

WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors	D Drought	Chairman
	J Bennett	
	A Cammack	
	M Doody	
	P Filby	
	M Gage	
	J Hart	County Councillor
	N Martin	
	R Newnham	
	R Rowland	Vice Chairman
	L Scoble	
	J Squire	District Councillor
Clerk	R Fairclough	

Minutes of the Wembury Parish Council meeting held at the War Memorial Hall, Wembury, on Monday 22 February 2010.

10-015 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought opened the meeting at 7.32 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllrs Bennett, Cammack, Doody, Newnham, Rowland, and Squire were present. District Cllr Cane, Adam King and five members of the public were also present. Cllr Hart arrived later.

10-016 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Filby, Gage, Scoble and PC Nolan.

10-017 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

10-018 THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL WAS SUSPENDED FOR THE PUBLIC TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS OR TO PUT QUESTIONS

The Chairman suspended the business of the Council and opened this session to the public at 7.33 pm.

i) Crime Report February 2010

Although not able to attend the meeting, PC Nolan had provided a report, which the Chairman then read out:-

JI/10/67

Overnight on Monday 25th January 2010 - Tuesday 26th January 2010, a large quantity of lead was stolen from the roof of St Werburgh church.

Two males have since been arrested for similar offences in Plymouth and have also admitted this theft in interview. They are both presently charged to court.

Jl/10/109

On Friday 5th February 2010, offender/s have forced entry to the old bar area at Fort Bovisand. An untidy search was made however, nothing was stolen. Some of the bar pumps were also damaged.

Jl/10/125

Between Friday 11th December 2009 and Sunday 31st January 2010 a residential property in Upland Gardens, Wembury has been subject to burglary. There were no signs of forced entry, and a quantity of jewellery has been reported stolen.

ii) Adam King – Wembury Tree Warden

Adam reported on the progress of creating a community orchard. He had spoken to Simon Garner, National Trust, the Woodland Trust and the Wembury Allotment Association and he was currently exploring suitable sites for the orchard. Adam was looking for a central site with suitable long-term management by the community, but was not yet sure how big the orchard would be. The reaction to an orchard has been very positive and everyone is being supportive. The Morewoods Scheme deadlines are being extended which now allows more time to find a suitable site and to plant the orchard.

Cllr Rowland explained about suitable fields that had originally been orchards, but which had now reverted to woodland.

Adam took on board the comments made and the Chairman thanked him for his report.

iv) Public Comments

Spencer Pearson had spoken at a previous Parish Council meeting about the creation of a Wembury Surfing Club, but due to the huge demand to be a member, it had been decided not to go ahead with the club, as it would have been unmanageable. However, he had still gone ahead with fundraising activities and had raised £3500 last year for local charities, St Lukes and the RNLI. He thanked Wembury villagers for a brilliant effort in raising this money.

He would like to carry out another fundraising event this year and also involve the Wembury School in a procession through the village, like a carnival but without the floats.

Spencer then asked if there were suitable grants available to fund the necessary insurance for such an event. A short discussion ensued about suitable grant bodies and whether it would be better to apply through the school or PTA for such a grant.

The Clerk agreed to write to Mr Pearson with suitable grant bodies.

The Chairman then closed this open session at 7.53 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

10-019 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2010.

The minutes were agreed as being a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

10-020 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

10-004 i) Wembury Sailing Club

The Chairman reported that the Sailing Club proposals would also be discussed at the next Beach Liaison meeting, which was scheduled for 15 March 2010.

10-004 ii) Gritting of Roads in Wembury

This matter and the filling of potholes and road repair in Mewstone Avenue, Wembury, would be discussed later in the meeting under the report from Devon CC by Cllr Hart. **Cllr Bennett** reported that several bags of grit had been deposited along the roads in Wembury. He suggested that it would be better with a grit bin.

10-008 i) Community Council of Devon

There were no specific comments to make on the Draft Strategic Business Plan 2010-15.

10-021 TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY PLANNING REPORT AT ANNEX A TO THESE MINUTES

The Chairman went through the planning report shown in Annex A of the Agenda.

RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Report with resolutions as detailed in ANNEX A of these minutes.

10-022 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) Devon Libraries – Mobile Library Service Survey

The Chairman went through the survey questions and from the discussions, the Clerk gained suitable information for the survey to be completed and returned.

ii) South Hams DC – Members Allowances

The Chairman informed members about the decisions of the Local Authorities Parish Remuneration Panel, reported to South Hams DC, that Parish Councillors should not receive a basic allowance. The Chairman reiterated that Wembury Parish Councillors had previously agreed that they would not receive an allowance for Parish Council work. This also applied to the Chairman's allowance. The mileage rate remained the same at 40 pence per mile for Parish Councillors travelling outside the Wembury Parish area.

iii) The Cavanna Group

The Cavanna group had circulated a leaflet about an Exhibition on 23 Feb 2010, in the Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, to present their speculative proposals for a development of 30 houses in Down Thomas.

