

WEMBURY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of the Wembury Parish Annual Meeting held at Down Thomas Jubilee Hall
on Monday 1 June 2009 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman	Cllr D Drought	Chairman of Wembury Parish Council
Clerk	Mr R Fairclough	Clerk to Wembury Parish Council

Fifteen electors were present, plus PC J Nolan and PCSO S Lawrence.

09-01 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought, opened the meeting at 7.02 pm and welcomed those present to the annual meeting of the Wembury Parish.

09-02 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2008

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19 May 2008 which had been read and signed at the Wembury Parish Council meeting on 30 June 2008, were approved.

09-03 MATTERS ARISING

None

09-04 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman then read his Annual Report and commented on activities within the Wembury Parish throughout the year.

The full text of the report is shown at ANNEX A to these minutes and will be published in the Wembury Review and on the Parish Council website at www.wemburyparishcouncil.info.

09-05 POLICE ANNUAL REPORT

PC Nolan apologised for his lack of presence in the area due to his recent operation, but that he would soon be back to full duties.

He and PCSO Lawrence have to cover six parishes and they are only required to attend four Parish Council meetings per year.

PC Nolan then went through the main points of his annual report.

The full text of the report is shown in ANNEX B to these minutes and will be published in the Wembury Review and on the Parish Council website at www.wemburyparishcouncil.info.

He would welcome feedback on his report and urged the public to be his eyes and ears to help reduce crime in the area.

09-06 QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

PC Nolan answered various questions concerning the soft cover project to reduce outboard motors from being stolen and the speed of vehicles in Traine Road, Wembury.

The Chairman said that the Yealm Harbour Master was helping to publicise the soft cover project for outboard motors. He then went on to thank PC Nolan for his report and said that everyone appreciated that he and Sid were stretched thin amongst the local Parishes.

Cllr Gage said that at a recent meeting in Coombe Lane, when Inspector Chivers represented the Police, the Highway Authority had agreed to provide improved warning signs prior to the Coombe Lane /Wembury Road junction.

09-06 CLOSING THE MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those attending and closed the meeting at 7.33 pm.

Roy Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council

**Wembury Parish Council
Chairman's Annual Report 2008-9**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our year began with a council election instigated by Cllr Neil Martin at a cost of £2000 to the local community. This unnecessary expense was not approved by Wembury Parish Council (WPC), but a charge it was required to pay to South Hams DC. However, the election was won by John Bennett who made a very welcome return to Council and brought the Council numbers back up to strength.

The business of the Council proceeded throughout the year as usual, with four statutory meetings and other meetings on a monthly basis. The August meeting was limited to planning matters and the December meeting was cancelled because the Chairman and Clerk were unable to be present. Councillors have continued to represent the Parish on local and area committees and at various organisations' meetings on a wide variety of topics

PLANS AND PLANNING MATTERS.

This has been another quiet year as regards planning applications. However the Council is concerned by "creeping development" via retrospective applications allied to weak enforcement policies. You may recall the Council involved Mr Gary Streeter on these matters, who agreed with our concerns. A change in legislation will be required to address the retrospective planning issues. Should you see changes to approved planning applications occurring near you, please report them to our Clerk/Cllr/South Hams District Council (SHDC) as soon as possible. One step in the right direction has already been made, in future, houses will have to fit into their environment as well as satisfying building regulations.

POLICING

For various reasons, we have not seen much of the Police at our monthly meetings, which is disappointing. However, they have been monitoring speeds in Hollacombe and Down Thomas and further action is expected as a result. The Council has drawn the attention of highways to Traine Road, which has become something of a rat run and where speeding local motorists are endangering the safety of others; action will be taken. The Police have also investigated crimes in the area, although it should be remembered that we are very fortunate to live in a low crime area. Our vigilance and cooperation with the police will help to maintain our low crime status.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Your Council has been in almost constant contact with First Devon and Cornwall Ltd throughout the year in an effort to improve the bus services to Wembury and Down Thomas, with very little success. The fact is, the local community is not using the bus service to anything like its capacity and as a result, it is running at a considerable financial loss. Consequently, there is a lack of incentive for the bus company to improve matters.

IN GENERAL

Wembury School

The Council were lead to believe some years ago that the Wembury Primary School would be rebuilt. Consequently, teachers, Governors, pupils and the residents of Wembury Parish were appalled at the recent news that this was no longer the case and that minor improvements would be made instead. Your Council has instructed the Clerk to write to Devon County in the strongest possible terms in an effort to rectify this situation.

Sherford Development

The economic downturn has put the Sherford development on hold and a lot of infrastructure development approval has yet to be gained before the project can get under way; so it could be some years before we see anything happening.

Local Government Reorganisation in Devon

The Boundary Committee report for local government reorganisation in Devon has been put back yet again and there is now considerable hope that an improved status quo will result. Your Council has written to support this view. South Hams DC and Devon County have agreed to move towards shared management and services which, if successful, could well achieve the gains in efficiency and financial savings at a fraction of the costs involved by the establishment of a Devon Unitary Authority.

