

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 the Annual Parish Council meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 13th May 2024 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

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

County Councillors: M Caswell. Councillor B Bolt was attending another Parish Council meeting.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

- 108/24 To appoint a Chairman of the Parish Council.
It was unanimously resolved to appoint Councillor A Reed as Chairman.

Councillor Reed confirmed that she wished to be referred to as Chairman during her term of office.
- 109/24 To appoint a Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.
It was unanimously resolved to appoint Councillor M Phillips as Vice Chairman.

Councillor Phillips confirmed that he wished to be referred to as Vice Chairman during his term of office.
- 110/24 To request the Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign their declarations of office.
The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed their declaration of office.
- 111/24 To receive any apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Councillor L Edwards.
- 112/24 To receive members declarations of interest on any agenda item.
There were no declarations of interest.
- 113/24 To invite public speaking.
A member of the public spoke about agenda item 124/24.
- 114/24 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on 8th April 2024.
It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes (4 in favour, 5 abstentions as not present at the meeting).
- 115/24 To approve the Annual Governance statement for the year ending 31st March 2024 (s.1 of the Annual Return 2023/24).
It was unanimously resolved to approve the Annual Governance statement.

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116/24 To approve the Annual Accounting statements for the year ending 31st March 2024 (s.2 of the Annual Return 2023/24).

It was unanimously resolved to approve the Annual Accounting statement.

117/24 To receive the Clerk's report.

Peter Major has resigned as a Parish Councillor. The casual vacancy has been advertised.

In the past the Parish Council's contractor has been asked to continue mowing the playing fields, and the Parklands during 'no mow May'. We already leave large areas long throughout the summer on the Parklands but have mown pathways through the area. Somerset Council is encouraging councils to adopt 'no mow May' in as many areas as possible so the Parish Council is adopting this practice. Parishioners will notice that some areas in the parish will not be mowed during the month of May.

Police enquiries are continuing into the criminal damage to the accessible trampoline.

118/24 To receive the Somerset Councillors report.

County Councillor Caswell provided the report.

119/24 To consider how the Parish Council will respond to planning applications in the future.

It was unanimously resolved to:

- a) Consider the council's response to planning applications during the main Parish Council meetings, not by a Planning Committee. All councillors will receive planning training.
- b) Councillors will carry out their own investigation into applications to be considered prior to the meeting.
- c) If a planning application is submitted which would require a response prior to the next scheduled Parish Council meeting, then the Clerk will be granted the authority to submit a response to the application on behalf of the Parish Council following consultation with councillors.

In practice, the Clerk will arrange a Zoom discussion where the planning application will be considered. This will not be a Parish Council meeting, so it would not need to be quorate. The discussion will be advertised on the council's website and members of the public invited to join the discussion. If it is considered that the application should be considered in a Parish Council meeting, then one will be called.

120/24 To allocate Councillor roles and responsibilities, including members of the Finance and HR teams.

It was unanimously resolved to allocate responsibilities to the following councillors:

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Planning Committee	There will be no planning committee until further notice
Finance team	D Gliddon, J Hayden-Briffett, B Hedaux, M Phillips, A Reed
Staffing team	D Gliddon, M Phillips, D Claydon.
Footpaths	D Gliddon, M Phillips
Parklands	C Chalk, D Claydon, L Edwards.
Village Hall trustee	M Phillips
Allotments	C Chalk, D Claydon
Playing fields	J Hayden-Briffett
Highways	D Gliddon, P King
Speedwatch and SID	C Chalk, D Gliddon
Website	The Clerk. Peter Major will assist with the administration of the website although not a councillor.
Facebook	C Chalk, D Gliddon, A Reed
Litter and Local Environment	C Chalk, L Edwards
Climate Change	L Edwards, D Claydon, A Reed.
Parish Paper	The Clerk
EDF / Hinkley Forum	M Phillips
Local Community Network	B Hedaux and A Reed
Local Community Network Highways Group	P King
Flooding	L Edwards, P King
Perry Green	P King

- 121/24 To appoint Richard Young as the Parish Council's internal auditor for 2024-25.
It was unanimously resolved to appoint Richard Young as the internal auditor.
- 122/24 To consider legal issues regarding Wembdon Common.
It was unanimously resolved to engage the services of Weller Hedley to provide legal advice to the Parish Council regarding Wembdon Common for a fixed fee of £1,000 plus VAT.
- 123/24 To consider the request from Somerset Council that the Parish Council takes over the maintenance of the public rights of way in the parish.
Councillor Gliddon has submitted a response on behalf of the Parish Council which will be circulated to all councillors.
- 124/24 To consider a request for a memorial bench to be installed in the Recreation Ground.
It was unanimously resolved to grant the request.

The requestor will reimburse the Parish Council with the cost of purchasing and fitting the bench.

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125/24 To consider the recommendation of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group that the review of the plan should be deferred until the Somerset Local Plan has been published.

It was unanimously resolved to defer the review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

126/24 To receive a SID and Speed Watch report.

