

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 that commenced at 7.00pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors A Reed (Chairman), S Bromme (from agenda item 168/24), D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, P King and M Phillips.

County Councillor M Caswell.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

- 162/24 To receive any apologies for absence.  
Apologies were received from Councillors Chalk, Hedeaux and Hayden-Briffett. County Councillor Bolt was attending a meeting at Nether Stowey.
- 163/24 To receive Councillor declarations of interest on any agenda item.  
The Chairman and Councillor Gliddon declared an interest in agenda item 177/24.
- 164/24 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024.  
It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.
- 165/24 To invite public speaking.  
Members of the public spoke regarding agenda items 176/24 and 177/24 prior to the items being debated.  
  
The process began to co-opt a Parish Councillor to fill the casual vacancy. The candidate introduced herself to the Councillors.
- 166/24 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 167/24 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.
- 167/24 To consider the candidate for co-option to the Parish Council.  
The application was considered.
- 168/24 To vote to co-opt a new Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy.  
  
It was unanimously resolved to co-opt Suzanne Bromme to the Parish Council.

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Councillor Bromme signed the acceptance of office declaration and joined the council.

169/24

To receive the Clerk's report.

Defibrillator training will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> July in the Parish Centre. The training will be given by South Western Ambulance.

Police enquiries continue into the criminal damage to the accessible trampoline at the park.

At the last Parish Council meeting it was reported that the road surface between the foot of Wembdon Hill and the junction of Wembdon Rise / Inwood Road is breaking up. This was reported to Somerset County Highways who have replied:

'The location identified is not in this year's surfacing programme or next year's list. The site has been inspected and it is felt that a surface dressing would be the next course of action. Next year's programme has already been identified therefore this site will be considered for 2026. In the interim period planned inspections will continue and any safety defects identified will be repaired without delay'.

170/24

To receive the Somerset Councillor's report.

Councillor Caswell delivered the report. He congratulated the Wembdon LCN representatives, Councillors B Hedaux and P King for their contributions to the LCN meetings, saying that they are a credit to the Parish Council.

If parishioners wish to report road surface problems, including potholes to Somerset Council then this should be done on the 'Report a problem on the Road' page of the Somerset Council website, which can be found [on this link](#). The more reports that are received about an issue the more likely it is that action will be taken.

171/24

To note the following planning decision made by Somerset Council.

51/24/00009/FHY. 20 Inwood Road, Wembdon TA6 7PP. Erection of a two-storey rear extension to the north elevation. Approved.

51/24/00006/FHY. 45 Church Road, Wembdon, TA6 7RP. Erection of a single storey rear extension to north elevation and detached garage. Refused.

The planning decisions were noted.

172/24

To review the Parish Council's Financial Regulations.

It was unanimously resolved to amend the regulations.

This amended regulations will be posted on the Parish Council website.

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- 173/24 To consider allotment fees for 2024-25.  
It was resolved to leave the allotment fees unchanged for 2024-25 i.e. £30, £50 for two plots (5 in favour, 2 abstentions).
- 174/24 To consider the amount of deposit payable by new allotment tenants.  
It was unanimously resolved to increase the deposit to £75.
- 175/24 To consider a proposed amendment to the allotment tenancy agreement.  
It was unanimously resolved to amend the tenancy agreement.
- 176/24 To consider a request from Wembdon Community Association to place a skip on Wembdon Common between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024.  
It was unanimously resolved to agree to the request.
- 177/24 To consider whether the Parish Council should approach Somerset Council with a request for double yellow lines to be painted at the junction of Wembdon Hill and Hollow Lane.

The Chairman and Councillor Gliddon left the meeting. Councillor Phillips chaired the next agenda item.

A long debate took place with people speaking for and against the installation of the lines.

It was unanimously resolved not to approach Somerset Council at the present time.

The landlord of the Cottage Inn stated that he would be introducing a series of measures to discourage his customers from parking close to the junction. The Parish Council will review the matter in January 2025, when it can be established whether these measures have improved the situation.

The Chairman and Councillor Gliddon returned to the meeting.

