

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 9th January 2023 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors M Solomon (Chairman), C Chalk (from item 8/23), D Claydon, L Edwards, B Hedaux, P Major, M Phillips and A Reed.

District Councillor I Dyer (until item 9/23).

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

- 1/23 To receive any apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Councillors D Gliddon and J Wellings.

District Councillors B Bolt and M Caswell were unable to attend the meeting.
- 2/23 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.
- 3/23 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th December 2022.
It was resolved to approve the minutes (3 in favour, 4 abstentions as not present at the meeting)
- 4/23 To invite public speaking.
No member of the public had requested to speak.
- 5/23 To receive presentations from Candidates who have submitted written applications to fill the casual vacancy for the Victoria Ward of Wembdon Parish Council.
Mr. Chris Chalk gave a presentation to the Councillors.
- 6/23 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 218/21 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 that members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting.
- 7/23 To consider the written applications and verbal presentations from candidates for the office of Parish Councillor in private session, but not to vote.
Chris Chalk's application was considered.

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8/23 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 Chris Chalk to the Parish Council.

Councillor Chalk signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the Council.

9/23 To receive the Clerk's report.

Flooding

The lanes in Moores Lane and Perry Green are once again flooding during periods of heavy rain. District Councillor Dyer, who has been taking a lead on resolving this problem, gave an update. He noted that one of the adjacent landowners is carrying out some drainage works including laying a larger pipe at the entrance to his field, at his own expense, which will hopefully alleviate the flooding at this point.

Councillor Dyer explained that the responsibility for keeping highway drains clear lies with Somerset County Council, but they say that they do not have the funding to clear the drains on country lanes.

Councillor Dyer is arranging for a drain jetting company to jet underground drainage pipes in an attempt to clear them. The Parish Council will pay for this work, which was authorised under minute 9/21. The cost should be less than £500. The Clerk advised that this expenditure would be allowed, as it would benefit every parishioner who walks or cycles along the lanes.

It was emphasised that this Parish Council expenditure would be a 'one off', as the responsibility for keeping the drains clear lies with Somerset County Council and the landowners and not the Parish Council. If this jetting work does not resolve the problem, then the Parish Council would not be in a position to commit any further expenditure to this problem.

Also, flooding is still occurring at the junction of Wembdon Hill / Wembdon Rise and Church Road. The Clerk will once again report this problem to Somerset County Council.

Jurassic Fibre

This company has been operating in the parish recently, installing cables for their broadband service. Concerns have been raised about how Jurassic Fibre have been operating, including lack of notification to residents about their work; their road closure arrangements and leaving soil and mess behind after they have finished their work. The Somerset County Council Street Works Team were notified of these concerns on 9th January, and an inspector immediately attended to assess the problem. The inspector expressed strong concerns about how Jurassic Fibre were operating and promised that action would be taken against them.

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- 10/23 To consider the Parish Council's banking arrangements in light of the decision made by the new Somerset Council to forward the precept in one installment instead of two.
It was unanimously resolved to open an account with another bank to hold the Parish Council's reserves.

The Clerk will make enquires to find a bank than can offer the dual signature authorisation that we require.
- 11/23 To receive a report on Highways.
There was no report.
- 12/23 To consider whether the Parish Council should purchase a new grit bin to be located near to the junction of Old Oak Close and Oak Apple Drive.
It was unanimously resolved to purchase a grit bin to be located on the entrance path to the Parklands.

If Somerset County Council are able to fill the bin with grit now, then the purchase will be made immediately. If they cannot provide the grit until the autumn, then the grit bin will be purchased then.
- 13/23 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.
One of the footpaths on Wembdon Common is sunken and needs to be levelled up. Quotes for the work will be obtained and considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

The poor condition of footpaths BW34/4 and BW34/5 (which lead from the Church and Wembdon Motors to the bridge over the rhyne) was again discussed. The Clerk has reported this to Somerset County Council in the past, and will enquire again to find out if and when these paths will be resurfaced.
- 14/23 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.
There was no report.
- 15/23 To receive a report on the Parklands.
There was no report.
- 16/23 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.
There was no report.
- 17/23 To receive a report on the Parish Paper.
The next edition is being prepared and will be published in mid-February.
- 18/23 To receive a report on the Allotments.
There continues to be interest from people wanting to join the waiting list for an allotment, but most of the people are from outside the parish.

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19/23 To receive a report on SID results and Speedwatch.
There was no report.

20/23 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.
The next meeting is to be held shortly. The minutes from the meeting will be circulated when received.

21/23 To consider the Parish Councils plans to mark the Coronation of King Charles on 6th May.
It was unanimously resolved to set up a small group of Councillors to liaise with the Village Hall Trust, the Wembdon Community Association and other local organisations to discuss ideas for celebrations in the parish.

It was unanimously resolved to allow a budget of up to £2,000 for the celebrations.

22/23 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract	1583.00
Scribe	Annual subscription	561.60
SLCC	Annual subscription	144.91

The statutory payments were noted.

23/23 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses	123.29
Land Registry	Land registry search	3.00
SALC	Councillor training	30.00
Wembdon Village Hall	Refreshments for December meeting	32.85
Amazon	A4 Paper and inkjet cartridge	30.17

The non-statutory payments were noted.
A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

24/23 To receive any matters of report.
There were no matters to report.

25/23 Date of next meeting: 13th February 2023.