

# 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 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 that commenced at 7.15pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors A Reed (Chairman), C Chalk, D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, B Hedaux, P King (from item 147/23), M Phillips and J Wellings.

County Councillors B Bolt and M Caswell were not available to attend the meeting.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

142/23 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor P Major.

143/23 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.

144/23 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

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

145/23 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 146/23 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 to exclude members of the press and public.

The candidate and members of the public left the meeting.

146/23 To consider the candidate for co-option to the Parish Council.

The councillors considered the application of the candidate.

The candidate and members of the public returned to the meeting.

147/23 To vote to co-opt a new Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy.

It was unanimously resolved to co-opt Paul King to the parish council.

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Councillor King signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the council.

148/23 To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had requested to speak.

149/23 To receive the Clerk's report.

The parish council has obligations to carry out Legionella testing at the Allotments and the Parklands as water is contained in troughs and/or butts at both locations. A risk assessment is required at both sites. The clerk has arranged for these assessments to be carried out by a professional.

Councillors were reminded of their responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulations regarding the retention of information which relates to individuals.

Openreach had written to the clerk outlining their application to install a nine metre pole on Wembdon Common. The clerk informed them that this land is covered by a covenant which prevents any structure being erected on it. Openreach have replied stating that they will look for an alternative location for the pole.

The damaged manhole cover at the entrance to Orchard Lane was replaced last week with no advanced notice. The work has now been signed off formally by Somerset StreetWorks. Councillor P Major was thanked for his tireless efforts in reporting this problem over many months. He is still awaiting a response from Openreach to his complaint about the length of time taken to do the repair (over seven months), and he will continue to pursue it.

The parish council has received community infrastructure levy funds of £5119 from Somerset Council. This must be spent on a new project which would benefit the whole community. Councillors were asked to submit ideas to the clerk.

The savings account with CCLA has been opened. £80,000 will be transferred to this account shortly.

A multipay account has been opened. This will provide a debit card for the use of the clerk to make payments on behalf of the council.

The annual subscription of £15 is due to be paid to the Somerset Playing Fields Association.

150/23 To review the Parish Council's financial regulations.

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It was resolved to adopt the amended financial regulations (8 in favour, 1 abstention).

151/23 To review the list of Parish Council statutory payments.

It was resolved to approve the following statutory payments (8 in favour, 1 abstention):

Clerk's regular salary; clerk's pension payments; PAYE payments; maintenance contractor regular monthly payments; website provider regular payments; necessary IT maintenance; playground inspections; insurance (unless the cover is amended); audit fees; Somerset Council dog bins and waste bin emptying contracts; CCTV hosting; room hire; changing places toilet service; Liddell land rent; newsletter printing and necessary subscriptions.

152/23 To consider whether the parish council should relocate one of its defibrillators from within the Village Hall to the outside of the Parish Centre. If agreed, then to consider whether the parish council should pay the relocation costs of around £240.

It was unanimously resolved to move the defibrillator to the Parish Centre and to pay the relocation costs.

153/23 To consider the annual tree inspection report received from Sedgemoor Tree Services.

Some of the dead trees identified in the report have been removed. Others will be removed in the near future. Councillors Chalk and Phillips agreed to carry out the minor tasks listed in the report e.g. mulching work.

154/23 To note that Parish Councillor Wellings will be resigning from the council, and to consider a replacement councillor on the finance team, a councillor to monitor the playing fields and a councillor to post notices on the notice boards.

It was resolved to not to replace Councillor Wellings on the finance team. Councillor Hedaux will monitor the playing fields and Councillors Claydon and Hedaux will post notices on the notice boards. (8 in favour, 1 abstention).

155/23 To reconsider the decision made in minute 126/23 (to create a secure area at the dog walking area at the Parklands to enable dogs to be exercised off lead) as new information has been received.

It was resolved to overturn the decision made in minute 126/23. This project will now not go ahead (8 in favour, 1 abstention).

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156/23 To consider a quote of £381.60 plus VAT to carry out repairs to the basketball net.

This will be adjourned until the September meeting.

157/23 To consider a quotation of £538.96 plus VAT to 'make good' the low risk items at the playground (not including painting work) as identified in the monthly inspection reports.

It was resolved to accept the quotation (8 in favour, 1 abstention).

158/23 To consider whether the parish council should apply to Somerset Council for permission for any more grit bins to be situated in the parish.

There were no suggestions from councillors for new grit bins at the present time.