- 178/24 To consider the purchase of a pallet truck for use in the Parklands.  
It was unanimously resolved to purchase a pallet truck for £199 plus VAT,
- 179/24 To receive a report on Highways.  
A pothole on Wembdon Rise has been filled in. There was a recent collision on Wembdon Hill where a car drove into a wall causing extensive damage. The police attended and highways were quick to erect barriers.
- 180/24 To receive a report on the Footpaths and Verges.  
Some footpaths and pavements are becoming obstructed by overgrown vegetation. This is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner.  
  
New gates have been fitted at the path between the allotments and Blakes Road.

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Verges have been cut again after 'no mow May' and are looking good.

181/24

To receive a report on SID results and Speedwatch.

We have sadly continued to see an increase in traffic flow through the village since work has started on the Cokerhurst development.

Vehicle movements per day have risen as follows:

Sandford Hill – from 426 per day Jan '24 to 720 per day in July

Wembdon Rise (by Wares Lane) – from 873 per day to 1,174 per day in July

Wembdon Rise (from NDR) – from 1,444 per day to 1,665 per day in July

Wembdon Hill (going uphill) – from 525 per day to 770 per day in July

Average speeds and 85<sup>th</sup>% (speed most drivers travel at)

Sandford Hill – 26.25mph & 34 mph

Wembdon Rise (by Wares Lane) – 20.6 mph & 24 mph

Wembdon Rise (from NDR) – 20.89 mph & 25 mph

Wembdon Hill (going uphill) – 20.9 mph & 28.8 mph

These have remained broadly unchanged over the past year.

Speedwatch

The team were active on June 27<sup>th</sup> on Wembdon Rise, near the Inwood Junction.

12 vehicles were recorded at 26 mph and over and reported to A&S Police.

This was approximately 12% of the total vehicles that were travelling through the village at this point. One vehicle had no MOT.

182/24

To receive a report on the Allotments.

Four recently vacated plots have been taken. Signs have been installed on the gates advertising the times when the gates are locked each night and unlocked each morning. A fence at the allotments has been repaired, and a dripping tap has been replaced. A large number of sheds have been broken into. This has been reported to the Police who are investigating.

183/24

To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.

There was nothing to report.

184/24

To receive a report on the Parklands.

The yellow entrance gate is not closing properly and needs repairing. A tree audit has been completed and two trees have died and will need to be cut down. Replacement trees will be purchased and planted in November.

There is a pile of willow logs which will be removed. A vandal has peeled two layers of bark from all around the trunk of a silver birch tree. It is hoped that this will not cause the tree to die. Maintenance work has been carried out on the metal bridge.

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- 185/24 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.  
There was no report.
- 186/24 To receive an update on the Local Community Network.  
Minutes of previous meetings have been circulated to Councillors.
- 187/24 To receive a report regarding Perry Green.  
Hedges and verges have grown fast recently and are encroaching over the lanes, but cannot be cut back until the bird nesting season is over.
- 188/24 To receive a report about the Parish Paper.  
The next edition will be published and delivered later this month.
- 189/24 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.  
The next meeting is due to be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July.
- 190/24 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
GWB Services	Maintenance contract	2828.00*
Somerset Council	Dog bin emptying	1963.10*
Wembdon Village Hall Trust	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter rentals for use of hall for meetings (£250.00), CCTV base station service (£250) and Accessible Toilet (£250).	750.00
Coomber Security	Annual maintenance charge	189.60

Items marked with an asterix include VAT.

The statutory payments were noted.

- 191/24 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses	200.78
SALC	Councillor training (£120 & £35)	155.00
GJ Lancaster	Repair handrail to bridge	850.00
GJ Lancaster	Two concrete bench bases	1000.00
GB Sports	Repairs to swings	193.92*

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to councillors.

- 192/24 To receive any matters of report.  
Volunteers are required to join the Wembdon Parish Council Flood Action Group. An article giving full details will be included in the next Parish Paper.
- 193/24 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item

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194/24 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.

194/24 To receive an update regarding legal issues in the Parish.  
The Clerk provided an update.

195/24 Date of next meeting: 9th September 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

End of Agenda