

## WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Minutes of the Wembury Parish Council meeting held at the Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, on Monday 26 July 2010.**

### **10-083 OPENING THE MEETING**

The Chairman, Cllr Drought opened the meeting at 7.00 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

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

### **10-084 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from PC R Batchelor and PCSO Sid Lawrence.

### **10-085 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

### **10-086 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 7.02 pm.**

#### **i) Delyth Jenkins Evans, Monitoring Officer, South Hams DC**

The Chairman sadly announced that Delyth had been taken ill during the day and taken to hospital for further tests. The Parish Council wished Delyth a speedy recovery back to good health.

Consequently, Delyth's presentation would be re-organised for another suitable date.

#### **ii) Crime Report July 2010**

PC R Batchelor and PCSO Sid Lawrence were again not able to attend the meeting but PC Batchelor had submitted a written report.

The Chairman then read out the report as follows:-

**Jl/10/627:** On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010 a person was arrested for drink driving in Wembury they have been charged with the offence and will be attending Magistrates Court.

**Jl/10/638:** Between 09<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010 a male was arrested for production of Cannabis in the Wembury area the matter has been dealt with by a Police caution.

**Jl/10/642:** Between 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010 damage was caused to bushes in the front garden of an address in Heybrook Bay enquiries are continuing.

**Jl/10/647:** On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010 a handbag of a customer was stolen from a shop in Wembury enquiries are continuing.

**PC Batchelor and Sid Lawrence** have continued to liaise with the National Trust regarding any concerns or complaints from people using the beach. They have also targeted vehicles that have been parked causing an obstruction or inconsiderately whilst using the beach. Speed checks have been carried out along the main route into Wembury around Hollacombe with most drivers adhering to the speed limit others who were slightly over the limit were spoken too. Both have obviously been regularly patrolling the area as part of their shift as well.

**Clr Gage** had circulated an email reporting some suspicious activity in the Wembury boat park where some `casing` had been going on at boatpark. A family in a white transit were in the boat park turning people's kayaks over and generally looking suspicious. The information had been forwarded to the Police by the NT & Wembury Sailing Club, but it was not recorded in the Police report.

**Clr Filby** also said that the Police had attended the Wembury Fair, which was a good community public relations exercise, but again this was not reported in the Police Report.

A discussion ensued about the non-attendance of a Police Officer at the meeting. The Clerk reported that he had written to Sgt Anna Teakle twice, but to date had not received a response. **The Clerk was asked to write to Inspector Phil Chivers again explaining the Parish Council's concern about the poor communication by the Police.**

### **iii) Members of the Public**

No comments were made.

**The Chairman closed this open session at 7.07 pm and resumed Parish Council business.**

## **10-087 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 28 June 2010.**

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

## **10-088 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES**

### **10-075 Missing Rack Corner Sign**

The sign has now been replaced.

### **10-054 Fence in Church Road**

Devon Highways have reported that the fence in Church Road, Wembury is on the house owners land and not on Highway land.

### **10-063 Development Control and Conservation User Group Meeting**

**Cllr Squire** said that he had attended the meeting on 9 June 2010 and reported that there had been many complaints from the Parishes that South Hams DC does not take any notice of their planning application comments. Also, that hardly any planning enforcement action is taken by South Hams DC and it was felt that the District Council had no teeth.

South Hams officers had responded by saying that 40% of Parish comments on planning matters were late and that they were overwhelmed with work. There had been 30 new cases requiring enforcement per month over the last year and more staff were required.

**The Clerk** reported that he is virtually the only Parish Clerk who responds to the planning applications by email and perhaps the other Clerks could do the same to avoid being late with their comments. However, he agreed that more enforcement action is necessary by South Hams DC.

### **10-067 i) Replacement of Street Name Signs**

Church Road and Hawthorn Drive signs still require replacing by South Hams DC.

