

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 11th September 2023 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors A Reed (Chairman), C Chalk, D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, B Hedaux, J Hayden-Briffett (from agenda item 178/23), P King and P Major.

County Councillors M Caswell.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

173/23 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor M Phillips.

174/23 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.

Councillor Hedaux declared an interest in agenda items 177/23 and 178/23.
Councillor Chalk declared an interest in agenda item 182/23.
The Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 202/23.

175/23 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th July 2023.

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

The Chairman signed the minutes.

The process commenced to co-opt a Parish Councillor to fill a casual vacancy. The candidate introduced herself to the Councillors.

176/23 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 177/23 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 from the meeting.

Councillor Hedaux left the meeting, along with all members of the public.

177/23 To consider the candidate for co-option to the Parish Council.
The Councillors considered the candidate for co-option.

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Members of the public returned to the meeting room.

178/23 To vote to co-opt a new Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy.

It was unanimously resolved to appoint Jenny Hayden-Briffett to the Parish Council.

Councillor Hedaux rejoined the meeting.

Councillor Hayden-Briffett signed the declaration of office and joined the council.

179/23 To invite public speaking.

Members of the public spoke regarding agenda item 181/23 prior to the item being debated. A member of the public spoke about agenda item 184/23 prior to the item being debated.

180/23 To receive the Clerk's report.

The Clerk reported that he had recently learnt that if any Councillor is an undischarged bankrupt, then the Parish Council's insurers must be told. If this is not disclosed to the insurers, then the Parish Council's insurance policy will be invalidated. This recently happened at Clevedon Town Council, which was reported in the local media.

The open storage area has been constructed at the Parklands. Two access holes for badgers have been made in the fencing at the request of the Somerset Council ecologist to allow badgers access to forage in the storage area. The floor will remain as grass and soil to enable foraging to take place.

The Parish Council external audit for the financial year 2022-23 has now been completed. The auditors raised no concerns.

The Clerk will be attending a budget setting training session run by the Somerset Association of Local Councils which contains the item 'If Somerset Council are going to run out of money in two years' time, what further cost could come the Parish Councils way?' The Clerk will report what he was told at the next Parish Council meeting.

181/23 To consider whether the parish council supports a suggestion to extend the length of the double yellow lines at the entrance to The Oaks.

It was resolved to support the extension to the double yellow lines.
(7 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention).

Councillor Chalk left the meeting.

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182/23 To consider whether the parish council supports a suggestion to install double yellow lines on the west side of the junction of Greenacre and Church Road.

It was unanimously resolved to support the extension to the double yellow lines.

Councillor Chalk returned to the meeting.

183/23 To consider setting up a Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group.

A debate took place regarding who should make up the steering group.

It was unanimously resolved to ask all members of the original Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who still reside in the parish to join the review steering group.

184/23 To consider whether the parish council agrees, in principle, to set up a working group to explore fund raising possibilities for a Multi-Use Games Area.

It was agreed that the setting up of a working group would be a good idea, in principle, but the final decision will be delayed until after the Wembdon Community Strategy is in place which will define the priorities for the parish.

185/23 To consider the minutes of the meeting of the Dowsborough Local Community Network held on 14th June and the listed priorities for the Local Community Network.

The minutes of the Local Community Network meeting were considered. Councillors gave suggestions for Local Community Network priorities for Councillor Hedaux to take to the next meeting.

186/23 To appoint a working group of councillors to consider the maintenance contractor work schedule prior to the tendering process later this year.

It was resolved to appoint Councillors Edwards, Gliddon and Phillips to the working group (8 in favour, 1 abstention).

188/23 To receive a report on highways.

Moore's Lane has been resurfaced. The construction work for the new junctions on the A39 Quantock Road has begun. Jurassic Fibre have again failed to give proper notice of proposed work to affected residents. This has been reported to them, and the date of the work has been delayed to enable letters to be sent to these residents.

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187/23 To receive a report on the footpaths and verges.

Some householders are still not cutting back their hedges, trees and vegetation which are overhanging the pavements. It is the responsibility of every landowner to ensure that this does not happen.

189/23 To receive a report on the playing fields and common.

Resurfacing work has been carried out at the play area. Wembdon Playing Fields have been nominated for a prize in the annual Somerset Play Association awards. Whether this is the first, second or third prize will be announced at the Somerset Playing Association annual general meeting.

