

# WEMBURY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of the Wembury Parish Annual Meeting held at Down Thomas Jubilee Hall  
on Monday 24 May 2010 at 7.00 pm.

## Present:

<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr D Drought	Chairman of Wembury Parish Council
<b>Clerk</b>	Mr R Fairclough	Clerk to Wembury Parish Council

42 electors were present, plus PC R Batchelor and Mr D Dunlop.

## 10-01 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought, opened the meeting at 7.00 pm and welcomed so many people to the annual meeting of the Wembury Parish.

## 10-02 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2008

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2009 which had been read and signed at the Wembury Parish Council meeting on 29 June 2009, were approved.

## 10-03 MATTERS ARISING

None

## 10-04 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](http://www.wemburyparishcouncil.info).

## 10-05 POLICE ANNUAL REPORT

PC Rob Batchelor introduced himself to the meeting as the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager and he replaced PC J Nolan in April 2010. He is one of two officers responsible for covering the Wembury Parish with his colleague, PCSO Sid Lawrence, and informed those attending how to best to contact the Police.

He then explained about Neighbourhood Policing, which has 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.

PC Batchelor then read out the Police Annual Report for the Wembury Parish and the full text of the report is shown at ANNEX B to these minutes.

Mr J Bennett reported a large van opposite 12 Knighton Road that was causing an obstruction, especially at school pick up time. PCSO Sid Lawrence had already said that it was not an obstruction, but Mr Bennett felt that under the Highway Code, the Police could speak to the owner about the problems it is causing. PC Batchelor agreed to speak to the owner of the van.

## 10-06 GENERAL MATTERS

### i) The 48 Bus Services to Wembury

Cedric Tarsky had been speaking to First Ltd about the poor bus service to Wembury and had been informed that there was insufficient money generated on the 48 route to improve the service as this is a commercially run bus service. He considered that there was a case to be made for an hourly bus service, which he believed, was essential for Wembury village. He had spoken to villagers and many were willing to contribute to such a service. Consequently, Cedric was organising a meeting in June

to discuss this issue and to see what the public want to do. He was looking for a positive response from the public and with the backing of the Parish Council was hopeful that the bus service could be improved.

## **ii) Wembury - Knighton Hill, Development Proposals**

Many people spoke against the South Hams DC Development Plan proposal for an allocation of 30 houses on the site at the top of Knighton Hill, Wembury.

A petition against the proposals had been circulated and had over 150 signatures on it. The Clerk said that it should be passed on to South Hams DC as part of the consultation process.

The reasons for the overwhelming opposition to this proposed housing allocation stemmed mainly from the lack of consultation with the villagers of Wembury. People in the village and especially owners of the row of cottages opposite, had not been informed and they wanted their voices heard. South Hams DC had not put the proposals in the local paper and so most villagers did not know about it.

Mr Adams wanted to know how the Princes Foundation Trust had decided upon the site without full consideration of the drainage problems and highway implications.

Mr Bennett was also concerned as to why the original Strategic Development proposals had been changed.

Cllr Drought explained the history of the original consultation, but he also agreed that South Hams DC had made the final decision without consultation with the Parish Council, who was also opposed to such a large development.

Mr Squire said that all was not lost, as the proposal is currently out to public consultation and he urged everyone to fill in the appropriate form and to make their views known to South Hams DC. All the comments will then be considered by a Government Inspector in the Autumn before a final decision is made. After speaking to the local planner, he felt that there is every chance the proposal can be changed.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would put some consultation forms in the Wembury Post Office and a notice on the Parish Notice Board where the forms can be obtained. Peter Filby stressed that any objection to the proposals should be put on the form under the 'soundness' heading and all the points discussed at the meeting should be included.

Everyone was urged to send in a form with their comments by the revised deadline of 11 June.

It was felt that the new government would be scrapping the Regional Spatial Strategy and that the housing allocation in the SW Region would be substantially reduced in future. However, this may take some time.

The Clerk was asked if he would arrange for a planner to attend the next meeting of the Wembury Parish Council meeting, on 28 June 2010, to discuss this issue.

## **iii) Down Thomas – Cavanna Development Proposals**

Mr Des Dunlop introduced himself as a planning consultant for Cavanna Homes. He was attending the meeting to provide suitable feedback from the public consultation meeting held by Cavanna Homes on 23 February 2010, about their proposed development in Down Thomas for 30 homes. About 90 people attended on the day and 68 filled in a consultation form.

34 objected to the proposal on the grounds of increased traffic, poor access and parking, loss of green space, views and wildlife, a lack of public transport and the area is not within the local plan development area.

