

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	

Before the meeting was convened the Chairman and Vice Chairman, having completed three full years in post, stood down and the Clerk invited the assembled Councillors to elect a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Cllr Drought and Councillor Rowland had indicated their willingness to serve for a final fourth term as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. In the absence of any other candidates, they were duly re-elected unanimously. Both then signed the declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk to the Council.

Minutes of the Wembury Parish Council meeting held at the Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, on Monday 24 May 2010.

10-055 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought formally opened the meeting at 8.13 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllrs Cammack, Doody, Filby, Gage, Hart, Newnham, Rowland, and Squire were present.

District Cllr Cane and four members of the public were also present.

10-056 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Scoble.

10-057 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Hart declared that he is not permitted to talk about the proposed waste incinerator at the New England Quarry. As the leader of Devon CC, he has also just become chairman of the Devon Strategic Partnership.

10-058 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 8.17 pm.

i) Crime Report May 2010

PC R Batchelor had given his annual report earlier to the Wembury Parish Annual Report and had declared that there were no specific crimes in Wembury this month, so he had no report for the Parish Council.

Cllr Gage said he thought it had been agreed, that as well as reporting crimes in the area, the Police would also report details of the work carried out by them within the Parish during the month ie involvement with the community and local school.

Cllr Hart reported that Devon and Cornwall used to be deemed the 7th safest area by the public, but it has now slipped down to 37th. Consequently, the Police are trying to improve community communication and so a full report from PC Batchelor, similar to that given by Sgt Anya Teakle at the last meeting, would be useful each month.

In other parishes, the NBM and PCSO's regularly meet with local parish councillors.

ii) Proposed Developments in Wembury

The proposed development allocation at the top of Knighton Hill had been fully discussed at the previous Wembury Parish Annual meeting.

Cllr Bennett reported that it would appear the findings of the South Hams DC Sustainability Report has been over ruled, in that sites 3 and 4 were ranked higher than site 2 which has been chosen for the allocation of 30 houses. He felt that the other sites should be re-considered.

The Clerk was asked to complete and return the consultation form objecting to site 2. The objection to be on the grounds of unsoundness, as there has been no consultation with the public, it could lead to ribbon development, is not sustainable, will create traffic problems, is outside the Development Plan and in an AONB. Other sites should be re-considered.

The Clerk was also asked to invite a Planner to the next meeting to discuss this issue.

iii) Proposed Developments in Down Thomas

The proposed development by Cavanna Homes for 30 houses in Down Thomas had been fully discussed at the previous Wembury Parish Annual meeting.

The Parish Council are not able to comment until a full planning application has been submitted by Cavanna Homes for the proposed development. However, the site is outside the Development Plan area and the views of the villagers have been noted.

iv) Adam King – Wembury Tree Warden

Adam King reported that he was still looking at the possibility of a community orchard around the football pitch. Wembury School were very keen to assist and he was currently discussing proposals with them.

With regard to Longland Brake woodland in Heybrook Bay, he is looking for a community view and awaiting a response to the article in the June Wembury Review before he contacts the Woodland Trust again.

Recently, 6500 trees were planted around the playing fields at Staddiscombe and Adam circulated a plan of the planting layout for information.

v) Public Comments

Mr Pearson informed members that the Wembury Carnival was going ahead on Saturday 3 July 2010. Although there will be no large floats, he was waiting for Devon

Highways comments before finalising the event, as the road will need to be closed for about one hour.

Cllr Hart, through Devon CC, has agreed to cover the cost of the insurance necessary for the event, so Mr Pearson will not be asking the Parish Council to fund this.

Wembury School is supporting the Carnival and afterwards, they will carry on with their School Summer Fete event. Suitable information will be put in the Wembury Review and the school will be circulating fliers.

The Odd Wheel is trying to open especially for the event.

The Chairman closed this open session at 8.50 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

10-059 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 26 APRIL 2010.

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

10-060 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

10-045 i) Notices – Knighton Hill

Clerk to put a reminder in the Wembury Review about removing signs at the top of Knighton Hill after an event. If the sign is not on a building with the owner's permission, then planning permission is required, or if on highway land, then permission from the Highway Authority, which is Devon CC.