Sports Facilities

Your Council is currently hoping to achieve an improved tennis court and the provision of a Multi User Games Area (MUGA) on the tennis court site in Wembury village. I have been informed that if there is an established Tennis Club, then financial help from SHDC will be forthcoming. Please help yourselves by forming such a club.

Wembury Allotments

Our thanks to the National Trust and Tim and Charlotte in New Barton Farm for making a parcel of land available for allotments. I attended the opening ceremony and was amazed by the progress made within four weeks. There was a wonderful spirit of community amongst the allotment workers, who with their families were planting out fruit and vegetables and personalising their plots.

Wembury Woods

By the time you read this report, a new National Trust permissive walk will have been opened through Wembury Woods. Starting at Wembury, the walk crosses fields, through the wood, then along existing paths to Hollacombe Brake and into Traine road before returning to Wembury.

VISITORS

We welcomed Lucy Bourne's presentation in May (Pony Trek in the Peak District—Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme).

Inspector Chivers in June (Police matters).

Simon Garner in June, October and March '09 (National Trust matters)

Alison Murray in November (Judiciary for England and Wales).

Basil Cane in January '09 (Chairman of SHDC).

Richard Warner in April '09 (Chairman of Wembury School Governors)

FINANCE

During the year the Parish Council have given nearly £2000 of grants to local organisations including the Wembury Youth Club for a skateboard project, Wembury Allotment Association, Wembury History Society and St Werburgh Church. In addition, a further £1000 was granted to the National Trust to assist with the creation of the new Wembury Woods footpath.

Your Council's booklet, Discovering Wembury, plus addendum, continues to sell well and provides the Council with a steady income.

The Parish Council financial reserves remain very healthy, despite regular outgoings on typical expenditure such as the maintenance of notice boards, the website and footpaths, in addition to the office rent, supplies, clerk's salary and expenses.

THANKS

My thanks go to all those organisations who work with the Council for the benefit of the community. To the public who attend our meetings, to Councillor Basil Cane, PC Nolan and PCSO Lawrence and also Mr Tony Romang (our tree warden) who give up their evenings to sit through our meetings.

Also of course to my fellow Councillors for the excellent work they have done throughout the year and both for supporting and putting up with me as their Chairman.

A special thanks to Roy Fairclough our Clerk who does so much good work behind the scenes.

Dermod Michael Drought
Chairman

ANNEX B to Minutes of Wembury Parish Annual Meeting – 1 June 2009

Police Annual Report 2008-9

Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is John Nolan, and I have been the Police 'Neighbourhood Beat Manager' for the Parish of Wembury since October 2007. I am one of a team of two officers who are responsible for the Parish; my colleague is PCSO Sid Lawrence.

The Police Sergeant responsible for Neighbourhood Policing at Ivybridge Police Station is PS 3902 Anya Teakle. The Inspector at the station is Inspector Chivers.

If anyone needs to make contact with Sid or myself, our contact details are as follows;

E mail; john.nolan@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
sid.lawrence@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Mobile telephone (this connects to our personal police radios)

John; 08456566809 Sid; 08456567987

Please note if we are off duty, there is a facility to leave a message on an answer machine.

The Police switchboard number is 08452 777 444. This is the number you will need to call if you wish to officially report an incident / crime to the Police. The switchboard operator will then probably transfer your call to someone who can initiate a computerised record of the complaint, generally referred to as a Police 'Log number'. If the log is for the attention of your local beat officers, it will then be deferred for their attention.

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary also have a web site, at www.devon-cornwall.police.uk
The home page has a link for 'Neighbourhood Policing' from where you type your postcode. You will then be directed to the 'Neighbourhood Beat Team' responsible for your area.

What is Neighbourhood Policing?

Neighbourhood policing puts community issues and priorities at the heart of local policing. By listening to each community's unique needs and concerns, the Force is able to ensure that the right resources are used in the right places and at the right time.

Each neighbourhood in the Force area has a team, managed by a police sergeant that is dedicated to tackling crime, improving the quality of life and providing reassurance to that community. The team is a visible, accessible and accountable resource for the area it polices. The teams are made up of a combination of neighbourhood beat managers (police officers), police community support officers (PCSOs) and Special Constabulary officers. Each team will be tailored to the needs of the community that it serves.

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary now has more resources dedicated to front-line policing than ever, with 3,500 police officers, 550 Special Constables – one of the largest sections in the country – and over 350 PCSOs.

Neighbourhood policing teams are closely engaged with various work in the community, including:

- Providing a familiar, visible and known uniform presence
- Providing an accessible and high quality service that reflects the needs of the local community
- Gathering local intelligence on crime and criminals
- Attending reported crimes
- Reducing anti-social behaviour and crime
- Working with partner agencies and the community to identify and resolve community problems
- Working with schools, hospitals, local businesses and other community groups
- Providing personal safety and crime prevention advice

2008 - 2009

At the time of this report (01/06/09) there have been 61 crimes reported since 1st June 2008

54 remain undetected, 7 offences were detected and resulted in prosecution.