159/23 To consider whether the parish council should organise events in June 2024 to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

It was unanimously resolved that the parish council will organise events. The arrangements will be discussed at the September parish council meeting. The beacon at the allotments will be lit. Councillors were asked to bring other suggestions to the meeting.

160/23 To receive a report on highways.

The resurfacing of outlying lanes in the parish has been delayed from July to August. Traffic movements are being monitored in the parish. The purpose of this is unknown. The dangerous wall on Wembdon Rise has been demolished. It will be rebuilt in September. Most of the new 20mph signs in the parish are now visible as hedges and trees have been cut back by adjacent landowners. A 20/40mph sign on Sandford Hill is obstructed by hedges and is now invisible to motorists. This will be reported to county highways.

Fly parking by Hinkley workers continues to be a problem. A request has been submitted on behalf of a parishioner for double yellow lines to be painted at the entrance to The Oaks. No reply has been received yet.

161/23 To receive a report on footpaths and verges.

The vegetation in both Gypsy Lane and Church Path has been cut back, but the brambles are growing quickly and are beginning to hang down again. Councillors Phillips and Reed agreed to cut these brambles.

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The rural footpaths are overgrowing and need cutting back. No volunteer has come forward to trim back these paths, so the work will have to wait until Somerset Council cut them as part of their annual programme.

162/23 To receive a report on SID results and speedwatch.

There is very positive news following the installation of the new 20mph speed limit. The number of vehicles travelling through the parish has dropped considerably. These are the Sid results:

## Sandford Hill

	December 2022	June 2023	July 2023
Average Speed (mph)	N/A	25.5	25.6
85 <sup>th</sup> % Speed	34	33	34
Vehicles per day	717	570	516

## Wembdon Rise (Wares Lane)

	December 2022	June 2023	July 2023
Average Speed (mph)	25.6	23.2	20.6
85 <sup>th</sup> % Speed	26	24	24
Vehicles per day	1284	1058	1003

## Wembdon Rise (From NDR)

	December 2022	June 2023	July 2023
Average Speed (mph)	23.6	21.21	20.85
85 <sup>th</sup> % Speed	27	26	25
Vehicles per day	1735	1754	1630

## Wembdon Hill (bus stop eastbound)

	December 2022	June 2023	July 2023
Average Speed (mph)	N/A	23	21.2
85 <sup>th</sup> % Speed	N/A	28.7	26.7
Vehicles per day	N/A	1040	945

163/23 To receive a report on the Village Hall.

There have been no committee meetings recently, and there was nothing to report.

164/23 To receive a report on the Parklands.

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Work continues on the stumpery. The water butts have both been vandalised and will need repairing. An enclosure is being constructed where the butts will be housed in an effort to prevent vandalism.

Holes have been made in hedgerows. It is believed that these may have been created by youths creating dens.

Volunteers are still required to help with tasks including weeding.

165/23 To receive a report on the allotments.

Three vacant plots have been re-let.

166/23 To receive a report on the playing fields.

Another branch on the recently planted oak trees has been snapped by vandals.

167/23 To receive a report regarding the Dowsborough Local Community Network.

Councillor Hedaux had previously circulated a report on the inaugural meeting. The minutes have now been circulated to councillors. The next meeting will be held in September.

168/23 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

Stakeholder meetings will now be held every six months. The next Transport Forum meeting is due to be held next week.

169/23 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract	1583.00
Coomber Security	Engineer callout	240.00
Wembdon Village Hall	Second quarter 2023-24. Room hire £250.00. CCTV base station service £250.00. Changing places toilet rental £250.00	750.00

The statutory payments were noted.

170/23 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
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Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses June 2023	172.43
CPRE	Annual subscription	36.00
G J Lancaster	Re-laying of footpath across Wembdon Common	1560.00
Avalonian Landscapes	Tree maintenance	65.00
GB Sports	Annual playground inspection	102.00
Broxap	Bollard for entrance to parklands	314.40
Parish Magazine Printing	Printing of Parish Paper July	747.00

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

171/23 To receive any matters of report.

The new bollard at the NDR entrance to the Parklands is due to be fitted this week. The rotted posts on the raised footpath in Church Road have been reported to Somerset Council, but no reply has been received. The clerk will chase this.

Councillor Wellings will be resigning from the parish council, and this will be his last meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his work as a councillor and wished him well for the future.

172/23 Date of next meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

End of Minutes