

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 26th September 2022 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

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

County Councillor B. Bolt.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

165/22 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors M Phillips, R Webber and R Wellings.

166/22 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.

There were no declarations of interest.

167/22 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th July 2022.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (5 in favour, 2 abstentions as not present at the meeting).

168/22 To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had asked to speak.

169/22 To receive the Clerk's report.

The Wembdon book of condolences following the death of Queen Elizabeth the Second will be taken to the County Archives for storage.

The Chairman thanked everyone involved in the local arrangements to mark the recent period of national mourning, in particular Councillor P Major for his immediate update of the Parish Council's website as soon as the Queen's passing was announced.

Councillor Hedaux and the Clerk attended a meeting at Nether Stowey regarding the Local Community Networks which will be formed when the new Somerset Council comes into operation. It is clear that there is still a great deal of uncertainty about the Local Community Networks.

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Somerset County Council has announced a consultation regarding Local Community Networks. The consultation ends on 17th October. Parish Councillors Hedaux, Reed and Solomon will prepare a response to be submitted to Somerset County Council.

170/22 To receive a report on Highways.

Large sections of Moores Lane have been marked out, presumably for pot hole filling and/or re-surfacing.

171/22 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.

The rural paths are in a good condition. There has been graffiti sprayed on BT and Highway boxes. The Parish Council will buy some spray paint to cover the graffiti.

Some private properties have vegetation overhanging the pavement and/or path outside their property. It is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure that this does not happen. Councillors are asked to pass details of the relevant properties to the Clerk who will write to the owners.

172/22 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.

The delay in the installation of the accessible swings is being caused by a national shortage of 'rubber crumb' material which is required for the surfacing work that will be carried out when the swings are installed.

173/22 To receive a report on the Parklands.

There have been instances of vandalism in the prairie meadow. PACT has recently spent £1,407 on plants for this area, but vandals have pulled up about twelve of these plants. These were neatly placed by a nearby hedge which suggests that this may have been the work of an adult not teenagers. The installation of CCTV cameras will be considered.

There are some dead elm trees in the hedge between the dog walking field and the prairie orchard. The Council's contractor will be asked to assess the trees to see if they are safe to remain or should be felled.

Some of the posts used for tree staking in the Parklands are rotten and need to be replaced. Also, there is a newly planted tree which needs staking. The contractor will be asked to carry out this work.

The Chairman thanked the PACT team for the great work that they are doing at the Parklands.

174/22 To consider the water requirements of the Parklands.

Sedgemoor District Council charge £26 to refill the three water butts at the Parklands. This service will obviously stop when Sedgemoor District Council ceases to exist next year.

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It was unanimously resolved to continue using the services of Sedgemoor District Council and then to reassess the situation when their service ends.

- 175/22 To approve the expenditure of approximately £400 for the purchase of horticultural grit and bark to be used at the Parklands'.
It was unanimously resolved to purchase two bulk bags of bark and one bulk bag of organic compost at a total cost of £362.97.

- 176/22 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.
The hall now has a general manager and two part time caretakers.

A tree will be planted to commemorate the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The flowers that were laid in tribute to the Queen will be used as compost for the new tree. Another tree will be planted later to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

- 177/22 To receive a report on the Parish Paper.
The next edition of the Parish Paper will be published in mid-November.

- 178/22 To receive a report on the Allotments.
The Allotment Annual General Meeting was held earlier this evening. The allotment tenants suggested that half of the Parish Council plot should be used as a compost store. Some funding will be required to construct the store. Another suggestion concerned some of the paths at the allotments which need to be levelled using bark. Councillor Claydon was asked to provide some prices for consideration.

Three allotment plots were recently repossessed and have been re-let. A further two plots were relinquished by tenants which have also been re-let.

- 179/22 To consider the fees charged to new allotment tenants who live outside the parish.
It was resolved to charge any new tenant who does not live in the Parish double the annual fee, which is currently £25 (6 in favour, 1 against).

