

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 13th February 2023 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 Councillor B Bolt.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay.

- 26/23 To receive any apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Councillors Chalk, Gliddon and Hedaux.
District Councillor Caswell was attending a different parish council meeting.
- 27/23 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.
Councillors Solomon, Reed and Phillips declared an interest in agenda item 32/23.
- 28/23 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th January 2023.
It was resolved to approve the minutes (6 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at the meeting).
- 29/23 To invite public speaking.
No requests to speak had been received.
- 30/23 To receive the Clerk's report.
The poor condition of footpaths BW34/4 and BW34/5 (which lead from the Church and Wembdon Motors to the bridge over the rhyme) has again been reported to Somerset County Council. The latest reply received is they will undertake another safety inspection of the surfaced footpath and any defects found will be repaired. This site is on their list of future works and hopefully funds and resource will be available during the next financial year.

The newly formed Unitary Somerset Council will begin operating on 1st April. The hope is that the planning systems will be operating from this date.

District Councillor Ian Dyer is acting in his private capacity as a local farmer to arrange the clearance of the drains in Moores Lane and surrounding areas to help alleviate the flooding problems. Unfortunately, the water table level is too high for the drains to be flushed at the present time. This work will be taking place as soon as possible, but this may not be until March or even April.

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31/23

To review all Parish Council policies.

All of the Council's policies had been reviewed by Councillors.

These policies were reviewed and agreed without amendment:

Allotment Policy, Committee Terms of Reference, Communications, Council Use of Pesticides, Councillor Code of Conduct, Equal Opportunities, High Consequence Infectious Diseases, Information Data Protection, Maintenance of land not owned by the Council, Press and Media, Privacy, Publication Scheme, Safeguarding, Social Media Strategy, Standing Orders and Vexatious Correspondence and Complaints.

These policies were agreed with amendments:

Bullying and Harassment, CCTV, Complaints Procedure, Councillor Co-option, Document Retention and Disposal, Grant Awarding, Filming and Recording of Meetings.

The Financial Regulations and Procurement policies will be considered by the Finance Team who will bring recommendations to the March Parish Council meeting:

Councillor Major has reviewed the Website Accessibility Statement and made any necessary changes.

Councillors Solomon, Reed and Phillips left the room. Councillor Major chaired the next agenda item.

32/23

To consider whether the Parish Council should contribute towards the running costs of Wembdon Youth Club from October 2023 until the end of March 2024.

The Clerk explained that £2,500 has already been allocated towards the funding of the Youth Club in the 2023-24 Parish Council budget.

It was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council should underwrite the funding of the Youth Club from October 2023 to the end of March 2024 up to a maximum of £5,000 (which includes the £2,500 already allocated).

Further funding of the Youth Club will be considered when the Parish Council sets its 2024-25 budget in November 2023.

Councillors Solomon, Reed and Phillips returned to the meeting.

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- 33/23 To consider whether the Parish Council should amend its financial regulations to allow the Parish Council to have a Unity Trust Bank Multipay card,
It was unanimously resolved to apply for a Unity Trust Bank Multipay card.
- 34/23 To consider the Parish Council's response to New Somerset Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement in Planning.
Councillor Major had previously circulated a draft response to the consultation to all Councillors. It was unanimously resolved to submit the response.
- 35/23 To receive a report on Highways.
There is no update regarding the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Wembdon.

Complaints have been made regarding the way that Jurassic Fibre have been operating in the parish.

EDF workers continue to 'fly park' in Wembdon against company policy. When vehicles are known to be fly parking then they are being reported.
- 36/23 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.
The damaged BT manhole at the end of Orchard Lane has not been replaced, despite many requests. This remains a health and safety issue.
- 37/23 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.
A quote of a total of £1,500 has been received for the levelling out and repair of the existing footpath on Wembdon Common from Church Road to the Parish Centre gate. This expenditure will be an agenda item at the March Parish Council meeting.
- 38/23 To review the latest monthly playground report, and consider what actions need to be taken.
It was noted that every month there are a number of low level risks identified in the playground report. The Clerk was asked to contact the playground inspector GB Sports for a quotation to put right all the low level risks.
- 39/23 To receive a report on the Parklands.
Soil and bark have been delivered to replenish the stumpery. New plants will be sourced. Work should be completed by the end of April or early May. The PACT website will be updated shortly to explain the work that is taking place.

The feasibility of creating a small compound on the Prairie Orchard is being considered by the PACT team.

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40/23 To receive a report on the Parish Paper.

The next edition has been delayed until mid-March so that details of the Coronation celebrations can be included.

The main Coronation celebrations will be held on the Bank Holiday Monday. There will be a community street fayre on the Common where organisations from the village can advertise what they do, and hopefully recruit some volunteers.

Two trees will be planted, one to mark the Queen's passing and another to celebrate the Coronation, both will have plaques attached.

41/23 To receive a report on the Allotments.

There are currently nineteen people on the waiting list for an allotment. Four live in the parish, and fifteen live elsewhere. No more allotment applications will be accepted from people who do not live in the parish.

42/23 To receive a report on SID results and Speedwatch.

The Wembdon Speed Watch coordinator has been informed that once the new 20 mph regulations come into force the following will apply:

- Everything has to be in order and legal before re-commencing monitoring in a changed/new limit.
- The Police Speed Enforcement team have to re-assess the sites again, which includes checking the signage and a permanent, sealed TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) has to be in place.
- Also, there is a 3 month bedding-in period once the work is complete.

The latest headline data is as follows:

Wembdon Rise (from NDR) Average speed - 24 mph; 85th% speed - 26 mph;
Top Recorded speed - 72 mph

Wembdon Rise (by Wares Lane) Average speed - 23 mph; 85th % - 26 mph;
Top recorded speed – 54 mph

Wembdon Hill (going DOWN) Average Speed - 23 mph; 85th% - 29.7 mph;
Top recorded speed – 60 mph.

43/23 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Trust is applying for grants for the construction of two additional unisex/female changing rooms. The Trust has asked for a letter of support for its grant application from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of support.

There is a suggestion that the Youth Club uses the main Kidsbury Hall in the summer months to allow attendees to easily move outside for activities. This would mean that the Parish Council meetings would have to be held in the

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upstairs room. The Parish Councillors felt that Parish Council meetings should remain in the downstairs Crowpill Hall.

44/23 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum. A report has been circulated following a recent meeting of the forum.

45/23 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract	1583.00

The statutory payments were noted.

46/23 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses	150.17
Gardoo	Top soil and bark for Parklands	479.96
Gardoo	Delivery charge	410.00
Glasdon	Grit bin	102.71
Coomber Security	CCTV maintenance work	96.00

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

47/23 To receive any matters of report.
The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting will be held on 3rd April. The Clerk asked for suggestions for a guest speaker. The Parish Council will provide refreshments following the meeting for those in attendance, both Councillors and members of the public.

48/23 Date of next meeting: 13th March 2023.
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 3rd April, to avoid a clash with the Easter Bank Holiday. This will be a short Parish Council meeting at 7pm, followed by the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting at 8pm. The May Parish Council meeting will be held on 15th May, to avoid a clash with the Coronation Bank Holiday.

End of minutes.