

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 March 2024 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

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

County Councillors: B Bolt and M Caswell.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

57/24 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Claydon, Gliddon and Major.

58/24 To receive councillor interests on any agenda item.

There were no interests declared.

59/24 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th February 2024.

It was resolved to approve the minutes as being a correct record of the meeting (6 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at the meeting).

60/24 To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had requested to speak.

61/24 To receive the Clerk's report.

Somerset Councillor Brian Bolt has requested that we have a regular agenda item 'To receive the report from the Somerset Councillors'. This would enable him to plan at what stage of the meeting he would be speaking, and to enable him to submit a report if he could not attend. Most other Parish Councils in Councillor Bolt's area have such an agenda item. It was agreed to include this on future agendas.

A Year 9 Haygrove School pupil is taking his Duke of Edinburgh bronze award and has requested that a Councillor be the assessor for one of his activities (litter picking in the parish). Councillor Claydon has kindly volunteered to be the assessor. Requests such as this will be treated individually, and this should not be seen to set a precedent that Councillors will always be assessors.

Somerset Council has announced that they no longer have the resources to supply sandbags to properties at risk of flooding. They recommend that each parish produces a flood emergency plan. This will be raised later in the meeting under 'matters of report'.

A large amount of vandalism took place on The Green on the evening of Saturday 9th March. The following day it was noticed that the accessible

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trampoline had been damaged. Images of the offenders have been captured on CCTV. The Police will be informed.

- 62/24 To review the Parish Council's policies and procedures.
It was unanimously agreed to re-approve all policies and procedures without amendment.
- 63/24 To note the resignation of Councillor Edwards from the Planning Committee and to appoint a Councillor replacement.
Councillor Edward's resignation was noted. The Chairman thanked her for her services to the planning committee.
It was unanimously resolved to appoint Councillor King to the Planning Committee.
- 64/24 To consider the setting up of a working group of Councillors to consider how the Parish Council will deal with highways services devolution.
It was unanimously resolved to appoint Councillors Gliddon, Hedaux and King to a working group who will meet when further information is known about the costs and options associated with devolution.
- 65/24 To consider whether the Parish Council should subscribe to the Parish Online database and, if agree, to arrange for a training session to be held for all Councillors.
It was unanimously resolved to subscribe to the Parish Online database at an annual subscription of £177 plus VAT, and to sign up for the unlimited Councillor training package at £100 a year. The Clerk will arrange a training session.
- 66/24 To consider the arrangements for the lighting of the beacon to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day.
The beacon will be lit at 9.15pm on 6th June which is the coordinated national time. The risk assessment for the use of the beacon is being updated. The Council's insurance providers will be informed, along with the Fire Brigade and the Police. The Church bells will be rung. It was agreed that nets of logs should be purchased for the beacon. The lighting will be carried out by Councillors Chalk and Phillips.
- 67/24 To consider whether the Parish Council should take part in the Hedgehog Highways Project.
The cost of buying one set of 50 Hedgehog Highway packs is £150. It was unanimously resolved to purchase one set of packs initially which will be sold to parishioners at cost price.
- 68/24 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.
Most of the footpaths are still very wet. Two loose steps in Church Road have been reported to Clean Surroundings.

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69/24 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.
Moss has been growing on the wet pour surface in the play area. It is not slippery at the moment, but the situation is being monitored. The red swings need repainting. The Clerk will invite the painters who advertise in the Parish Paper to submit quotes.

Flooding has taken place on the Common. This has been caused by the drainage into the rhyne. The problems have been reported to the Drainage Board.

70/24 To receive a report on the Parklands.
The Parish Council request for permission to be given for a new water butt to be installed at the Parklands is being considered by Somerset Council.

Seeds of Hope are a non-profit Social Enterprise Group who do outdoor work with people with mental health issues. They have offered their services at the Parklands. The team charges £35 per hour. Their services will be used for a trial initial session of four hours doing work at the Prairie Orchard.

Spring has arrived, and the work on the sensory borders has begun.

71/24 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.
The new Coffee Shop has proved to be a great success. It is hoped that this will become a permanent fixture.

72/24 To receive a report on the Parish Paper.
The latest edition has been delivered. The next edition is due to be published in May. There will be articles on the lighting of the beacon, and on the D-Day commemorations in general.

73/24 To receive a report on the Allotments.
The garden rubbish which has been dumped on the Council plot will be removed shortly. There continues to be interest from people enquiring about having an allotment.

74/24 To receive a report regarding Perry Green.
The flooding has now receded. Local landowners has said that they will clean out their ditches which should help to relieve future problems.

75/24 To receive a report on Highways.
More potholes have been reported to Somerset Council. Some of these have been repaired, but the quality of the work has been very poor. This has been reported to the Highways Department.

76/24 To receive a report on SID results and Speedwatch.
Councillor Gliddon provided the report.

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I've taken data from the three solar SID's over the past few days and looked at the data: As suspected we have had an increase in traffic coming through the village as a result of the 20 mph limit on the A39 Cokerhurst works. It feels busier. Sandford Hill traffic increased from an average of 426 vehicles to 481 (+55) and the 85thile speed rose from 33 mph to 34.

Traffic at the Wares Lane SID increased from 872 to 911 (+49) but there was no changes of speed.

Traffic at Wembdon Rise from the NDR increased from 1,444 to 1,540 (+96) with no noticeable changes of average or 85th% speeds.

These are the first rises in a year so it must surely be the Cokerhurst effect.

The mobile SID was located in Church Road for a three-week period. The headline data is:

The average speed was 14.7 mph (it was 16.3 mph in February 2022)
The 85th % speed was 20.7 mph (it was 22.9 mph in February 2022)
The average number of vehicles per day was 337 (it was 496 in February 2022).
The highest recorded speed was 40 mph both recently and in February 2022.

- 77/24 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.
A number of reports of fly-parking by Hinkley workers have been submitted.
This will be raised at the next forum meeting.
- 78/24 To receive an update on the Local Community Network.
The next meeting will be held on Monday 18th March at Stogursey. The agenda has been circulated to all councillors.
- 79/24 To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group.
The first meeting of the review group has been held. The consultant who worked on the original Neighborhood Plan attended the meeting and will carry out a review of the plan. A dedicated page will be created on the Parish Council website, and there will be an article in the next Parish Paper. No decisions have yet been made as to the extent of the changes to the plan that will be required.
- 80/24 To approve the appointment of a Planning Consultant for the Neighbourhood Plan review.
It was unanimously resolved to approve expenditure up to the budgeted figure of £2,000.

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81/24 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
GWB Services	Maintenance contract plus cutting back and disposal of bramble	2917.99*
Sedgemoor Tree Services	Annual tree survey	717.64*

The statutory payments were noted.

82/24 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses February	128.82
Cllr P Major	Mileage	6.30
Cllr P King	Mileage and parking	18.40
PC Rescue	Computer maintenance and support	240.00
Parish Magazine Printing	Parish Paper	747.00
G J Lancaster	Relay loose patio slabs	135.00

All payments marked with * include VAT which is reclaimable.

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre-circulated to members.

83/24 To receive any matters of report.

In view of the recent recommendations made by Somerset Council it was accepted that a Parish Emergency Flood Plan will be required. This will be an agenda item for discussion at the June Council meeting.

A speaker has been arranged for the Annual Parish Assembly which will be held on Monday 22nd April.

A defibrillator training session will be arranged with Southwestern Ambulance who supply the Councils defibrillators. This will be held in the Parish Centre on a date to be decided.

84/24 Date of next meeting: 8th April 2024.

End of minutes.