The Clerk informed members that if they attend the exhibition then any comments they make must be of a personal nature and not on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman said that until the Parish Council receives a planning application then they are not able to comment on such a speculative proposal. The Clerk informed members that this particular proposal is outside the Development Plan area. He also said that the leaflet was misleading in that it was headed Planning Application, although no planning application had been submitted to the South Hams DC Planning Department.

iv) DAPC–Stokenham Pilot Questionnaire

The Chairman explained that in the Stokenham pilot, Stokenham Parish Council had carried out local services themselves with the finance being allocated by both the District and County Councils. They felt that the quality of services had improved, the local people were satisfied but that there had been no financial savings. The questionnaire was to see whether other parish councils would like to carry out their own services and whether they would be willing to join with other parish councils to achieve this.

A very exciting and lengthy debate then ensued. **It was finally agreed that Wembury Parish Council would not fill in the questionnaire but wait until many unresolved issues became clearer.**

v) Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

The Chairman and Vice Chairman have been invited to meet Superintendent Sarah Sharpe and her team on 26 March 2010 to discuss local issues.

The Chairman asked if there were any relevant questions that members would like to be asked and answered.

Cllr Squire was extremely concerned about the Police budget increase of 4.95%. He thought that it was too big an increase and should be scrutinised more closely. They should be asked how they could justify such a large increase when everyone else was keeping any increase to a minimum. He felt that it was time they were challenged by the public. A lively debate followed. **The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Constable asking how they can justify such a large increase.**

Cllr Squire also asked about the proposed reduction of 200 police officers. He was informed that this was not the case, as 200 new officers would be available, but that about 60 would be retiring.

Cllr Bennett asked why the police retire at 50 years old when they could continue to do paperwork until they were 65 years old.

Cllr Drought said he would also ask why we don't see a police officer at the Wembury Parish Council meeting very often.

FOR INFORMATION.

The letters in **ANNEX B** had all been circulated and were taken as read.

10-023 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

i) Buckingham Palace Garden Parties

The Clerk informed members that Wembury Parish had been asked to nominate a councillor and partner to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and the nomination deadline was before the next Wembury Parish Council meeting. The names would be included in the annual draw and the names of the successful people drawn, would attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace. Historically the Chairman and partners name had always been put forward.

Cllr Rowland proposed, **Cllr Squire** seconded, that the names of **Cllr Drought** and his wife be put forward for inclusion in the annual draw. Approved seven votes for with one abstention.

RESOLVED: The names of Cllr Drought and his wife be put forward for inclusion in the annual draw to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

10-024 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Cllr Hart apologised for being late.

He then explained about the gritting routes in Wembury and confirmed that as there was only a two-hour bus service to Wembury, the main road was not on a bus priority-gritting route. The gritter only grits along Southland Park Road and then goes up Pump Hill to Down Thomas, as this is the only way the gritter can complete the gritting route within

the required two hours. A lengthy debate ensued and it was made clear that the loss of the only bus service to Wembury for three days, due to the gritter not doing a circular route round Wembury and back to Down Thomas, was not acceptable. Cllr Hart was asked to see if the gritting route could be amended accordingly so that the bus service could be maintained during icy weather.

Cllr Hart suggested that the Parish Council Clerk write to Devon Highways and he also agreed to raise the matter with them for further discussion.

The Chairman went through the various pothole concerns raised earlier in the meeting. **Cllr Hart** explained that Devon CC were currently filling some 7000 potholes each week and an additional £4.6 m had been made available to repair the roads in Devon.

Cllr Hart took note of all the pothole locations raised during the meeting.

Cllr Hart then reported that there would only be a rise of 1.98% in the Devon CC Council Tax for next year. This was the lowest increase for 30 years. Cllr Squire congratulated Cllr Hart and Devon CC in keeping the increase so low.

The Wembury MUGA finance is on target and £50,000 is now available for this project, however, some of the money will not be available until March.

Regarding the local government review, the government have gone against the Boundary Committee's recommendations and recommended a unitary Exeter with the rest of Devon as a unitary, excluding Plymouth and Torbay. Devon CC is objecting and will be making a submission to the House of Lords. They are also preparing a report for a judicial review, which they hope to win. The cost of the judicial review will be less than the cost of creating two new unitary authorities. This is an ongoing matter and the Chairman wished him good luck.

Devon CC, Torbay and Plymouth are now working together on audit matters and hope to work more closely together and with the district councils in future.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire said that the local government review had thrown up an unexpected proposal for Devon and noted Devon CC's objection to the proposals.

The Local Development Framework consultation was starting in March for six weeks, but that it did not apply to Wembury. South Hams DC had already approved the construction of 30 houses at the top of Knighton Hill, much to Cllr Squire's concern and those of the Parish Council and local villagers. He suggested that the Parish Council should again make their views known, both now and during the consultation period. **The Clerk was asked to write to South Hams DC to express the Parish Council's views.**

The cost of the Princes Foundation report was £161,000 and he was concerned that South Hams DC are not taking on board the report's recommendations and he would continue to object to the housing development at the top of Knighton Hill.

He reported that a local contractor was prosecuted for fly tipping in the South Hams area and fined £20,000 with £2000 costs.

