

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 8th January 2024 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors A Reed (Chairman), C Chalk (from item 8/24), D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, J Hayden-Briffett, B Hedaux, P King, P Major and M Phillips.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

- 1/24 To receive any apologies for absence.
All councillors were present.
- 2/24 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 Reed declared an interest in agenda item 27/24.
- 3/24 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th December 2023.
It was resolved to approve the minutes as being a correct record of the meeting (8 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at the meeting).
- 4/24 To invite public speaking – any parishioner of Wembdon and/or members of the press who has given.
No member of the public had requested to speak.
- 5/24 To receive presentations from candidates who have submitted written applications to fill the casual vacancy for the Victoria Ward of Wembdon Parish Council.
Chris Chalk was the only candidate. He spoke to the meeting.
- 6/24 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 7/24 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 the members of the press and public from the meeting.

The candidate left the meeting. No other members of the press and public were present.
- 7/24 To consider the written applications and verbal presentations from candidates for the office of Parish Councillor in private session, but not to vote.
The Councillors considered the candidate.

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The candidate returned to the meeting.

8/24

To vote to co-opt a candidate to fill the casual vacancy for the Wembdon/Victoria ward of Wembdon.

It was unanimously resolved to co-opt Chris Chalk to the Parish Council.

Councillor Chalk signed the declaration of office and joined the meeting.

9/24

To receive the Clerk's report.

An extra Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 29th January to set the Council's budget and precept demand for 2024-25. The financial problems being experienced by Somerset Council are widely known, and the knock on effect for Town and Parish Councils is currently uncertain. Parishioners are encouraged to attend the meeting on 29th January, as financial decisions made by the Parish Councillors may affect the amount that they will be paying the Parish Council in Council Tax in 2024-25. There will be a public participation section of the meeting where parishioners will be invited to give their views.

The new Parish Council maintenance contract with GWB Services Ltd. began on the first of January 2024.

The Somerset Drainage Board Consortium have said that they will be removing the fallen trees in the rhyne next to the NDR.

10/24

To consider whether the Parish Council should purchase one or more additional CCTV cameras to be installed at the Parklands.

It was resolved not to purchase any additional CCTV cameras at the present time (7 in favour, 3 against).

11/24

To consider whether the Parish Council should buy ten anti-dog fouling signs showing designs drawn by Wembdon schoolchildren. The quoted prices are £488 for A3 size and £410 for A4 size.

It was unanimously resolved not to purchase any anti-dog fouling signs, but to produce some better quality laminated signs ourselves.

12/24

To consider suggestions for the naming of roads on the new Cokerhurst Farm development.

It was unanimously resolved to submit the following list of names:

Middle Ground for the spine road.

Then roads with the titles Strawberry, Raspberry, Elsanta, Hapil, Totem and Spindleberry and Buttercup.

Middle Ground is the name of the central field where the Oak trees are situated. The farm was a Pick Your Own Fruit Farm in the 1980's and 1990's, hence the names of fruit, varieties of fruit and a flower.

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- 13/24 To receive a report on Highways.
Potholes have been reported in Moores Lane, Blakes Lane, Skimmerton Drive and Wembdon Rise. Some of these have already been repaired. Members of the public are encouraged to report potholes to Somerset Council directly.
- 14/24 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.
Councillor Gliddon will be meeting with the new maintenance contractor to show him the footpaths in the parish.
- 15/24 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.
The monthly playground inspection report shows some shrinkage in the wet poor flooring near to the 'schools climber'. GB Sports carried out work on a section of the flooring last year, so the Clerk was asked to find out whether the recent problem is in the area that they worked upon.
- 16/24 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.
The new coffee shop in the Village Hall opened on the day of this meeting and was well supported. The opening hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm and Saturday 9am to noon.
- 17/24 To receive a report on the Parish Paper.
The next Parish Paper will be produced in mid-February. The Chairman will write an article on the defibrillators in the parish.
- 18/24 To receive a report on the Allotments.
The waiting list has grown. There are now three parishioners and fourteen non-parishioners on the list. Parishioners get preference over non-parishioners when allotments become available.
- 19/24 To receive a report on Parklands.
There has been more vandalism to the water butts.
- 20/24 To receive a report regarding SID results and Speedwatch.
There is no new SID data available this month. The speedwatch team was operating on 13th December at the top of Wembdon Hill for an hour. Nine out of one hundred vehicles were found to be travelling in excess of 25mph. The registration numbers have been forwarded to the police and warning letters will be sent. The top speed recorded was 35mph.
- 21/24 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.
The next forum meeting is due to be held next week.
- 22/24 To receive an update on the Local Community Network.
The next meeting will be held on 31st January at Nether Stowey.

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23/24 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 151/23).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract	1583.00
SLCC	Annual subscription	174.00
Wembdon Village Hall	Room hire 4 th quarter	250.00
Wembdon Village Hall	CCTV base station rental 4 th quarter	250.00
Wembdon Village Hall	Accessible toilet service 4 th quarter	250.00

The statutory payments were noted.

24/24 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses	91.90
Cllr Phillips	Expenses for Community Payback Team	20.81
Wembdon Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust	Donation	2000.00
Wembdon Cricket Club	Refreshments following December Parish Council meeting	38.90
John Marchant Ltd	Installation of defibrillator	314.66

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

25/24 To receive any matters of report.

All lanes in Perry Green are now open following the recent flooding. Early indications are that the recent drainage work in Moores Lane has helped to alleviate the flooding problem.

A closed Facebook group for Perry Green residents has been set up.

26/24 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 27/24 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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Councillor Reed left the meeting. Councillor Major chaired the following agenda item.

27/24 To consider whether the Parish Council should pay an invoice received.
It was resolved to pay part of the invoice (6 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention).

28/24 Date of next meeting: 29th January 2024.

End of minutes.