

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 Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, on Monday 26 January 2009.

09-01 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought, formally opened the meeting at 7.32 pm. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially Cllr Cane, who was attending in his official capacity as chairman of South Hams District Council.

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

Nine members of the public and District Councillor Cane were also present.

09-02 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

09-03 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Cammack informed members that he was a member of the Wembury Allotment Society Committee.

09-04 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 7.34 pm.

i) Crime Report December 2008 to January 2009

Unfortunately, PC Nolan was on sick leave, Sid Lawrence was on a rest day, and so neither would be attending the meeting.

The Chairman then read out the Crime Report for December 2008 to January 2009 as submitted by Sid Lawrence.

Jl/08/1042

At 2058 on 25th Nov, a female was arrested for a drink drive offence in Ryeland Close Wembury.

Jl/08/1080

Between 2200 and 2230 on the 5th Dec, a fibre glass outbuilding was broken into in Brownhill lane, power tools and a chain saw were taken, the padlock had been forced off, at this time this crime remains undetected.

Jl/09/25

Between 2345 on the 9th Jan and 0900 on the 10th Jan, a tipper trailer was taken from a private dwelling on Wembury Rd, at this time the crime remains undetected.

In addition to the stated crime there were two reported domestic incidents, however, force policy dictates non disclosure of information.

ii) Coastal Footpath

The Chairman then read out an email received from Dave Ledger about mobs of cyclists using the coastal path and causing walkers to be pushed off the path. The Clerk had sent and received correspondence from the National Trust and Devon CC as well as the Police. The Chairman explained that cyclists were not allowed on the coastal path as it was against the law and that 'No Cycling' signs did not appear to stop cyclists. It was a matter for the Police to take action when they see a cyclist on the coastal path. It was suggested that members of the public could take discrete photographs of cyclists which may help the Police with a prosecution.

The Police have agreed to monitor this situation.

Cllr Gage said that he would include this item on the next Wembury Beach liaison meeting.

iii) Public Comments

Tony Romang informed members that he had written to the First Bus Company and Devon CC about the dangerous practice of the large buses using the narrow lane adjacent to the Staddiscombe development. When turning out of this narrow lane the bus straddles across the whole of Wembury Road and could cause an accident with vehicles travelling along Wembury Road.

Apparently, the bus company use this lane to turn their buses round and Devon CC has said that as it is a public road they are entitled to use it.

A short debate ensued which ranged from the erection of 'Dangerous Bend' signs, to making the lane one way, to closing the lane completely.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Devon CC outlining the concerns of Wembury Parish Council.

Bob Harvey again complained about potholes in the road and mud on the roads from local farmers. Cllr Hart explained that he had asked Devon CC for a full investigation into the potholes and mud on the roads. He was awaiting a response.

It was suggested that the local farmers be asked to put hardcore in the entrance to their fields to prevent mud being trailed onto the roads.

Cllr Hart and the Clerk to pursue.

The Chairman then closed this open session at 7.51 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

09-05 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2008.

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

09-06 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

08-149 i) First Devon & Cornwall Ltd

The Clerk explained that First Devon & Cornwall Ltd were aware of the recent complaints and that various emails had been circulated to all members.

Cllr Squire informed members that he had received numerous complaints about the changes to the No 48 Service to Wembury and had spoken to Simon Newport of First D&C Ltd, who had explained the reason for the changes and was not going to look at them again. Mr Newport had complained that their concessionary fare grant had been cut from 63% to 49% as agreed by Devon CC and so the service had been cut accordingly as it was not viable due to the low usage. The bus at 7.30 am was the school bus and it was so early because of all the stops it had to make on the way to the school. There would be no change to this time. However, if the grant was increased, then Simon Newport would look at the service again.

Cllr Hart expressed surprise, because Devon CC did not financially support the No 48 Service as it was a commercial service and lack of use was the main reason for the reduced service. However, he would check the grant reduction.

Cllr Bennett also said that as well as the missing bus stop sign at the Wembury Post Office, another sign was missing opposite the Vicarage at the top of Church Road, Wembury.

The Clerk thought that signing was a Devon CC matter and so he would liaise with Cllr Hart regarding the bus stop signs.

08-149 ii) Road Crossing

Cllr Squire said that he was meeting Chris Watkins of Devon CC on the following Tuesday at 9 am and would report on his meeting.

08-149 iii) Footpath Surfacing, Southland Park Road

Cllr Hart had been promised that the weeds would be sprayed and he would chase Devon Highways to carry out the work.

08-149 iv) Car Parking

Cllr Filby informed members that Easter was not far away and at that time, there could be parking problems in Wembury near to the beach. He suggested that an early meeting with South Hams DC to discuss the parking issues should be held.