18 were for the scheme because of the affordable houses and support it would give the village.

16 did not comment.

Mr Dunlop did not know when a planning application would be submitted to South Hams DC, as he understood that Cavanna Homes were looking at the implications of the recent change of government and the affect it would have on the SW Regional Spatial Strategy.

Concern was expressed that there was only 12 % affordable housing and this could be reduced due to the current economic situation. Mr Dunlop replied that the proposed scheme had shown 30 houses with 50% affordable. However, this was subject to government and commercial consideration and the final scheme submitted may not be exactly the same as that already considered.

Mr Harvey asked for the definition of affordable housing. Mr Dunlop replied that they are houses for rent or shared equity/rent and the houses are managed by a Housing Association. South Hams DC would allocate/nominate the people for these properties.

Mrs Bennett asked when the best time would be to make suitable comments on the development. It was agreed that the time to comment was when a full planning application has been submitted to South Hams DC.

Mr Hayden said that he would organise a strenuous campaign against this development proposal.

Cllr Drought said the Parish Council are not in a position to make a comment until a full planning application has been submitted, but Parish Councillors are aware of the general feeling in the village about this proposed development.

Mr Newnham asked whether the Parish Council should fight the proposed development scheme or the South Hams DC Development Plan. It was agreed that the Development Plan was due to be reviewed in about two year's time and that was the time to consider the Development Plan.

#### **10-07 CLOSING THE MEETING**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all those attending and closed the meeting at 8.08 pm.

Roy Fairclough

Clerk to Wembury Parish Council

## **ANNEX A to Minutes of Wembury Parish Annual Meeting – 24 May 2010**

### **WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10**

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

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 being limited to planning matters only. We cancelled the December meeting because of its proximity to the November meeting and the various commitments Councillors have at Christmas.

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.**

##### **WEMBURY**

Our main concern this year is the proposed development by SHDC to build 30 houses on the field at the top of Knighton hill on the right hand side as you leave the village. At the Prince's Trust Foundation meeting held last year, seven sites in Wembury were originally identified as possible development sites. The Vice Chairman and I visited each site and examined them.

At the meeting, I maintained that Wembury was already over developed and suffered from congestion problems due to the popularity of the beach, compounded by church functions such as weddings and funerals. I further maintained that by their own criteria for exclusion, only two sites might be suitable for minor development; the land behind the Odd Wheel and that on the top of Knighton Hill. They agreed with our evaluation and said that Wembury was not suitable for significant development. Both our District Councillors were in attendance and were satisfied with that outcome. John Squire our District and Parish Councillor was particularly upset by the subsequent South Hams DC decision to build 30 houses and has opposed it with vigour, ably supported by the Parish Council. However, we were warned at the Prince's Trust Foundation meeting that a decision to build can be forced upon us!

A further disappointment emerged when we learnt that the building of a new school in Wembury was now unlikely in the near future. However County Councillor John Hart (now leader of Devon County Council) confirmed that any expenditure on short term projects to maintain the school's viability, would not prejudice Wembury's position in the long term regarding the building of a new school.

We also examined the proposed Plymouth East End Transport Scheme, which we believe will affect access to Plymouth from Wembury. We also felt that this plan did not take into account the increased traffic demands posed by the Sherford development.

The Sherford planning development was approved by one vote! and is still likely to be built when the economic climate improves.

##### **DOWN THOMAS**

Cavanna homes presented a speculative plan for 30 houses to be built on a site on the right hand side of Renney Road as you leave the village towards Heybrook Bay.

They organised a display in the village hall and were present to discuss their proposals and to answer any questions. The Parish Council is not allowed to comment on such speculative plans.

## **POLICING**

PC John Nolan has recently been promoted to sergeant and is moving to Kingsbridge. He will be replaced by PC 1154 Rob Batchelor who will continue to be assisted by PCSO Sid Lawrence.

The Vice Chairman and I attended an open day meeting with the Police in Totnes where we had conversations with various Police officers; we discussed crime, speeding, parking and road safety issues. The enforcement of 20mph limits in our villages is unlikely until we have a fatality or other major incidents.

As a result of Robert Rowland's discussions, we are now receiving a much fuller Police report each month

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

WPC has been in almost constant contact with First Devon and Cornwall Ltd throughout the year in an effort to improve the services to Wembury and Down Thomas. At our meeting in September, John Richardson (Devon Senior Transport Coordinating Officer and Simon Newport (Commercial Director First Devon and Cornwall) attended to answer questions from the public about the bus service to Wembury and Down Thomas. During their presentations, it emerged that no authority can order a licensed Bus Company to change their commercial plans.