**Cllr Squire will speak to South Hams DC.**

### **10-067 ii) Lengthsman**

**The Clerk** reported that it is not the lengthsman's job to clean signs, but only to clear out drains. The Lengthsman has now a greater area to cover and has not been in the Wembury area for some time. He had written to Devon Highways regarding blocked gulleys in Manor Bourne Road, Down Thomas and Train Road, Wembury.

**The Clerk then asked for a list of other blocked drains, gulleys or buddle holes from Parish Councillors, so that he could make the lengthsman's visit to Wembury worthwhile by clearing all of them.**

Regarding the cleaning of street signs it was unlikely that any authority would have the money to clean them and so it was up to the community to carry out such tasks in future. A general debate ensued about asking good neighbours to help clean signs and gulleys.

**The Clerk was asked to put a suitable article in the Wembury Review.**

### **10-076 Bovisand Park Estate Ltd**

**The Chairman** reported that even though several planning applications to extend the holiday usage of several chalets to 12 months of the year had been approved by South Hams DC, Bovisand Park Estate Ltd had confirmed that the site licence for the chalets over-rides any planning approval. At the moment the Board wish the site to be closed for 6 weeks during February and March, so that essential repairs and site maintenance can be carried out. The Board takes its decisions from the shareholders requirements at the AGM in September. However, they intend to make a robust case to continue with the closure at the next AGM in September.

It was felt that the planning approval was more to do with people wanting to sell their chalets and the prospective buyer being able to secure a mortgage for it.

Concern was expressed at the South Hams DC planning decisions, because, if the site did become a residential site, then it would cost South Hams DC more money to provide the required facilities.

### **10-077 Wembury Allotment Association**

**Cllr Squire** passed over to the Clerk the application forms for the Allotment Association to request the £60 grant from his South Hams DC Sustainable Community Locality Fund.

### **10-079 Manor Bourne Sewer**

**The Clerk** had written to Devon Highways twice but had not yet received a reply. A lengthy discussion ensued about the work that has recently been done to the gully and the fact that the problem of flooding still exists. The sewer has still not been repaired and is not likely to be, until a TV survey has been carried out, but at the present time there is no money for the TV survey. Meanwhile, the Post Box is closed on Health and Safety grounds and it is dangerous to access the Parish Council notice board.

**Cllr Hart again agreed to investigate the situation.**

### **10-089 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.**

**Cllr Rowland** asked whether it would be possible for someone to speak to the owners of 12 Knighton Road to see if a footpath could be put across the front of the proposed garage, up a few steps and across the Chapel to the school.

**The Clerk to investigate.**

### **10-090 THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL WAS SUSPENDED FOR THE PUBLIC TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS OR TO PUT QUESTIONS**

**As several people were late in attending the meeting and as they were not aware that Delyth was not able to speak, the Chairman again suspended the business of the Council and opened this session to the public at 7.42 pm.**

**Tony Romang** asked for the venue for the Parish Council meetings be placed in the Wembury Review. The Clerk replied that he could ask the editor to put information in the Wembury Review, however, it was not always published. Details for each Parish Council meeting are posted on all of the Parish Council's 10 Notice Boards and displayed on the Wembury Parish website.

**Tony Romang** also commented about the use of the verges along Church Road by householders. The Chairman informed him that according to Devon Highways, this land was owned by the householder and was not highway land.

**The Chairman closed this open session at 7.44 pm and resumed Parish Council business.**

### **10-091 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

#### **i) Waste to Energy Proposal – New England Quarry**

**Cllr Hart** declared an interest in this proposal and took no part in the discussion.

**The Chairman** referred to a letter from Robin Toogood, South Devon AONB Manager, which had recently been circulated to members via email. The letter explained his concern about the soundness of the plant and suggestion that other sites had not been

fully explored. He was also concerned that waste material could find its way into the river Yealm under extreme conditions. The Chairman said that we need guarantees for the safety of the river Yealm. Following a short discussion it was agreed that Wembury Parish Council support Robin's concerns.

**The Clerk was asked to write to Robin Toogood expressing support from the Parish Council.**

**Cllr Gage** said that he had been addressing the airborne pollution of the proposed Waste to Energy plant and would be taking this up with his local MP.