10-045ii) Street Lights

The street light near Wembury Post Office is still on all the time.
Cllr Hart again agreed to investigate

10-047i) Litter Policy on Wembury Beach

Cllr Squire will again ask South Hams DC for a collection timetable, particularly the extra collections at peak times.

10-047ii) Missing Rack Corner Sign

The sign has still not been put up. **Cllr Hart to investigate.**

10-052i) Parish Plan Action Group

Cllr Filby said that there was £250 in the budget for the Parish Plan Action Group and he would like to spend £70 on the Wembury and Down Thomas Fetes to promote the Parish Plan. Cllr Rowland proposed, seconded by Cllr Doody, that the Parish Council spend up to £70 on promoting the Wembury Parish Plan. The motion was approved by 9 votes for and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council spend up to £70 on promoting the Wembury Parish Plan.

10-052ii) Leisure Facilities Working Group

Cllr Bennett said that the soundproofing to the skate park equipment had not yet been done and the contractor would do it when they are next in Wembury. The equipment has now bedded in and is not quite as noisy.

10-054 Fence in Church Road

Devon Highways are currently investigating the fence in Church Road, Wembury and the vehicle that parks behind the fence.

10-061 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.

10-062 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) South Hams DC – Local Development Framework

This item had already been discussed – the Clerk is to respond as part of the consultation process.

ii) Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association

Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association requested financial support from the Parish Council as they had been supported by the parish Council in previous years. Members agreed that this was a worthwhile cause, which helped the residents of Wembury Parish. Cllr Bennett proposed, seconded by Cllr Cammack, that Wembury Parish Council grant £110 to support the Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association. The motion was approved by 9 votes for and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: Wembury Parish Council grant £110 to support the Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association.

ii) Football Field at Barton Close, Wembury

South Hams DC had written to the Wembury Football Club about insurance and safety of the goal posts.

Cllr Bennett and the Clerk will be meeting with representatives from South Hams DC and the Football club to resolve the matter.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

10-063 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Development Control and Conservation User Group Meeting

The Chairman reported that there will be a meeting of the South Hams DC Development Control and Conservation User Group on 9 June 2010 and he asked for a volunteer to attend the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Squire said that he would be attending the meeting and would represent the Parish Council.

10-064 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Cllr Hart explained that the annual income from investments has fallen from £13.5 m to £1.3 m last year.

Devon CC has taken responsibility for transport for the over 60 year olds from the District Councils, however, the eligibility may have to rise to 65 years old as this will run at a large financial loss for Devon CC.

The Exeter bid for Unitary status is doomed, as one of the first Bills through Parliament will rescind the Exeter proposals and the government are doing this to save some £40m. The judicial review has not yet voted on the outcome, however, if Devon CC win, then they will get their money back for this action.

Cllr Hart explained that the 48 Bus Service to Wembury is a commercial bus service, but that the 49 Bus Service to Down Thomas / Heybrook Bay is subsidised by Devon CC. They are looking at the possibility of another bus for Down Thomas / Heybrook Bay. However, there is not going to be any more money in the budget.

Cllr Hart commented on the proposed public meeting to be organised by Mr C Tarsky in which he hopes that the public will agree to pay extra for an improved bus service to Wembury. He said that the financial arrangements for the bus services are complicated and any improved service will need more financial subsidy, which is not possible with the current financial constraints. A shuttle bus between Wembury and Plymstock could be useful, but it still needs funding and is unlikely to be a practical proposition.

Cllr Filby asked whether there were any governmental changes, which may affect the Wembury School rebuild programme. Cllr Hart said that there will be some affect of government changes on the schools rebuilding programme, but it is too early to say what they will be.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire informed members that the new Chairman of South Hams DC is Cllr Baverstock, the Vice Chairman is Cllr Gilbert and the Leader of the Council is still Cllr Tucker.

The Chief Executive is to retire shortly and so South Hams DC and West Devon are currently seeking a new joint Chief Executive, through recruitment consultants.

Following the new planning regulations, the planning surgeries set up have not proved successful. Consequently, South Hams DC are scrapping the surgeries and setting up a Planning Duty Officer who will be available each morning to give advice and answer questions on planning matters.

Cllr Squire said that there would be hard financial times ahead, which may impact on front line services.