2007 - 2008

There were a total of 57 crimes reported between 1st June 2007 and 1st June 2008.

49 remain undetected, 8 offences were detected and resulted in prosecutions.

The rough breakdown of those crime figures is as follows;

JUNE 2008 – JUNE 2009

Burglary Dwelling ; 5

Burglary other (shop premises / garage etc) ; 2

Arson ; 2

Criminal damage to property ; 3

Criminal damage to motor vehicle ; 2

Theft from motor vehicle ; 6

Taking a conveyance other than a motor vehicle (boat / canoe etc.) ; 2

Theft other / theft in dwelling ; 8

Assault / GBH ; 0

Assault / ABH ; 4

Common assault ; 1

Non-crime domestic / Child protection incidents ; 15

Drug offences ; 2

Miscellaneous offences ; 9

The miscellaneous offences above consist of a variety of different incidents such as ;

False representation, nuisance telephone calls, and offences under the harassment act.

JUNE 2007 – JUNE 2008

Burglary Dwelling ; 1

Burglary other (shop premises / garage etc.) ; 3

Arson ; 1

Criminal damage to property ; 2

Criminal damage to motor vehicle ; 5

Theft from motor vehicle ; 4

Taking a conveyance other than a motor vehicle (boat / canoe etc.) ; 0

Theft other / theft in dwelling ; 9

Assault / GBH ; 0

Assault ABH ; 4

Common assault ; 3

Non – crime domestic / Child protection incidents ; 18

Drug offences ; 0

Miscellaneous offences ; 7

The miscellaneous offences above consist of a variety of incidents such as driving with excess alcohol, false representation, and vehicle interference.

The number of crimes reported in 2008 / 2009 has risen by 4 offences. The detection rate appears disappointing but this can be for a number of reasons, for example, the positive arrest policy adopted by the Devon and Cornwall Police with regard to domestic incidents will always result in an arrest if there is evidence of an assault of any type. The police will then sometimes find that the injured party is unwilling to provide a statement of evidence / complaint. This results in the arrested party being released without being charged, as there is insufficient evidence to support a conviction.

Other incidents police are called to attend, such as a heated argument between two partners may result in the recording of a 'Non – crime domestic' offence. Another example would be where a teenage family member reports to police that their parents have been shouting at them in a loud manner. Once again, this may well be recorded as a 'Non – crime child protection issue'.

These crime figures contribute towards the annual crime figures, hopefully it can now be seen that matters are not as bad as they first appear.

The main reason for the way crime is now reported by Police is due to the 'National Crime Recording Standards', introduced by the government, and adopted by all police forces in England and Wales in April 2002. The introduction was an effort to improve the consistency of police recording and to better reflect the demands made on the police by victims of crime. In most cases, this necessitated a move to a more victim – focused approach to crime recording based on the victim's perception of a crime-taking place, rather than an evidential approach based on the police obtaining evidence of a crime occurring. The result has, in many cases been an increase in recorded crime, which is over and above that attributable to a real increase in crime.

Throughout the last year, we have concentrated on a number of issues of specific local interest. Speed checks have been conducted along Hollacombe Brake as part of an on-going initiative. The initial part of this process was to offer driver education, the next phase will be to prosecute offending drivers. Marine crime is also a topic of local interest. As your local 'Neighbourhood Team', we are exploring the possibility of adopting a scheme used by other Constabularies, which targets theft of outboard motors. In brief, the owner of the outboard is encouraged to remove the hard cowl cover when the outboard is not in use. The owner will then use a soft protective cover that has the Force logo of the local Constabulary on its side.

This has been proven as an effective deterrent as any would be criminal is immediately put off, due to any re-sale being made difficult without the original protective cover.

A national operation has recently been implemented to combat Crime and Counter terrorism. 'Operation Kraken' is a multi-agency operation by the UK Border Agency and Devon and Cornwall Police. The aim is to use the public, and in particular the maritime community as our 'eye's and ears', in alerting us to any suspicious behaviour.

We are happy to receive any information no matter how minor it may appear. Examples of such behaviour could include persons who do not seem comfortable with their boat or equipment, persons who seem to be dressed inappropriately, persons who seem ill at ease when boarding craft, and new damage to recently chartered vessels.

You Neighbourhood Team have a close liaison with persons such as harbourmasters, but would welcome any information you feel may be important.

If you suspect anything, call 08452 777 444 and quote 'Operation Kraken', alternatively you can e mail; project.kraken@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Hopefully you will agree that the parish is still a very safe place to live and work within, and as your Neighbourhood Beat Manager, I intend to try and keep it that way. If anyone has any information, which would assist me in this task, please do not hesitate to contact me, or my colleague Sid Lawrence.

Regards,

PC 3952 NOLAN,
Ivybridge Police Station,
Leonards Road,
Ivybridge,
PL21 OSL.