The 48 service to Wembury is a commercial bus service and must earn enough revenue to cover its running costs (use it or lose it).

The 49 service to Heybrook bay is subsidised by Devon County Council.

While members of the public voiced their views for improvements, it all hinges on the numbers using the buses to pay for those improvements.

## **FINANCES**

During the year the Parish Council have given nearly £2000 of grants to local organisations including Vitalise, the Wembury Twinning Association, the River Yealm Harbour Authority, Ivybridge Ring and Ride, Wembury pre-School and St Werburgh Church.

In addition, a further £1000 was granted to assist with the new Wembury Skateboard Park and £2000 has been allocated to assist with the proposed MUGA.

New seats have replaced broken ones in Church Rd. and Manor Bourne Rd.

The Council's booklet, Discovering Wembury, plus addendum, continues to sell well and provides the Council with a modest but 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 and clerk's salary.

## **IN GENERAL**

The Parish Plan Working Group, an independent group of parishioners, has produced the Parish Plan with the support of the Parish Council. It has been published and circulated to all parishioners. The accompanying leaflet The Next Steps, will enable the Parish Plan to be reviewed annually and for the implementation of the plan to be monitored. Please take time to read the Parish Plan and to become involved in the working groups, which will deliver the plan outcomes, for the benefit of the Wembury Parish community.

Adam King has been appointed Tree Warden following Tony Romang's resignation on health grounds. We all applaud Tony's service to Wembury Parish over many years.

The Wembury Allotments have been a great success and now Adam King is looking at the possibility of an orchard to compliment the Allotments, as well as community involvement in the management of woodland in Heybrook Bay.

Councillor John Bennett has pushed through improvements to the Wembury Skate Board Park and improvements to the Wembury Tennis Courts. The provision of a MUGA in Wembury is currently ongoing. Our thanks to him, John Hart, Robert Rowland, our Clerk Roy Fairclough and those officers in SHDC and Devon county who have all contributed to these projects. We have been advised that having the Wembury school, allotments, football pitch and play areas grouped together is an ideal situation, which other parishes would love to achieve.

The Parish Council is currently looking at the possibility of sharing the provision of local services at the invitation of Ivybridge Town Council, the objectives being improved service and lower costs.

In January, Wembury sailing club, represented by Mr P Ward and Mr M Spencer, informed the Parish Council of their intention to build a storage rack for kayaks; this will improve storage facilities and security at Wembury beach.

In March, Simon Garner and Lorna Sherriff of the National Trust gave us a presentation of changes being made to their organisation. They also updated us on the Wembury Point Car Park, which has been delayed while discussions with MOD and SWW take place. Another new walk, through Clitters Wood, has been opened and the National Trust is currently looking for a suitable site to support Adam King's proposal for an orchard. The National Trust is currently trying to make the countryside more available and more easily accessible to the public. Simon will update the Parish Council on the organisational changes within the National Trust at a future meeting

Finally, some very good news, the Odd Wheel should reopen in July, if improvements are completed on time.

## **THANKS**

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

Of course, special thanks go 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 – 24 May 2010

### POLICE ANNUAL REPORT 2009 - 2010 WEMBURY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is Rob Batchelor, and I have been the Police 'Neighbourhood Beat Manager' for the parish of Wembury since April 2010. 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; [robert.batchelor@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:robert.batchelor@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)  
[sid.lawrence@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sid.lawrence@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

Mobile telephone (this connects to our personal police radios)

Rob ; 08456568042

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, the link to this is; [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://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

## **2009-2010**

**There were 51 crimes reported between 20th May 2009 and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

7 offences were detected and resulted in prosecution.

**The rough breakdown of these crime figures are as follows;**

### **May 2009 – May 2010**

Burglary Dwelling ; 3

Burglary other (shop premises / garage etc) ; 1

Criminal damage to property ; 6

Criminal damage to motor vehicle ; 3

Theft from motor vehicle ; 3

Theft of Pedal Cycle ; 1

Theft non specific (eg) shoplifting/ thefts from farms : 8

Grievous Bodily Harm ; 1

Harassment ; 1

Possession of Class B drug ; 1

Permit Animal to Suffer ; 1

Malicious Communication ; 1

Common Assault ; 1

Noncrime domestic / Noncrime child protection incidents / Vulnerable Adults 16

Public Order Offence ; 2

Driving Excess Alcohol ; 1

Sexual Offence ; 1

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.

**Hopefully you will agree that the parish is still a very safe place to live and work within, and as your Neighbourhood Policing Team, we 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 1454 Rob Batchelor  
Ivybridge Police Station,  
Leonards Road,  
Ivybridge, PL21 OSL