#### **ii) Devon CC Mobile Library**

**The Chairman** referred to a recent email that had been circulated to members about the proposed changes to the Devon CC Mobile Library.

**Cllr Hart** said that the usage of the mobile library had dropped by 60% over the last 10 years and it was costing more to run each year. The proposed changes had reduced the number of stops in the Wembury area but the mobile library would stop for longer at the Village Hall and Southland Park Road. The idea being that the Village Hall could run a coffee morning to coincide with the mobile library visit and use the occasion to raise money and to provide a better community spirit.

Following a short discussion it was agreed that the changes were acceptable.

**The Clerk was asked to inform the Devon Mobile Library service accordingly.**

#### **FOR INFORMATION.**

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

### **10-092 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

**The Chairman** referred to a recent email from Eric Blogg, Churchwarden of St Werburgh Church, Wembury, which explained that there had been parking problems near the Church and along Church Road on 26 and 27 June. Also, that the out of hours number for South Hams DC Traffic Warden was the Torbay Highways Agency Emergency Response number.

The reply from Ian Hosking, South Hams DC, was that the wardens will pay more attention at the weekends and that they were about to get six more staff so that they could cover more areas.

**Cllr Squire was asked to check this out with South Hams DC.**

### **10-093 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC**

**Cllr Hart** said that the new government had scrapped lots of existing support organisations and along with proposed changes to the Regions, Schools and Police, will have an effect on Wembury in the long term.

He was looking at ways that Devon, Plymouth and Torbay could combine and work together. If Cornwall would join and they all combined to work together, then they would be a big player with a £3bn spend.

It looks like that three Devon Schools will go private when allowed to do so by the government. The proposed changes to the Police are likely to generate a rebellion from local government. It may be possible in the future for Parish Councils to set up working parties to provide up to 20 low cost houses within their parish without recourse to

planning. All these proposed changes are a continually moving feast.

The new government seem to be producing a new policy each day and is telling authorities to work together. Consequently, it looks like Devon will become more of an enabler with the District Councils and the Community providing the services in the future.

Devon CC are currently restructuring their staffing costs, which will save some £2m. If the changes are not implemented and the money saved, then there will be more job losses. Between 60 and 70 jobs were lost a few weeks ago.

Cllr Hart is working towards sorting out the finances of the County, by about December, to be in good shape and ready to make budget decisions for next financial year.

### **SOUTH HAMS DC**

**Cllr Cane** informed members that South Hams DC is top of the league for the collection of Council Tax with a 98.9% collection rate. This raises over £50m which is split, 9% District, 74% County, 10% Police, 5% Fire and 2% Parishes. There are 4900 business properties that also generates over £21m. The higher percentage collected the more the Council Tax can be kept down. All is working well at the moment.

On Thursday South Hams DC jointly with West Devon DC, will appoint a new Chief Executive. There is one woman and two men on the shortlist.

There is an Emergency Planning Seminar on Thursday 23 September at the Glazebrook Hotel, South Brent and the contact is Peter Dale on 01803 861278.

**Cllr Squire** said that the new government had abolished the Regional Spatial Strategy and that local authority core strategies should be reviewed. However, South Hams DC will not be reviewing their strategy as they say it is too advanced to be changed. The allowance of 30 dwellings per hectare is to be abolished, which will mean fewer houses per hectare in future.

Demographic changes within South Hams up to 2026 are predicted to show a less younger element and an increase in the elderly population and this will have an impact on the new housing strategy.

The position with the Sherford Development remains unchanged. The Section 106 Agreement has not been agreed and the Districts view is that it needs to be accepted unchanged. There is to be a meeting in September when the District Council will know more from the developer. Cllr Squires view is that it will be some years before the scheme commences as it is rumoured that the developer is having problems with its financial backers.

The scrutiny shadow roles within South Hams DC have not been successful and are to be scrapped. The Stokenham Scheme is also to be terminated from 31 October 2010.

The proposed budget freeze by the new government could mean a difficult period ahead for South Hams DC.