Councillor Gliddon provided this report:

- We have, as expected, seen an increase in traffic flow since work has started on the Cokerhurst development.
- Vehicle movements per day rose from an average of 481 per day in February to 658 in May coming from the Cannington roundabout through the village.
- A number of these drivers are racing through and exceeding the speed limit. We should, however, remember that prior to the introduction of the 20 mph limit we were getting an average of 717 per day on this route.
- The Speedwatch team were active on April 23rd with a total of 15 drivers being reported to the police for driving above 26 mph. This was approximately 11% of vehicles recorded at that spot on Wembdon Hill between 4.30 – 5.30 p.m. Those drivers will receive warning letters from Avon and Somerset Police force. Two vehicles were recorded at 40+ mph which should mean the drivers will get a hand-delivered warning from a police officer.
- We are also hoping that the police will start enforcing the dangerous parking that is evident around the village, especially where there are dropped kerbs and at junctions e.g. where Hollow Lane meets Wembdon Hill. Large vehicles, including delivery lorries and tractors, are finding it increasingly difficult to manoeuvre.
- Also, inconsiderate parking on the top of Wembdon Hill has, on occasion, caused the double-decker bus to be unable to get through on its way to Cannington.

127/24 To receive Councillor reports.

Recreation Ground.

The playground swings have been repainted. Repairs will now be carried out to the swings, with the actual swings being replaced during the week commencing 20th May.

The basketball net has been removed for safety reasons.

Damage has been caused to the accessible swing. GL Jones will be asked to replace the damaged part when they next visit the site.

Local Community Network.

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The next meeting will be held in June. A report on the meeting will be circulated to councillors. The Highways Group has met. A flood action line phone number has been requested.

Allotments.

All allotments are currently taken. The potholes in the allotment track have been filled. In future we will be restricting the size, length and weight of vehicles going to the allotment track. It is also important that we communicate with contractors prior to any visits to the allotments.

Signs have been ordered showing the times when the allotment gate will be locked and opened each day.

Parklands

The rotten fence on one side of the bridge over the rhyne will be replaced in the near future.

Village Hall.

The Coffee Shop is now part of Wembdon Village Hall Limited. The Village Hall are grant fund raising for the planned changing rooms

The Lashings cricket event will be going ahead on 14th June.

Perry Green.

A site meeting has been held with Somerset Council Highways to discuss the flooding problems in the area.

Highways.

On 13th April Councillor Gliddon reported potholes in Blakes Lane and Moores Lane, Wembdon. An order was issued to the contractors on 16th April. We understand that when the contractor has received an order then the work should be completed within 28 days. As of yesterday, this work had not been completed. The Clerk will contact Somerset Highways regarding this.

Footpaths.

The footpaths are generally in good condition.

Parish Paper.

The next edition will be printed and distributed before the end of May. It will include features on the D Day commemorations.

128/24

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8th April 2024.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (3 in favour, 6 abstentions as not present at the meeting).

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129/24 To consider the Parish Council's response to the following planning applications.

51/24/00007/FHY. 34 Greenacre, Wembdon TA6 7RD. Erection of a two-storey side (east) extension and a single storey rear (south) extension and the relocation of the garage.

It was unanimously resolved to object to the planning application as the extended driveway does not comply with Wembdon Neighbourhood Plan policy WB1 as the extended driveway will be made of concrete. The Parish Council would withdraw this objection if the extended driveway was to be constructed of a porous material to allow rainwater to soak into the ground, not to run onto the road.

If the planning officer was mindful to pass this application, then the Parish Council would request that a condition be included that the downpipes from the guttering on the newly constructed garage should feed into internal soakaways.

The Parish Council would like to point out that even though the applicant has submitted a climate change checklist they have provided inadequate replies to points 6 and 7 as no explanation has been provided on how these measures will be achieved.

130/24 To note the following planning decision made by Somerset Council.

51/24/00004/STP. Land to the northeast of Pippin's Rise, Wembdon. ``
Erection of a new agricultural barn including siting of rainwater harvesting tanks and associated hardstanding. Granted.

131/24 To note the statutory payment invoices paid since the last Parish Council meeting.

Payee	Details	Amount £
GWB Services	Maintenance contract *	2827.99
Richard Young	Internal audit fee	50.00
Wembdon Village Hall Trust	1 st quarter rentals for use of hall for meetings (£250.00), CCTV base station service (£250) and Accessible Toilet (£250).	750.00
Zurich Insurance	Annual insurance renewal fee	1683.38
GB Sports	Playground inspections for 6 months *	180.00

The statutory payments were noted.

132/24 To note the non-statutory payment invoices paid since the last Parish Council meeting.

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Payee	Details	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses for April.	168.77
Coomber Security Systems	CCTV callout charge *	90.00
Coomber Security Systems	CCTV callout charge *	120.00
Polden Planning	Neighbourhood Plan review consultation fee *	609.60
RT Signs	Two signs for allotments *	99.19

Items marked with an asterisk include VAT which is reclaimable.

The non-statutory payments were noted.

133/24

To receive any urgent business.

The bank on the west side of the Cottage Inn is unstable and in risk of falling. This is unregistered land. The owners of the Inn are aware of the problem and plan to take action to make the bank safe.

It was unanimously resolved that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of urgent business 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 pay for legal advice from Wellers Hedley solicitors regarding legal matters in the Parish (in addition to that referred to in item 122/24).

The Clerk gave an update on the police investigation into the criminal damage to the accessible trampoline.

134/24

Date of next meeting – 10th June 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

End of minutes.