Home Choice has now been launched which hopes to provide people across Devon with suitable housing . There are also cash incentives, up to £6000, for households of 5 bedrooms to downsize and release their house for a larger family, so that there can be a redistribution of houses to accommodate need. There is also a scrappage boiler scheme for landlords if their property requires a new boiler.

The shared services between South Hams DC and West Devon DC is working well and saving money. They are currently looking at joint working for the streetscene and refuse

collection services.

Cllr Squire also informed Cllr Hart that road surface in Mewstone Avenue was very poor and becoming worse and he felt that urgent attention was required.

Cllr Cane reported that the Development Control department were to hold Developers Forums for members, developers and the general public, so that everyone gained a better insight into what was being proposed, especially for larger developments. It will provide a forum for developers to explain what they would like to do.

Scores on Doors is another initiative through the Environmental Health department where food hygiene scores are being introduced later this year for eating establishments within South Hams. They have received a grant of £7,000 from the Food Standards Agency to promote this initiative to local businesses.

Connect Together is another outreach initiative where benefits can be collected from The Watermark in Ivybridge instead of at Follaton House in Totnes. They are hoping to provide this service every second and fourth Wednesday in the month.

10-025 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Parish Plan Action Group

Cllr Filby was currently on holiday.

The Clerk reported that he had put a word only version of the Parish Plan on to the Wembury Parish website to encourage more involvement by the community.

ii) Leisure Facilities Working Group

Cllr Bennett reported on the progress of the various leisure projects:-

Skateboard Park

Thanks to the help of Cllr Rowland and his tractor, the equipment was successfully delivered to site. The equipment has now all been installed, painted and is ready for use. There will be an inspection on 23 February by South Hams DC and subject to a satisfactory report, the remainder of the money will be paid to the contractor. South Hams DC will take on the ownership, maintenance and insurance of the Skateboard Park with a contribution from Wembury Parish Council.

Wembury Tennis Court

South Hams DC is leading this project and is currently obtaining quotes for the resurfacing of the courts. The works are estimated to cost between £15,000 and £25,000. South Hams DC will maintain and insure the courts and they have entered into an agreement with the Wembury Tennis Club who will manage the courts and carry out minor repairs. The tennis club will pay an annual fee to South Hams DC for their usage, but the fee has still to be decided. Courtsall Services Ltd who is quoting for the tennis court refurbishment is also going to quote for the MUGA and there is a site meeting on 24 February 2010.

MUGA Project

The Parish Council have now received a revised quote for a larger MUGA measuring 14.7 m by 24.3 m of £50,000 + VAT from Wicksteed Playscapes Ltd. Fiona Colamarino the Devon CC Procurement Officer, is now leading this project and will be obtaining three quotes for the MUGA. Devon CC and South Hams DC are about to enter an

agreement where South Hams DC will take over ownership of the MUGA and be responsible for maintenance, inspections and insurance once completed. £10,000 has been requested from South Hams DC to complete the funding arrangements with Devon CC providing the remainder. **Cllr Squire said that the funding is available and that he will speak to South Hams DC about the availability of the £10,000.**

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Bennett and Rowland for all their hard work and was delighted that the projects were now on course for completion this year.

iii) Police Liaison Committee Meeting on 15 February 2010

Cllr Drought had attended the Police Liaison Committee meeting and many of the items discussed had already been covered earlier in the meeting. However, he had asked Duncan Russell the Police Safety Officer, about the suggested 20 mph speed limit through Wembury. He had replied that regarding 20 mph speed limits in villages they look at the accident and incident statistics. As Wembury is a low crime and incident area there is little chance of the Police supporting a 20 mph speed limit through Wembury. However, they are setting up speed watch teams. In the past, the speed watch team would check their own village, but with the new teams, each team now checks another village to avoid any problems.

The Chairman also raised the problems of large vehicles using Train Road, which is very narrow in places. The Police said that it was due to drivers using satellite navigation systems and that there was little they could do about it.

10-026 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for February 2010

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

RESOLVED: The monthly financial statement was approved as detailed at ANNEX C.

10-027 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Hart expressed concern about the large number of cars parking along Staddiscombe Road adjacent to the new development and said that it could cause an accident if not regulated.

Cllr Rowland said that there were potholes in the road opposite Wembury House, adjacent to the Alms Houses.

Cllr Cammack again suggested that there should be a footpath around the Wembury Playing field because the ground has become very soft due to the recent wet weather.

Cllr Squire undertook to raise the issue with South Hams DC again, even though they have refused such a path in the past.

Cllr Bennett said that there was a pothole along Hollacombe Road on the hill just before Ridge Cross.

He also reported that the Church Road sign needs replacing as the wording is missing in places.

Cllr Bennett reported that two vans were now parking in the partly completed structure adjacent to 12 Knighton Road, Wembury and asked about the current planning situation.

Cllr Squire said that South Hams DC had not received a revised planning application yet, but that it was unlikely to be supported due to objections.

Cllr Squire also said that the direction sign at Rack Corner has been broken off, as has the Gabber Lane sign. **Cllr Hart undertook to investigate the potholes and signs.**

10-028 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.23 pm.

Roy Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council