Cllr Gage had also emailed South Hams DC about the double yellow lines at the bottom of Church Road, which are covered with debris. The road required sweeping to make the yellow lines clearly visible.

The car parking issue is on the Agenda for the next Wembury Beach liaison group meeting. However, the Clerk was asked to write to South Hams to remind them to take suitable action regarding any illegal parking in Church Road from 1 April 2009.

08-149 v) Street Name Signs

Parish Council members to let Cllr Squire know which street name signs require replacing, as he has been promised that missing street name signs will be replaced by

South Hams DC.

Cllr Squire to speak to South Hams DC regarding the replacement of missing street name signs.

08-149 vi) Wembury Allotments

The Clerk has the planning application in hand.

08-149 vii) Closure of Pubs

The Clerk had circulated the Closure of Pubs guide and information about Community Pubs to all members. Cllr Filby explained his concerns if the local pub was closed and suggested that he and the Chairman should visit the pub and speak to the landlord to find out the current situation regarding the future of the pub.

Cllr Filby and the Chairman to visit the pub and report back.

08-156 Dog Control Order

Cllr Squire informed members that he had spoken to the Dog Warden who would like South Hams DC to agree to the Dog Control Order so that he could take suitable action. The Control Order has not yet been approved by South Hams DC Council.

Cllr Squire will continue to raise this matter with South Hams DC.

09-07 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.

Cllr Newnham asked that the Clerk write to South Hams DC Chief Executive and ask the Planning Committee to view what they have approved under planning application 58/1896/08/F – Site at Spring Road, Wembury Point and for them to ask the Architect to tone down the building.

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

09-08 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) Information Commissioner's Office - Freedom of Information

Wembury Parish Council agreed to adopt the Information Commissioner's Office New Model Publication Scheme.

ii) Devon & Cornwall Constabulary – Appointments to Police Authority

No-one nominated.

iii) Devon & Cornwall Constabulary – Appointment of Custody Visitors

No-one nominated.

iv) South Hams DC – Devon Home Choice Consultation & Questionnaire

Cllr Squire explained that the aim is to provide choice and availability for a home within Devon. **Clerk and Chairman to consider the questionnaire.**

v) Communities & Local Government – Communities in Control, Consultation

No comments.

vi) Communities & Local Government – Local Restructuring in Devon

The Chairman and Clerk explained that a letter had been sent to the Secretary of State from the Parish Council supporting an improved status quo. However, the reply said that the letter should be addressed to the Boundary Committee, who have had their deadline

for submitting their recommendations extended from 31 December 2008 to 13 February 2009. A short discussion ensued.

It was agreed that the Clerk should resubmit the letter to the Secretary of State after 13 February 2009, when the Boundary Committee's decision is known.

vii) Senior Council for Devon – Ivybridge Branch – Invitation to Join

Following a short discussion Cllr Hart explained the background to the Senior Council and how it was being trialled by the Government in Devon.

It was agreed that Wembury Parish Council should join the Senior Council for Devon, providing there were no costs involved.

The Clerk was also asked to advertise the Senior Council for Devon in the Wembury Review and explain that individuals could also join.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

09-09 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Several letters that required a response before the next Parish Council meeting had just been received and the Chairman went through the following:-

1) Commons Act 2006

Devon CC has been chosen as one of seven Commons Registration Authorities in England to test Part 1 of this Act. Devon CC is looking to hosting an event to discuss this and is seeking names of people who would be willing to attend the event.

Cllr Rowland volunteered to attend.

A discussion then ensued about a recent email that had identified unregistered land within the Wembury area. **The Clerk was asked to respond with the various comments and ownership of land, as advised by Parish Council members.**

Cllr Filby informed members that there were lots of small pieces of land within the Parish, which were not owned by anyone or registered. It was agreed that the Parish Council do not wish to register these areas of land.

2) Parish Cluster Meeting

The next Ivybridge & Surrounding Area Cluster meeting is scheduled for 23 February 2009 and the Chairman said that he would attend the meeting on behalf of Wembury Parish Council.

3) Standards Board for England

Every two years the Standards Board for England assess the level of satisfaction of local government with their performance. They asked for a questionnaire to be filled in. It was generally agreed to take no action regarding the questionnaire.

4) South Hams DC Local Development Framework

South Hams DC LDF programme is currently being reviewed. There were no comments from the Parish councillors.

Cllr Squire agreed to keep a watching brief on this for the Parish Council.

5) Royal Garden Party

It was agreed that Cllr Drought should be put forward for the ballot to see who attends the Royal Garden Party this year. **The Clerk to notify DAPC accordingly.**

09-10 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY

DEVON CC

Cllr Hart informed members that the two judicial reviews had put back the Boundary Committee's recommendations until February as previously discussed. Both authorities who lost their reviews are now appealing against the decision.