This increased fee will not apply to current allotment tenants who live outside the Parish, or to any tenant who current lives in the Parish but then moves elsewhere.

- 180/22 To receive a report on SID results and Speedwatch.
Councillor D Gliddon gave the report as follows:

These are the headline averages with highest recorded speeds:

Wembdon Rise (inbound from NDR) average 24.26 mph; top 66 mph
Wembdon Rise (by Wares Lane) average 23.41 mph; top 58 mph
Wembdon Hill (top - inbound) average 27.09 mph; top 60 mph

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Sandford Hill (inbound) average speed 29.04 mph; top 72 mph
Sandford Hill (outbound) average speed 32.42 mph; top 70 mph

Overall, the averages remain fairly constant with only minor changes from the previous readings.

Councillor Gliddon thanked the volunteers for their continued help and support in moving the SIDs and collating the data. The Speedwatch team has not been operating recently due to a lack of available volunteers. If anyone would like to volunteer to join the Speedwatch team, then please contact Councillor Gliddon or the Clerk.

- 181/22 To receive a report on the Village Hall Community Youth Project.
The Youth Club has now started on Monday evenings. There are two youth leaders and six volunteer helpers.
- 182/22 To consider whether the Parish Council should promote the upgrading of the combined cycle/footpath from the Notaro bridge to Wembdon Motors.
It was unanimously resolved to support the upgrading of the path.

This decision will be passed to the Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign group. District Councillor Bolt will take up this matter with Somerset County Council Highways Department, who are responsible for the maintenance of the cycle/footpath.
- 183/22 To consider whether the Parish Council should produce a Community Emergency Plan. If agreed, then to appoint Councillors to form a working group to produce the plan.
The Clerk explained that Parish Councils are under no obligation to produce such a plan. Most Parish Councils have not done this.

It was unanimously resolved to not to produce a Community Emergency Plan for Wembdon.
- 184/22 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.
The minutes of a recent meeting have been circulated to all Councillors.
- 185/22 To receive a report from Councillor P Major regarding Parish Councillor email security.
Councillor Major briefed the Councillors regarding emails sent and received which wrongly purport to be from a particular person or organisation.
- 186/22 To consider the locations of the defibrillators in the parish.
It was unanimously resolved to move the defibrillator from the old Post Office to an outside wall at The Cottage Inn.

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The other Council owned defibrillator will remain in the entrance hallway of the Village Hall.

187/22 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract July	1583.00
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract August	1583.00
Avalonian Landscapes	Wasp nest treatment. Rubbish clearing.	145.00
SALC	Annual subscription	861.41
SDC	Dog bin and litter bin emptying.	1184.59
PKF Littlejohn	External audit fees	480.00
GB Sports	Annual playground inspection	102.00

The statutory payments were noted.

188/22 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses July 2022	131.10
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses August 2022	199.39
Sedgemoor Tree Services	Annual Tree Inspection	847.63
Sedgemoor Tree Services	Tree maintenance work	1754.94
Parish Magazine Printing	Parish Paper printing	747.58
GA Doble	Bond fees	465.22
GA Doble	Bond fees	292.61
SALC	Councillor planning training	125.00
Village Hall	Materials for Community Payback Team	26.00
Wickes	New gate materials.	85.40
Mole Valley Farmers	New gate materials.	38.88
Mole Valley Farmers	New gate	428.77
Sedgemoor Tree Services	Tree maintenance work	596.28
Computer Warehouse	Projector	26.00
CPC Ltd	Projector lead	4.62

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The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

189/22

To receive any matters of report.

Wild fires were lit by arsonists during the summer heatwave. It is thought that the culprits may be youths who attend local secondary schools. The Devon and Somerset Fire Service give talks to schools regarding the danger of starting fires. The Clerk will contact the local secondary schools to ask if they will speak to their students regarding the lighting of fires, and to pass on the Fire Service contact details.

190/22

Date of next meeting: 14th November 2022.