## **10-094 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE**

### **i) PARISH PLAN ACTION GROUP**

**Cllr Filby** had promoted the Parish Plan at both Down Thomas Summer Festival and the Wembury Summer Fair recently. He had used his gazebo and had presented each section of the Parish Plan on display boards on which members of the public could write their comments. He had collated all the comments and would shortly circulate them to members for their information. He felt that it had been an excellent communications

exercise, which had generated lots of discussion about the Parish Council, and the work that they do.

Cllr Filby felt that this should be done again next year and suggested that proper display boards and perhaps a stall should be provided by the Parish Council for future events.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Filby for his excellent work in promoting the Wembury Parish Plan.

**Cllr Filby** said that the current policy and one of the next steps in the Parish Plan, was to keep pressure on the bus companies to provide a good bus service to the Wembury area. The problem was how to action this and he suggested that it was time to form a Bus User Group.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the bus service to both Wembury and Down Thomas. It was eventually agreed to form a Bus User Group and for the group to discuss all the options regarding requirements and improvements to the bus service within Wembury Parish and to report their findings to the Parish Council before taking suitable action.

Cllr Filby proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowland, that as part of the Wembury Parish Plan actions, a Bus User Group be formed. The motion was passed by 9 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

**RESOLVED: As part of the Wembury Parish Plan actions, a Bus User Group be formed.**

**Cllrs Filby and Rowland** volunteered to be part of the Bus User Group and to assist in its formation.

## **ii) LEISURE FACILITIES WORKING GROUP**

### **Football Club**

**Cllr Bennett** reported that the goal posts had been removed and the metal hooks removed. The Football Club was waiting for an inspection by South Hams DC before repainting the posts.

### **MUGA and Tennis Courts**

**Cllr Bennett** reported that the work on these two projects had commenced on 26 July 2010. The spoil for the MUGA had been removed and was being deposited on the old BMX track. Adam King and Cllr Bennett are liaising regarding suitable landscaping and planting for this area at a later date.

Cllr Bennett is still waiting for the programme of works, but the two projects should be completed in about 6 – 8 weeks time. During this time there will be a restriction on the existing facilities and suitable notices will be displayed. There will also be restricted parking in the car park, as the site offices and storage units will be parked there. The siteworks area will also be fenced off.

**Cllr Gage** suggested informing the Police to ensure that they include this area on their regular inspection rounds.

**The Chairman** thanked Cllr Bennett for all his hard work in managing these two projects on behalf of the Parish Council.

New metal fencing has been erected around the children's play area by South Hams DC.

## **10-095 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C**

### **i) Financial Statement for July 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 informed members that the External Auditor has approved the Annual Return without comments. Details of the Annual Report and how to obtain a full copy, are displayed on the two main notice boards and on the website.

**10-096 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

**Cllr Hart** is going to tour Devon in November and December to ask the people where they want the financial cuts to fall. The nearest meeting to Wembury will be in Ivybridge.

The County Committee may be inviting Parish Council Chairs to attend in future to discuss matters at the local level.

**Cllr Scoble** wanted to know when the hedge was going to be cut on the road into Heybrook Bay as it was becoming dangerous. It appears that cutting the hedge is the responsibility of the local farmers and not the Highway Authority.

**Cllr Rowland** informed members that he was unable to attend the recent Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils meeting, due to a family problem. However, he has heard that he was made Vice Chairman in his absence!!

**Cllr Cammack** was concerned about the broken blacktop from the MUGA that has been stockpiled on the site. Cllr Bennett confirmed that this material is due to be removed from site.

**Cllr Gage** informed members that the grass is growing through the pavement in Southland Park Road, near the bus shelter and invited Cllr Hart to inspect the footpath.

**Cllr Filby** reported that the Odd Wheel pub was now open and doing good business.

**Cllr Bennett** reported that he would be on holiday from 8 – 16 August 2010. He also reported that several people were not collecting their dog's mess on the Wembury playing field and urged members to report such incidents to the South Hams Dog Warden.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Roy Fairclough  
Clerk