He is currently in the middle of budget discussions at Devon CC. He congratulated South Hams DC on their zero increase. However, Devon CC received a 5.5% settlement from the government but have to make a 3% saving, and the income from investments is much reduced next year. This leads to a shortfall of about £17m. He thinks that the increase in Council Tax will be around 3% and will know on 9 February 2009.

For the first time in history the collections of Council Tax from the first two district returns is in deficit. He can see more people wanting assistance from the local council over the next year and there will be tight times were ahead.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire said that South Hams DC was currently proposing no increase in the Council Tax for 2009/10. He asked Cllr Hart to use his good offices to persuade Devon CC to follow their example in freezing the rate of Council Tax for the next 12 months.

There will also be no increase in Car Parking charges within South Hams DC. They are using their reserves of £2.1m to keep the Council Tax and Car Parking charges unchanged for the next 12 months.

He advised members that there was always a shortfall in benefits and this was because the government only reimbursed South Hams DC 99.5% of their costs. The shortfall in the current year was £363,000.

As already discussed South Hams DC are drawing up a choice base list of houses for rent within the area. This list will be displayed and made available to assist people to move around the area more easily. All empty properties will be advertised.

The Sherford developer is now seeking concessions for the infrastructure work and wants more public money to be put into it. The start will now be delayed.

Cllr Cane said that he was proud that South Hams DC has a zero rise in Council Tax for the next year. He also informed members that if people were having trouble paying their Council Tax then they should apply to South Hams DC to see if they qualified for a rebate. All applicants would be means tested.

He was delighted to report that concessionary bus fares have produced a surplus despite recent fears that the scheme would cost South Hams DC to implement.

Street sweeping is set to be improved with the purchase of a new mechanical street sweeper.

In his official capacity as Chairman of South Hams DC he travels around other Parishes and attends other Parish Council meetings. He felt that Wembury Parish Council meetings are one of the best in the district. Cllr Cane also appreciated the time given by the Parish Councillors for no income and wished to thank them all for what that they do for the Wembury community. He was attending the meeting to listen to what is being said and he will try to provide assistance through the district council where possible.

The Chairman Cllr Drought thanked Cllr Cane for his kind words.

09-11 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Forward Planning Working Group

Cllr Filby reported that a draft plan produced by Alan Puddicombe, had been circulated to all members and he would welcome comments from councillors. The Clerk reported that it was also on the website and the public could respond via the link on the website. Cllr Filby said that the plan was taking a while to complete, because if it were to be meaningful, then it had to be produced by the people of Wembury. The Forward Planning Working Group was meeting on 3 February to progress the plan further.

ii) Leisure Facilities Working Group

Cllr Bennett informed members that he had recently attended a Sport and Play Workshop at Rattery and had received a package of information about how organisations can get help in setting up a sport or recreational area. There were useful contacts in the pack and he would ask the Clerk to circulate it to all members for information.

Skateboarding

Cllr Bennett reported that the Skateboard Committee was waiting to see if their recent grant application has been successful before progressing further.

Tennis

Cllr Bennett informed members that improvements to the Wembury Tennis Courts had been priced up by South Hams DC at £60,000. In addition, South Hams DC was seeking certain commitments from Wembury Parish Council and the Wembury Tennis Club. He said that the courts did not need to be to professional standards and thought that a simple refurbishment of the surface would have been adequate. With the recent death of the chairman of the proposed Wembury Tennis Club, the formal creation of the club has not progressed further since the last report.

Cllr Hart informed members that a Multi User Games Area (MUGA) would cost about £80 – £100,000 and because of the high costs of refurbishing the tennis courts, it may be better to consider a MUGA. He had asked Devon CC to survey the area to see where one could be built. When the survey is done, it will be necessary to see how it fits in with the tennis courts.

Cllr Squire agreed that it was an incredible amount of money to refurbish the tennis courts, but explained that the base had to be rebuilt. It was not high on the South Hams priority list, but if the Parish Council were considering a MUGA then it could be much higher on the list and South Hams DC might also be prepared to contribute towards it. He also had a list of other possible sources of funding and Cllr Hart said that Devon CC might also contribute towards a MUGA.

Cllr Bennett suggested that a small working group should get together to discuss this issue more fully. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the working party would comprise of Cllrs Bennett, Hart, Squire and Rowland. Mr C Tarsky would also be asked to join the working party.

Cllr Bennett to arrange a suitable meeting and report back to the Parish Council.

iii) Wembury Allotment Society

Cllr Cammack explained that the National Trust wanted a guarantor for their lease with the Wembury Allotment Society for the rent of the allotment land.

