

## 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 War Memorial Hall, Wembury, on Monday 26 October 2009.**

### **09-125 OPENING THE MEETING**

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

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

District Cllr Cane, Adam King and three members of the public were also present.

### **09-126 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Doody, Filby, Squire and PC Nolan.

### **09-127 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Scoble declared an interest in item 6 of the Agenda, in connection with the seat in Manor Bourne Road.

### **09-128 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 October 2009**

The Chairman informed members that there would again be no Police presence at the meeting. An apology had been received from PC Nolan and he had informed the Parish Council that he would soon be having a further operation on his eye, after which he believed that he would be able to return to driving during the hours of darkness, which would then allow him to attend meetings on a regular basis.

The Chairman then read out the October Crime report submitted by PC Nolan.

## **JI/09/996**

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009 a male was arrested in Mewstone Avenue, for driving whilst under the influence of alcohol. He has been charged to court.

There have been three domestic related incidents. Force policy does not allow disclosure of such incidents.

**Cllr Cane** informed member that five metal and one wooden field gates have recently been stolen in Brixton. He asked that if anyone sees a lorry or trailer with gates on them, to report the matter to the Police.

### **ii) Wembury Parish Tree Warden – Adam King**

The Chairman welcomed Adam King to the meeting and informed him that following formal ratification under item 6 of the meeting, he would become the new Wembury Tree Warden. The Chairman asked members to introduce themselves to Mr King and then asked Mr King if he would like to respond. Adam King informed everyone that he was looking forward to his new position and that he would do all he could to improve the environment of Wembury Parish. He realised that he had a hard act to follow in Tony Romang but that he would do his best.

The Chairman then thanked Tony Romang for all his hard work as the Wembury Tree Warden over many years and hoped that he would now have more time for other activities.

### **iii) Public Comments**

**Tony Romang** informed members that when paying the South Hams DC Council Tax at a Post Office there is a charge of £2.40. However, other local authorities do not make such a charge. **Cllr Cane offered to look into this matter.**

**The Chairman then closed this open session at 7.42 pm and resumed Parish Council business.**

## **09-129 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2009.**

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

## **09-130 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES**

### **09-110 ii) Bus Services**

A short discussion ensued about the strength of feeling from the community about the poor quality of the bus service to Wembury Parish as expressed at the last Parish Council meeting.

**The Clerk** informed members that he had sent the key discussion points from the last Parish Council meeting to the Bus Company and Devon CC, but had not yet received a reply.

**Cllr Bennett** said that they should be aware that many people are prepared to pay towards the concessionary fare for a more frequent bus service.

### **09-112 i) Hedges Bovisand Lane**

The hedges had still not been cut, as they were not thought to be dangerous by Devon

Highways. **Cllr Hart believed that they should be cut before the Spring.**

**09-112 ii) Wembury School**

**Cllr Hart** had drafted the letter to Wembury School and it would be posted within the next few days.

**09-112 iii) Seat, Manor Bourne Road, Down Thomas**

**The Chairman** reported that the seat had now been fixed in place.

**The Clerk** informed members that he had received a request to put a plaque on the seat from Cllr Scoble, who had donated £250 towards the seat, in memory of her mother.

Following a short discussion Cllr Drought proposed, seconded by Cllr Newnham, that a suitable plaque in memory of Cllr Scoble's mother be allowed to be fixed to the seat. The proposal was carried by six votes for with one abstention.

**RESOLVED: A suitable plaque in memory of Cllr Scoble's mother be allowed to be fixed to the seat.**

**09-112 iv) Dog Fouling of Local Footpaths**

**The Clerk** had put up suitable signs along Cliff Road, Wembury and at Hollacombe.

**09-116 i) South Hams DC – Play Areas**

**The Clerk** had written to South Hams DC asking for more information but had not yet received a reply.

**09-116 ii) South Hams DC Conservation & Design Review Panel**

**The Clerk** reported that Cllr Squire had attended the meeting and the proposals for 77 Knighton Road had been discussed. The proposed design was not in keeping with the neighbouring houses and there were concerns about access and the front garden. Two trees within the site with TPO's are not worth keeping according to South Hams DC. It is now up to the applicant to submit a formal planning application.

