pies, mulled wine and soft drinks

End of minutes.