Cllr Cammack asked, on behalf of the Allotment Society, if the Parish Council would be a guarantor for the lease, which would be for 10 years, with a 5 year break clause. The annual rent was £300 per annum. The Clerk pointed out that the maximum cost to the Parish Council if the Wembury Allotment Society defaulted on payments would be £1500 over 5 years. Following a short discussion during which other options were considered, Cllr Drought proposed and Cllr Doody seconded that Wembury Parish Council be a guarantor for the lease between the National Trust and the Wembury Allotment Society for the Wembury allotments. The proposal was carried by 8 votes for, 2 abstentions. Cllr Cammack declared an interest and did not vote.

RESOLVED: Wembury Parish Council be a guarantor for the lease between the National Trust and the Wembury Allotment Society for the Wembury allotments.

iv) Wembury School Governor

Cllr Doody explained that her 4 year term as a Wembury School governor had now come to an end and due to other work commitments she did not wish to be re-elected as a governor. **Cllr Filby volunteered to be the Wembury Parish Council governor for Wembury School for the next 4 year term.**

v) Yealm River Harbour Authority

Cllr Drought explained that his 3 year term on the Yealm River Harbour Authority was coming to an end, but that he was happy to continue for a further 3 year term. All agreed that **Cllr Drought should continue as the Wembury Parish Council representative on the River Yealm Harbour Authority for another 3 year term.**

09-12 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for December 2008 and January 2009

The Chairman presented the financial reports as per ANNEX C.

RESOLVED: The monthly financial statements were approved as detailed at ANNEX C.

ii) Finance Sub Committee Proposals

1) Grant Applications and Annual Expenditure for 2009/10

PROPOSAL: The subscriptions and grants as listed in Appendix No 1 of the Finance Sub Committee Agenda, be approved and put to the Wembury Parish Council for ratification.

The Chairman went through the annual subscriptions and grant proposals for 2009/2010. Cllr Filby proposed and Cllr Doody seconded, acceptance of the proposal. Cllr Newman declared an interest and abstained and the proposal was then carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: The subscriptions and grants as listed in ANNEX D are approved for 2009/2010.

2) Proposed Budget for 2009/10

PROPOSAL: The budget for 2009/2010 be approved, with the discussed amendments, as per Appendix No 2 of the Finance Sub Committee Agenda and put to the Wembury Parish Council for ratification.

The Chairman briefly went through the proposed budget for 2009/2010.

Following a short discussion Cllr Bennett proposed and Cllr Newnham seconded, acceptance of the budget. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The budget for 2009/2010 is approved, as per ANNEX E.

3) Wembury Parish Council Precept 2009/10

PROPOSAL: 50% of the Contested Election Expenses should be borne by the Parish Council reserves and 50% passed on to South Hams DC through the precept. PROPOSAL: The Wembury Parish precept for 2009/2010 be increased to £21,000, an increase of 5% and put to Wembury Parish Council for ratification.

A lengthy discussion then ensued about the £2000 cost of the Contested Election Expenses. It was suggested that it should be made clear to electors that the Parish Council budget has not increased for 2009/10 apart, from the unexpected cost of the contested election. The Parish Council only intend to pass on 50% of the costs to South Hams DC and are covering the other 50% from reserves. This means that the precept will be increased to £21,000, an increase of 5% and that to meet the approved budget, £1,900 will be taken from reserves.

Cllr Squire thought that the Parish Council should absorb all the costs and was against a public statement.

The Clerk was asked to put a factual statement in the Wembury Review and on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Filby proposed and Cllr Bennett seconded acceptance of the proposals. The proposals were carried by 10 votes for to 1 vote against.

RESOLVED: 50% of the Contested Election Expenses be borne by the Parish Council reserves and 50% passed on to South Hams DC through the precept. Consequently, the Wembury Parish precept for 2009/2010 is increased to £21,000, an increase of 5%.

09-13 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Filby informed members that fully reconditioned red telephone boxes are now worth about £8000.

Cllr Cammack asked who owned the triangle of land adjacent to Wembury War Memorial Hall, as the Hall Committee would like to put a seat on it.

Cllr Hart agreed to check to see if it was highway land.

Cllr Cammack informed members that the hedge around the Wembury playing field had been cut, but that the field was a complete mess and had been churned up by the hedge cutting vehicle. He also suggested that there should be a gravel footpath all the way round the field. This would assist the allotment holders to gain access to the allotments and also enable more people to get round the field to watch football matches.

Cllr Squire agreed to ask South Hams DC what such a path would cost to construct and report back.

09-14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk asked for clarification of the policy regarding business advertising on the Parish website. It was agreed that the current policy should remain ie **only businesses within the Wembury Parish or business owners who live within the Wembury Parish should be allowed to advertise on the Parish website.**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.54 pm.

R Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council