**09-116 iii) Young Devon – Young Carers Project**

**The Clerk** had written to Young Devon and had been informed that there were currently no young carers within the Wembury Parish at the present time. Following a short discussion the Parish Councillors agreed not to provide a grant on this occasion, but would consider a suitable grant when there were young carers within the parish.

**The Clerk was asked to write to Young Devon accordingly.**

**09-117 i) Development Control & Conservation User Group**

**Cllr Squire** would report to the next Parish Council meeting.

**09-117 ii) BT Red Telephone Box**

**The Clerk** has written to both BT and South Hams DC making them aware of the Parish Council's policy and copies of the correspondence has been circulated to members via email. BT has indicated that there will be further consultation before any box is removed. South Hams DC are concerned that BT are now contacting Parish Council's direct, regarding removal or purchase of the red telephone boxes, instead of going through the District Councils.

### **09-122 Notice Board Repairs**

The Clerk reported that repairs to the Parish Notice Board at Hollacombe are in hand.

### **09-124 Appointment of the Wembury Tree Warden**

Following suitable interviews the Interviewing Committee recommended that the Parish Council ratify the appointment of Mr Adam King as the Wembury Tree Warden.

Cllr Gage proposed and Cllr Cammack seconded, that the appointment of Adam King as the Wembury Tree Warden be ratified. The proposal was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED: The appointment of Adam King as the Wembury Tree Warden is ratified.**

### **09-131 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.**

### **09-132 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

#### **i) South Hams DC Review of Development Management Service**

The letter from S Munday was read out by the Chairman and members generally felt that the improved quality of the reports regarding planning decisions was useful.

#### **FOR INFORMATION.**

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

### **09-133 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

None.

### **09-134 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC**

Cllr Hart said that Devon CC are cutting street lights after midnight in certain rural areas, although not in Wembury yet. This will save Devon CC millions of pounds per year.

The Pothole in Church Road has been inspected and Cllr Hart said that it should have been resurfaced with the rest of the adjacent road. There appears to be less weeds in the highways this year so perhaps the weedkiller is finally working. Cllr Gage said that Southland Park Road should be weedkilled again.

There would shortly be a press release about restructuring proposals for Devon CC. Cllr Hart is looking to cut jobs and save £20 million per annum. The seven departments will reduce to five and middle management will be reduced.

Cllr Hart will be touring around Devon over the next six weeks to explain the restructuring proposals and how there will be a leaner Devon CC with services carried out more economically.

Cllr Hart was asked about the Devon Boundary change proposals and he felt that the government are losing interest and it is now not a high priority for them. We should know whether a decision will be taken at the latest, by January 2010.

## **SOUTH HAMS DC**

**Cllr Cane** reported that he had recently been to a workshop with members of West Devon DC to discuss even closer working relationships between the two authorities. From 1 October South Hams DC Revenue & Benefits Office will be carrying out work for West Devon DC.

South Hams Connect is a scheme being rolled out over the next year, which will bring services closer to the people and make it easier for the community to access South Hams DC services.

Devon Wheels to Work also helps people to take jobs in areas where there is no public transport system. A man was recently lent a motorcycle for three months, so that he could take a job and be able to travel to work until he had means to establish his own transport.

South Hams DC has recently provided new equipment for the Quick Response to Save Lives organisation, where they try to attend accidents before the emergency services arrive to help save lives.

On Monday 2 November at 6 pm there is a seminar at Follaton House, which will explain to farmers current funding opportunities.

## **09-135 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE**

### **i) Parish Plan Action Group**

The Parish Councillors had each reviewed the Wembury Parish Plan prior to the meeting. The Chairman and Clerk went through each of the Next Steps indicated in the Wembury Parish Plan and the Parish Council agreed on the general areas where they would be directly involved, or be able to provide necessary assistance, with the Wembury Parish Plan.

**RESOLVED: To accept the Parish Council involvement in the Wembury Parish Plan as shown in ANNEX D of these minutes.**

### **ii) Leisure Facilities Working Group**

**Cllr Bennett** reported on the leisure projects as follows:-

#### **Skate Park**

Members discussed a recent email from Ross Kennerley of South Hams DC that appears to be inaccurate and could possibly delay the upgrade of the skateboard park. South Hams DC was trying to impose many conditions on the Parish Council before giving permission for the scheme could go ahead.