190/23 To receive a report on the allotments.

The three water troughs have been replaced by three standpipes because of the legionella risk associated with troughs. The old troughs have been taken by three tenants to use for their own garden projects.

Three long term tenants have reduced their two plots to one. Two tenants have vacated their plots, making five vacant plots in total. Five new tenants are taking over these plots. The waiting list has been reduced to twelve, all living outside the parish boundary. If a parishioner was to express an interest in renting an allotment then they would go straight to the top of the waiting list.

The allotment annual general meeting will be held on 25th September in the Village Hall.

It has been a hard year weatherwise to keep on top of the fast growing grass, weed, slugs and snails. Most tenants are catching up now as they are preparing their plots for winter covering.

191/23 To receive an update on the Parklands.

The stumpwork is almost completed. The next stage in this work will be planting. The water butt storage area has been badly vandalised, so the water butts will now be kept inside the new secure storage area. Some newly embedded plants have been stolen. These cost hundreds of pounds and were bought using grant money donated to the PACT charity.

192/23 To consider whether the parish council should include a figure to be decided in the 2024-25 budget for the installation of new CCTV cameras in the parklands.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the installation of any additional CCTV cameras would need to be approved by Somerset Council, as this is one of

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the conditions of the 2003 covenant which is in force in relation to the Parklands.

It was agreed that this matter will be considered during the 2023-24 budget and precept process later this year.

- 193/23 To approve the expenditure required to cut back the branches which are obscuring the view of the CCTV cameras in the Parklands.

It was unanimously resolved that the branches should be cut back, and to ask Sedgemoor Tree Services to quote for this work. If the quote is less than £500 then the work should go ahead.

- 194/23 To receive a report on SID results and Speedwatch.

One of the main benefits of the new 20 mph speed limit is the reduction of vehicles using the village as a rat-run. Also the average speed of vehicles has dropped. Most drivers are sticking to the new speed limit, however there are some inconsiderate drivers who break it. The Speedwatch team will be operating again in the near future. New locations for the team to operate are being approved.

- 195/23 To receive an update on the Parish Paper.

The next edition of the Parish Paper will be sent to the printers later this month.

It was agreed that the next two editions will be published in November and February.

- 196/23 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

Councillor Phillips has circulated summaries of the meetings that he has attended to all councillors.

- 197/23 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 151/23).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract July	1583.00
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract August	1583.00
Coomber Security	Annual maintenance contract	180.00
N Power	CCTV electricity	37.12
Somerset Council	Dog bin emptying April to Sept	1839.55
PKF Littlejohn	External audit fees	504.00

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The statutory payments were noted.

198/23

To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses July 2023	122.62
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses Aug 2023	82.34
Delia Thornton	Legionella risk assessments	120.00
Sedgemoor Tree Services	Cut down and remove dead trees	754.61
Avalonian Landscapes	Erection of compound in Parklands	990.00
Unity Trust Bank	Multipay card set up fee	50.00
Somerset Playing Fields Association	Annual membership fee	15.00
W H Smith	Prizes for competition	35.00
G Lancaster	Build stone plinths	800.00
M Phillips	Community Payback and Tree maintenance expenses	68.99
Coomber Security	CCTV engineer callout	235.92
G Lancaster	Bollard installation	115.00
Jewson	Topsoil delivery	99.59
GB Sports	Playground floor surface repairs	3281.64
CRS Building Supplies	Bark delivery	143.98
Fine Memorials	Polish and re-letter plaque	145.20
G J Lancaster	Re-install plaque	85.00
Avalonian Landscapes	Relocating of dog bin	85.00
TC Plumbing and Heating	Plumbing work at the allotments	528.00

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

199/23

To receive any matters of report.

There were no matters raised.

200/23

The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 201/23 and 202/23 by reason of the confidential nature of the items of

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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 from the meeting.

201/23 To note that a parishioner has made a complaint against the Parish Clerk which is currently under investigation.

This was noted by Councillors.

Post meeting note: A meeting has been held between the parishioner making the complaint, members of the Staffing Committee and the Clerk. All matters were resolved amicably, and the complaint has been withdrawn.

The Chairman left the meeting.

202/23 To discuss matters relating to the maintenance contractor.

The maintenance contractor was invited to join the meeting and answered Councillor questions.

203/23 Date of next meeting: 9th October 2023.

End of Minutes