

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Clerk, Tony Jay, 5 Maple View, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 9XQ.  
Email [clerk@wembdon.org](mailto:clerk@wembdon.org) Telephone 07859911204

Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

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

County Councillor M. Caswell.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

At the start of the meeting a minute's silence was held to mark the passing of former Parish Councillor Ray Harris.

The Chairman thanked everyone involved in the very successful Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

120/22 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors D Gliddon and R Webber.

121/22 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.

Councillor Claydon declared an interest in item 136/22. The Clerk granted her a dispensation to take part in the debate and vote as she is the Councillor with responsibility for the allotments.

Councillor Reed declared an interest in agenda item 138/22.

122/22 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (7 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at the meeting).

123/22 To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had requested to speak.

124/22 To receive the Clerk's report.

Letters have been sent to some owners of properties on Wembdon Rise where trees and hedges have encroached over the pavement reminding them of their responsibilities in ensuring that this does not happen.

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Clean Surroundings have been asked to cut back the trees that are overhanging the footpath from the Church to the NDR.

The problems with the streetlights on Wembdon Hill have once again been reported. Western Power state that they do not deal with reports of problems with street lights anymore. These have to be reported to Somerset County Council. County Councillor Caswell reported that he had been assured that the lights are now working properly.

Sedgemoor District Council has launched a public Open Space Assessment consultation. Responses have to be submitted by 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Councillor Major said that he had reviewed the consultation document and found that there are a number of blank pages where charts and tables should be. He also noted that there was a comment submitted by a member of the public which stated:

‘Wembdon Green Play Area is noted to have limited and outdated play equipment, and general lack of provision for children, the disabled, and the elderly’.

This statement is clearly false. The Clerk was asked to contact Sedgemoor District Council to report these errors.

Post meeting note: A reply has been received from Sedgemoor District Council which stated that the charts and tables are missing from the document as the file sizes are too large to include. Also, that the comment about the ‘lack of facilities’ at Wembdon Play Area were submitted by a member of the public in 2019 as a result of a consultation that took place then.

125/22 To receive a report on Highways.

There was nothing to report.

126/22 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.

There was nothing to report.

127/22 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.

The warning sign at the attenuation pond, along with the safety ring will be replaced shortly after being vandalised. The Community Payback Team are doing a fantastic job, however they do not have adequate equipment to carry out their tasks. The Chairman will write to the Team Organisers making them aware of this position.

Two overhanging trees on the common will be cut back.

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128/22 To receive a report on the Parklands.

Two willow trees have been falling and have now reached ground level. They will be removed.

The prairie orchard has been planted. Unfortunately, two of the plants have been removed.

It was commented that the Parklands are looking great at the moment.

Nitrous Oxide capsules are being found at the Parklands. The Clerk will notify the local secondary schools and the Police to let them know that this is taking place.

129/22 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.

The work on the upstairs room is progressing well.

130/22 To receive a report on the Parish Paper.

The next edition will be published towards the end of July.

131/22 To receive a report on the Allotments.

There is still a long waiting list of people who would like an allotment.

The allotment annual general meeting will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

132/22 To receive a report on SID results and Speedwatch.

There was no SID report this month.

133/22 To receive a report on the Village Hall Community Youth Project.

The team are grant seeking to fund two support workers to be Youth Leaders. The plan is to put on two sessions per week.

134/22 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

Councillor Reed reported following a recent EDF meeting.

135/22 To agree the installation of safety measures on Parish Council land to prevent access of people wishing to illegally stay on the land.

Negotiations are ongoing with Somerset County Council to ensure the security of the entrance to the Parklands at the NDR.

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The entrance to the North Village Hall overflow car park has already been secured, but the entrance to the South one remains insecure.

It was unanimously resolved to pay half of the cost of the installation of a gate with posts, along with additional posts to secure an entrance to the South overflow car park if the Village Hall Trust pays the other half. The anticipated total cost is in the region of £1,500.

136/22 To review the allotment fees.

It was resolved to leave the allotment fees at £25 per plot in 2022-23 (4 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention).

137/22 To review the advertising rates in the Parish Paper.

There has recently been a substantial increase in printing costs recently.

It was unanimously resolved to increase the advertising rates to £100 for a full page, £50 for a half page and £25 for a quarter page.

Councillor Reed left the meeting.

138/22 To adopt the extended Contractor work schedule proposed by the Council working group and agree the associated increase in cost from £17,000 per year (£1,417 per month) to £19,000 per year (£1,583 per month).

It was unanimously resolved to adopt the extended schedule and agree the increased cost.

Councillor Reed returned to the meeting.

139/22 To consider the adoption of the amended LGA Councillor Code of Conduct as recommended by Sedgemoor District Council.

It was unanimously resolved to adopt the amended Code of Conduct.

140/22 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract	1417.00
SALC	Councillor training	100.00

The statutory payments were noted.

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141/22 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses May 2022 including payment to Gardoo for compost at the Parklands - £320.97	493.95
Dunkery Road Stores	Gifts for contractors who supplied the Jubilee Beacon free of charge	34.00
GJ Lancaster	Stone plinth for the Queen's Copse	375.00

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

142/22 To receive any matters of report.

The Jubilee Beacon will be cleaned up and drainage holes drilled in the base.

143/22 Date of next meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

End of minutes.