A lengthy discussion ensued and concern was expressed by all Parish Council members. **It was agreed that the Clerk should write to South Hams DC explaining the current position and ask South Hams DC to reconsider and to give permission for the upgrade to go ahead as soon as possible.** Cllr Bennett explained the pressures from the fund provider and the contractor to get the upgrade implemented, or it was possible that the grant could be lost.

**Cllr Hart requested a copy of the letter and he would try to raise the matter at a meeting with South Hams DC later in the week.**

#### **Wembury Tennis Court / MUGA Project**

Cllr Bennett would like the Parish Council to apply for a grant to the Community Facilities Fund for up to £15,000 to help towards the cost of this project.

Following a short discussion, the Parish Council members were agreeable to the grant application. **The Clerk was asked to support Cllr Bennett with the grant application.**

### **iii) Parish Cluster Meeting on 12 October 2009**

Cllr Drought had attended the meeting and the following items were discussed:-

#### **Site Allocation Development Planning**

The two sites originally identified for potential development in Wembury has now been reduced to the one site at the top of Knighton Hill. The Chairman objected to this site on the grounds that Wembury is already overdeveloped. He felt that it is unlikely there would be any development in the foreseeable future on this site.

#### **South Hams Housing Strategy**

There was nothing new discussed. A general discussion ensued about the merits of affordable housing and the most suitable location for such houses i.e. possibly near the edges of towns and not in the middle of rural areas where there are limited services and employment prospects.

#### **The Code of Conduct**

The South Hams DC legal people are happy to attend Parish Council meetings if there are any problems to resolve.

#### **Transfer of Playgrounds to Parish Councils**

A lengthy discussion ensued and it was felt that there should be some transparency with these services. The Parish Councils required much more information before this could be considered. There will have to be a balancing act between handing over local services to the Parish Councils to carry out themselves and the financial viability of the District Council service organisation.

Trials are currently being carried out in Stokenham and it is not without its problems. The trial has another year to run and the outcome results are eagerly awaited.

### **iv) River Yealm Harbour meeting on 6 October 2009**

Cllr Drought reported on the meeting to discuss the future maintenance and responsibility of the steps leading down to the River Yealm Ferry on the Wembury side of the river Yealm. There was no representative from Devon CC at the meeting, but it was generally agreed that the steps are the responsibility of Devon CC. A suitable letter has been sent to Devon CC on behalf of the River Yealm Harbour Authority, South Devon AONB and Wembury Parish Council.

### **v) Clerks Workshop on 21 October 2009**

The Clerk reported on a very successful workshop.

#### **Lesley Hughes, Town Clerk Ivybridge**

The first speaker was Lesley Hughes who explained that both the District and County Councils were looking to pass service provision down to Parish and Town Councils. She felt that it was important to know what services are currently provided by Parish Councils and what services they would like to provide. Consequently, Lesley has instigated a survey of local Parish Councils around Ivybridge to find out the facts and to see if there is any scope for partnership working with Ivybridge Town Council in the future.

#### **Graham Macey, South Hams Community & Voluntary Service**

Graham explained all about the different types of grants available for local community organisations and how to go about applying for a grant. He distributed several useful papers, which the Clerk has copied to relevant people.

#### **Discussion Topics**

Other useful discussions were held on such topics as, Retrospective Planning Applications, Bus Services in Rural Areas, Management of Playgrounds and Local Development Framework.

**09-136 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C**

**i) Financial Statement for October 2009**

The Chairman presented the financial reports as per ANNEX C.

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

**ii) New Pay Scales from 1 April 2009**

The Clerk informed members of the recent revised pay scales backdated to 1 April 2009.

The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Bennett that the Clerk be paid in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils revised pay scales, back dated to 1 April 2009. The proposal was passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk be paid in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils revised pay scales, back dated to 1 April 2009.**

**09-137 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

**Cllr Drought** informed members about a pothole that is developing in Renney Road, Down Thomas, at the bottom of the dip near the Giles access gate.

**Cllr Rowland** also informed members about a pothole at Ridge Cross, Hollacombe.

**Cllr Hart agreed to speak to Devon Highways about the two potholes.**

**Cllr Bennett** said that the Church Road street sign required replacing.

**Cllr Gage** said that it only required cleaning and that he would clean it.

**09-138 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.36 pm.

Roy Fairclough

Clerk to Wembury Parish Council