

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 October 2023 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors A Reed (Chairman), D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, B Hedaux, J Hayden-Briffett, P King and M Phillips.

County Councillor B Bolt.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

- 203/23 To receive any apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Councillors C Chalk and P Major.
- 204/23 To receive any declarations of interest on items relating to this agenda, which have not been previously declared in the Councillors register of interests.
There were no declarations of interest .
- 205/23 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th September 2023.
It was resolved to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting (7 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at the meeting).
- 206/23 To invite public speaking.
No member of the public had requested to speak.
- 207/23 To receive the Clerk's report.
The fence at the bridge over the rhyne at the Parklands has recently been made safe with a temporary repair, but it really needs to be replaced. Two quotations have been received for this work. They will be considered at the next Council meeting.
- Hedges and vegetation that overhang the highway and pavements continue to be a problem in the parish. The Clerk regularly writes to householders reminding them that it is their responsibility to maintain their hedges and vegetation adjacent to the highway or pavement.
- Parking at the junction of Crossacre and Church Road continues to be a problem. The Police have once again been asked to pay attention during their patrols. PCSO Jason Wyatt has now been transferred to another policing area. The new PCSO covering Wembdon will be PCSO Jeremy Pidgeon, but he is currently on long term sick leave and so there is no regular PCSO cover at present.
- Trees and bushes have been cut back in the Parklands to prevent them obscuring the views of the CCTV cameras. Unfortunately the contractor

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went too far and cut back more than was required. This is most unfortunate, and the contractor has been made aware of the Parish Council's displeasure.

The Give a Day team has asked for plants to be purchased twice a year to replenish the tubs in the parish. These would cost between £100 and £150 each time. This will be an agenda item for consideration at the November meeting.

208/23 To review the Parish Council's policy regarding the maintenance of land.
It was unanimously resolved to make amendments to the policy as previously circulated to councillors.

The amended policy will be included on the Parish Council website's policy page.

209/23 To consider the cutting of grass and vegetation on certain areas in the parish (to be listed) that are not owned by the Parish Council.
It was unanimously resolved to cut the grass and vegetation in named areas.

These areas are listed at the end of these minutes.

210/23 To decide upon the tendering process to be adopted for the Maintenance Contract to run from January 2024 to December 2026.
It was unanimously resolved to:

- Use a previously circulated schedule of works which will form part of the tendering process.
- Agree the contents of a tendering application form.
- Advertise the tendering process on the Parish Council's website, notice boards, Facebook page and also an advertisement will be placed in the Bridgwater Mercury.

211/23 To receive a report on Highways.
The work to create a new junction on the A39 for the new Cokerhurst Farm housing development will begin in November, and last for about a year. There will be a temporary speed limit of 20mph on the A39 throughout the works, and there will be no road closures or traffic lights, apart from very occasionally during the night.

A faded 20mph repeater sign in Church Road has been replaced.

212/23 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.
There are overhanging branches in Wembdon Rise which have been reported to Somerset Council Clean Surroundings.

213/23 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.
The accessible play equipment is being well used.

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The playing fields were awarded second place in the annual Somerset Playing Fields awards. Congratulations were given to the people who maintain the playing fields.

- 214/23 To receive a report on the Parklands.
Planting has been carried out on the stumpery. PACT has been told that squirrels have been seen at the stumpery, which is good news. Work on the prairie and the sensory borders will begin shortly. More volunteers are required. There has been evidence of badger digging at the Parklands, and a hedgehog has been seen.
- 215/23 To receive a report on the Village Hall.
The community lounge is being redecorated and refurbished. The new licence between the Trust and the Cricket Club is due to be signed in the near future. The Trust AGM will be held next week.
- 216/23 To receive a report on the allotments.
Another allotment has been vacated. A new tenant will be taking over the plot shortly.
- 217/23 To receive a report on SID results and Speedwatch.
The mobile SID has been situated on Wembdon Hill going upwards for ten weeks. The average speed has dropped from 23.2mph in May to 21mph now. The 85th percentile speed was 29.6mph in May and 28.5mph now. In May 700 vehicle movements per day were recorded, and this has now dropped to 525.

The Speedwatch team are awaiting the authority to operate again following the change of speed limit.
- 218/23 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.
A report from the recently held meeting has been circulated to councillors.
- 219/23 To receive an update regarding the broadband service in the Perry Green area.
Very poor broadband speeds are being experienced in the Perry Green area. BT Openreach have no plans to improve the wiring infrastructure in the near future. Residents requiring faster broadband speeds are encouraged to register their interest on as many provider websites as possible. The Starlink service provides a faster broadband service. This has to be self-installed.
- 220/23 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 151/23).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
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Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract	1583.00
J. Liddall	Annual land rental charge	160.00
Wembdon Village Hall Trust	Quarterly charges: Room hire £250; CCTV base station service £250; Accessible toilet rental £250.	750.00
SALC	Annual subscription	896.82
Parish Magazine Printing	Parish Paper printing	647.00

The statutory payments were noted.

221/23

To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses September 2023	192.38
Cartridge Save	Cartridge for notice board printing	21.11
Avalonian Landscapes	Repairs to fence	48.00
Proper Job	Printing paper	4.99
Wilko	Two picture frames for allotment certificates	10.00
G J Lancaster	Filling of two potholes on Parish Council land	85.00
GB Sports	Playground repairs	613.13
GB Sports	Playground edging repairs	112.70
Jewson	Topsoil for Parklands	99.59
CRS	Bark for Parklands	143.98

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

222/23

To receive any matters of report.

Councillor Hedaux attended the latest LCN meeting. The attendance was disappointing, with only ten out of thirty voting members present. Also, only one of the sixteen member agencies attended. The Parish Council's LCN priorities need to be considered at the November meeting.

223/23

The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 223/23 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.

There were no members of the press or public present.

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224/23 To discuss measures to combat vandalism in the parish.
Various options were discussed with no decisions made.

225/23 Date of next meeting: 13th November 2023.

List of land to be maintained by the Parish Council.

Verge on Wembdon Hill by Cottage Inn and hedge adjacent to pavement towards back door of The Cottage Inn.

Verge on Wembdon Rise by The Oaks opposite 58 -80 W/Rise

Verges on Wembdon Hill by Keltings

Verge in Greenacre from Wares Lane

Downhall Drive - Blakes Lane - B/W 34/14

Ridgepath to Blakes Lane - B/W 34/16 omitting large grass area adjacent to stables (private land).

Blakes Road - Hollow Lane (metal gate) B/W 34/11; 34/13; 34/15

Cross View Rise - Ridgepath -B/W 34/12

Booth Way - NDR (Church Path)B/W 34/1

Gypsy Lane (from Wembdon Rise) -B/W 34/8 From 43A to Meadow Park and 1 Silverdale Close behind Lyndhurst Crescent

Footpath at boundary of Inwood Estate (LINK LANE from NDR/Wembdon Rise to Meadow Park)

Roundabout at the end of Brantwood Road

Cut-back by fingerposts Skimmerton and Moores Lane junction with Hollow Lane

Footpath Dovai Drive to NDR

Footpath between Wembdon Motors and the rear of Florence Court

End of minutes