

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

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

County Councillor M Caswell.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

232/23 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor D Gliddon.

233/23 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 A Reed and M Phillips declared an interest in one of the people tendering for the Parish Council's maintenance contract (agenda item 256/23).

234/23 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 30th October 2023.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (5 in favour, 3 abstentions as not present at the meeting).

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

235/23 To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had requested to speak.

236/23 To receive the Clerk's report.

Chris Chalk has resigned as a Parish Councillor since the last Parish Council meeting. This casual vacancy has been notified to Somerset Council. Chris was thanked for his contribution to the work of the Council during his time as a Councillor.

The leader of Somerset Council has written to all Town and Parish Councils outlining the financial problems which lay ahead for Somerset Council, and asking these Councils whether they would consider taking over responsibility for any services currently supplied by Somerset Council. If Wembdon Parish Council feels that there would be services that it could consider adopting,

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then Somerset Council should be informed, and an exploratory meeting will be arranged. Councillor Hedaux was asked to raise this at the next Local Community Network meeting.

- 237/23 To consider a request from a parishioner for junior goalposts to be installed on the playing fields.

This request was debated in May 2023 (minute 101/23) when it was decided to re-consider the request after six months. It was agreed that the circumstances regarding the installation of goalposts had not changed in the last six month, so it was unanimously resolved that the resolution made in minute 101/23 should remain.

- 238/23 To consider a request from the Give a Day team for plants costing between £100 and £150 to be purchased twice a year to replenish the flower tubs in the parish.

It was unanimously resolved to donate up to £250 each financial year for the purchase of plants, bulbs etc. The donation will be up to £125 for the remainder of the current financial year. Receipts for purchases will be required.

- 239/23 To receive a report on Highways.

There was no highways report.

- 240/23 To consider whether the Parish Council should purchase and pay for the installation of extra 20mph repeater signs. If agreed, then to consider the locations of the signs.

It was resolved to purchase two extra repeater signs (7 in favour, 1 against).

Councillors Major and Phillips will carry out an assessment of how many additional 20mph repeater signs are needed in the Parish and will compile a list of locations to be submitted to Somerset Council for approval.

- 241/23 To review the list of councillor responsibilities.

The responsibilities were reviewed, with the following list approved.

Planning Committee	Cllrs Claydon, Edwards, Gliddon, Major, Phillips and Reed,
Finance team	Cllrs Gliddon, Hedaux, Phillips and Reed.
Staffing team	Cllrs Gliddon, Phillips and Claydon.
Footpaths	Cllr Gliddon and Phillips
Parklands	Cllrs Claydon and Edwards.
Village Hall trustee	Cllr Phillips

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Allotments	Cllr Claydon
Playing fields	Cllr Hayden-Briffett
Highways	Cllrs Gliddon and Major
Speedwatch and SID	Cllr Gliddon
Website	Cllr Major and the Clerk
Facebook	Cllrs Gliddon and Reed
Litter and Local Environment	Cllr Edwards
Climate Change	Cllrs Edwards, Claydon and Reed.
Parish Paper	The Clerk and Cllr Major
EDF / Hinkley Forum	Cllr Phillips
Local Community Network	Cllrs Hedaux and Reed
Perry Green	Cllr King

242/23 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.

There were no issues to raise.

243/23 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.

The basketball hoop needs to be refurbished. This work will be carried out shortly.

There have been instances of the anti-dog fouling posters being ripped down in the Parish. The Clerk will enquire into the cost of purchasing more robust signs.

244/23 To receive a report on the Parklands.

The planting is now coming to an end as winter approaches. The recent spell of heavy rain has made the ground very wet and difficult to work on.

245/23 To receive an update on the Village Hall.

The Youth Club will be finishing at the end of this year. This is partly because there has been a lack of uptake by the youth of the Parish, with attendances being very disappointing.

246/23 To receive a report on the allotments.

Everything is now closing down for the winter months.

247/23 To receive an update on the Parish Paper.

The next edition will be sent to the printers this week, with distribution taking place during the weekend of 25th and 26th November. 1650 copies will be ordered.

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248/23 To receive a report on SID results and Speedwatch.

The most beneficial aspect of the 20-mph introduction so far is the decrease in traffic volume using Wembdon as a rat-run. Also, average speeds have decreased. This is the latest data:

Average Speeds:

Wembdon Rise from NDR – 20.68 mph (23.6 mph in Dec)
Wembdon Rise (Wares Lane) – 20.54 mph (23.09 mph in Dec)
Sandford Hill – 25.28 mph (34 mph in Dec '22).

Traffic Volumes:

From the NDR - 1,497 vehicles per day, down from 1,735
From Sandford Hill – 520 per day down from 717
Wembdon Rise (Wares Lane) – 971 per day down from 1,284

The Speed Watch team were active on October 30th after an enforced lay-off. In total 11 drivers were reported to the police for driving above 25 mph. This was approximately 20% of vehicles. However, the top recorded speed was 32 mph which under the old 30 mph limit would not have been reported. We are, of course, aware that a number of drivers are still ignoring the limit, but with your continued support and by keeping to the 20 mph ourselves, we can reduce these speeds even further.

249/23 To receive a report regarding the flooding problem in Moores Lane.

Councillor King had prepared a report which was circulated to Councillors. This recommended that the Parish Council writes to the landowners who own the ditches and drains which need cleaning and are a major cause of the flooding, reminding them that it is their responsibility to keep the ditches and drains clear. The Clerk was asked to write these letters.

County Councillor Caswell advised that there are riparian rights which dictate that landowners have the responsibility to keep ditches on their land clear.

250/23 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

The next forum meeting will be held on Thursday 16th November. Councillor Phillips will report back to Councillors following the meeting.

251/23 To receive a Local Community Network update and to consider the Parish Council's priorities to be taken to the next meeting.

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The next Local Community Network meeting will be held in Wembdon Village Hall on 22nd November. All members of the public are welcome to attend. The meeting agenda has already been circulated to Councillors.

The Wembdon Parish Council priorities to be taken to the meeting are:

- Concerns regarding the devolution of Somerset Council services.
- Climate change
- Connectivity
- Highways
- Planning enforcement

252/23 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 151/23).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract	1583.00
GB Sports	Playground inspections Oct 23 – March 24	180.00
Scribe	Accountancy package. Annual subscription	673.92
Somerset Council	Litter bin emptying April – Sept 23	781.25

The statutory payments were noted.

253/23 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses October 2023	134.46
SALC	Councillor training	100.00
Avalonian Landscapes	Additional work	35.00

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

254/23 To receive any matters of report.

There were no matters to report.

255/23 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 255/23 by reason of the confidential nature of the items of business to be

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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 the public be excluded from the meeting.

Councillors M Phillips and A Reed left the meeting as they had a personal interest to declare in relation to one of the tenderers.

256/23 To consider the tenders received for the Parish Council's maintenance contract for the period January 2024 to December 2026.

Councillors M Phillips and A Reed returned to the meeting after it had been agreed not to accept one of the tenders.

It was unanimously resolved to award the contract to GWB Services. Although this was not the lowest tender received, the Councillors considered factors such as experience, references and company capability when making their decision.

257/23 Date of next meeting: 11th December 2023.

End of minutes.