There will be a consultation on the South Hams DC Housing Strategy from 21 May to 18 June 2010. People need to email or write to the South Hams DC team.

Investment income has dropped to £375,000 per annum

Cllr Cane informed members that the litter bin at Bovisand Beach would be collected every Sunday during the summer months.

He congratulated the Chairman and Vice Chairman on their final year in office.

10-065 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Parish Plan Action Group

Cllr Filby will be promoting the Parish Plan at the Down Thomas Summer Festival on 12 June 2010 and at the Wembury PTA Summer Fair on 3 July 2010 and invited Parish Councillors to join him on those two days.

ii) Leisure Facilities Working Group

Cllr Bennett reported the good news that a contract has now been let to upgrade the Wembury Tennis Courts and to construct the Wembury MUGA. The same contractor, Courtenstalls, will be constructing both projects, which will be managed by South Hams DC. Cllr Bennett and the Clerk will be attending the pre-contract meeting and the work is expected to start in June/July 2010.

iii) Parish Cluster Meeting on 18 May 2010

Cllr Rowland had attended the meeting and reported that there had been a lot of discussion about the South Hams DC Local Development Framework. Many Parish Councils were not happy with the lack of communication by South Hams DC on the current proposals.

There is to be a new approach to Development Management at South Hams DC and people will be able to have more discussion with planners about their application. However, there will be a charge for this service and no guarantee that the application will be successful.

There will be challenges to the Local Government budgets with cost cutting, no recruitment of staff and retraining of staff to avoid redundancies where possible. There will be more shared services with West Devon and some front line services may have to go. The spending of reserves was discussed, but was not recommended.

The shared services pilot scheme at Stokenham had led to an improvement in the local services but there was no reduction in costs. Other Parish Councils were not keen to follow Stokenham, as it would give Clerks an added workload.

There was concern about the proposed Incinerator at the New England Quarry and the level of dioxins generated, which would cover the surrounding area and get into the River Yealm. An Ermington Parish Councillor was organising a petition against the Incinerator. Everyone was surprised that South Hams DC has no view on this proposed development and councillors had not met to discuss it, although no formal planning application has been submitted yet.

Cllrs Squire and Cane also attended the meeting.

iv) River Yealm Harbour Authority

Cllr Drought reported that he had attended a meeting the previous week. The future maintenance of the steps on the Wembury side of the estuary was raised again as the handrail is now in need of repair. However, there is still confusion over the ownership of the steps and footpath. There are still minor repairs to be done to the steps on the Noss side. **Cllr Hart asked for a report by the River Yealm Harbour Authority on the handrails and then to arrange a meeting to discuss any necessary repairs.**

10-066 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for May 2010

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

ii) Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2010

The Clerk explained that the Internal Auditor was not able to inspect the accounts and Annual Return until after the 24 May 2010 meeting and the approved Annual Return has to be with the external Auditor by 28 June 2010, which is before the next meeting.

He therefore asked the Parish Council for delegated powers for the Chairman and Clerk to sign the Annual Return subject to any comments from the Internal Auditor.

Cllr Newnham proposed, seconded by Cllr Bennett, that the Chairman and Clerk are given delegated powers to sign the Annual Return, subject to any comments from the Internal Auditor. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Chairman and Clerk are given delegated powers to sign the Annual Return, subject to any comments from the Internal Auditor.

10-067 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Hart had been looking at the various Bills proposed by the new government and said that responsibility for services will cascade downwards.

Cllr Squire had recently been round the new Power Station at Plympton and was surprised that only one person and a bank of computers controlled the whole station operation.

Cllr Bennett reminded members that the Church Road and Hawthorn Drive signs still required replacing by South Hams DC. **Cllr Squire to speak to South Hams DC.**

Cllr Bennett also said that the notice board at Hollacombe required minor repairs to the tiles. **The Clerk to investigate.**

Cllr Filby reported that the signage for Footpath No 6 is hidden by vegetation and needs cutting back. **The Clerk to inform Devon CC.**

Cllr Cammack reported that Japanese Knotweed had been cut by power tools in a field behind four corners in Wembury and this should be reported to South Hams DC. **The Clerk to inform South Hams DC.**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42 pm.

Roy Fairclough
Clerk