

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 28 September 2009.

09-107 OPENING THE MEETING

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Rowland opened the meeting at 7.32 pm and welcomed everyone to the Down Thomas Village Hall. He especially welcomed John Richardson-Dawes, Senior Transport Co-ordinating Officer, Devon CC & Simon Newport, Commercial Director, First Devon & Cornwall who would be speaking about the Wembury bus services later in the meeting.

Cllrs, Bennett, Cammack, Filby, Gage, Hart, Newnham, and Squire were present. District Cllr Cane and over 100 members of the public were also present.

09-108 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Doody, Drought, Scoble and PC Nolan.

09-109 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Bennett declared an interest in Planning Application No 58/1465/09/O.

09-110 THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL WAS SUSPENDED FOR THE PUBLIC TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS OR TO PUT QUESTIONS

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

i) Crime Report August/September 2009

The Vice Chairman informed members that there would be no Police presence at the meeting. He then read out the August/September Crime report submitted by PC Nolan.

J1/09/766

On Sunday 23rd August 2009, the rear window of a Red Rover parked in Heybrook Drive was deliberately shattered.

JI/09/781

Between Tuesday 25th August 2009 and Thursday 27th August 2009, a horse shelter situated in a field opposite the Jubilee Hall at Down Thomas has been deliberately pushed over causing a substantial amount of damage and inconvenience to the owner.

This is one of a number of incidents, which have occurred at the site.

The owner is now in the process of installing CCTV equipment in order to protect her property

JI/09/828

On Sunday 30th August 2009, a dispute between two chalet owners took place at Cedar Park, Bovisand. The victim who is an elderly female alleges she was slapped in the face. The suspect is a male in his 30's, who denies the allegation.

This incident is currently being investigated by Ivybridge Police.

JI/09/879

Between Monday 21st September 2009 and Tuesday 22nd September 2009, a moneybox and two digital cameras have been stolen from the Allsorts Pre-school at Wembury.

JI/09/890

Between Saturday 19th September 2009 and Saturday 26th September 2009, the emergency '999' telephone at Wembury beach has been damaged.

If anyone has any information relating to the above offence, please contact your local Police on 08452 777 444.

If you wish to remain anonymous you can call 'Crimestoppers' on 0800 555 111.

ii) John Richardson-Dawes, Senior Transport Co-ordinating Officer, Devon CC & Simon Newport, Commercial Director, First Devon & Cornwall

John Richardson-Dawes, Senior Transport Co-ordinating Officer, Devon CC

The Vice Chairman then introduced John Richard-Dawes who outlined how bus services are provided and funded within Devon. He explained that there is no single office or department in charge of bus services regarding routes or charging. The current framework for the bus service was laid down 25 years ago by the government. Any licensed bus company can run a commercial bus service and no authority can order them to change their commercial plans. There are currently 25 bus companies in Devon. Devon CC can fill in any service gaps and this is achieved by going out to tender for such subsidised bus services. Devon CC only provides and pays for any unprofitable bus service that complies with Devon CC policies. As an authority, Devon is quite generous in the provision of subsidised services and they closely monitor costs against usage.

Richard then explained the history of discounted bus fares up to the present concessionary bus pass and commented on the complicated funding structure.

He then explained that the 48 Service to Wembury is a commercial bus service provided by First and the 49 Service to Heybrook Bay is a wholly subsidised bus service funded by Devon CC and provided by First.

Simon Newport, Commercial Director, First Devon & Cornwall

The Vice Chairman then introduced Simon Newport who explained that his role is to continually adapt bus services so that the income generated covers the cost of the service. The 48 service is losing money and he has recently changed it to interact with other services to be more economical and to increase passenger income. The service now leaves Wembury at 9.30 am so that concessionary fare cards can be used. At the present time, he can only provide a two hourly service to Wembury. If more people used the

buses and he had more income, then he could invest in a more frequent service. However, at the end of the day the income revenue has to meet the cost of the service provided.

The Vice Chairman thanked John and Simon for their presentations and asked the public for any comments.

iii) Public Comments

Bus Service

Both John and Simon answered many questions from the public present about the bus service to Wembury and Heybrook Bay.

The main key points discussed were:-

Some of the buses are continually late – causing problems for schoolchildren arriving home late

Old buses were used instead of more modern ones

A double decker should be used for the earlier buses, which are full and single deckers used later in the day.

The community would like to see a more frequent service than two hourly.

The community would like to see buses at more suitable times that reflect general travel pattern usage ie into Plymouth early morning and lunchtime returning from Plymouth lunchtime and late afternoon

The Community would prefer a more frequent bus service even if it means changing at Plymstock Broadway or Elberton Village for a bus to Plymouth, to an infrequent bus service direct to Plymouth from Wembury. It was suggested that a shuttle service could be provided from Wembury and Heybrook Bay to Elberton Village and Plymstock Broadway to connect with other bus services.

The community would like to use the buses more, but there has to be a suitable service to use!

The Vice Chairman thanked everyone for such a lively discussion.

At this point, many people left the meeting.

Wembury Tennis Courts

Ian Sharman informed members that he had been coaching tennis on the Wembury Tennis Courts during the summer and he felt that two courts provided more flexibility for tennis users and he felt that a MUGA was not needed.

Cllr Hart explained the current situation regarding the tennis courts and MUGA and outlined the reasons why there was general agreement for a MUGA. The MUGA can also be used to play tennis and so the flexibility of two courts for tennis will still be retained. Devon CC has funding for the MUGA.

Cllr Squire confirmed that South Hams DC has also funding available and will be making a recommendation for a MUGA shortly. He felt that more local people would be catered for with a MUGA than with just tennis courts.

Cllr Bennett said that the MUGA will have a container for nets and posts and that there will be a sign stating the times when tennis can be played.

The management of the tennis courts still needs to be addressed by the community and needs to be put into a suitable management plan.

The Vice Chairman then closed this open session at 8.52 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

09-111 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 27 JULY 2009.

With a minor change to item 09-97, the minutes were agreed as being a correct record and duly signed by the Vice Chairman.

09-112 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

09-91 i) Hedges Bovisand Lane

The hedges had still not been cut, as they were not thought to be dangerous by Devon Highways when assessed against Devon CC criteria.

Cllr Hart agreed to chase Devon Highways.

09-91 ii) Wembury School

Cllr Filby said that the school had not yet received the promised letter about refurbishment from Devon CC. **Cllr Hart** promised to write to the school.

09-93 i) Dangerous Bus Route

Cllr Gage said that new white lining and improved signs should be implemented by the end of next week

09-93 ii) Seat

The Vice Chairman reported that the seat would be fixed before the next Parish Council meeting.

09-96 ii) Wembury Allotment Society

The Vice Chairman confirmed that he had written a letter to the Wembury Allotment Society in support of their bid for Lottery Funding.

09-100) Dog Fouling of Local Footpaths

The Clerk will put up signs in the worst affected areas if people will advise him where signs will be effective.

09-113 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2009.

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

09-114 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

None.

09-115 TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY PLANNING REPORT AT ANNEX A TO THESE MINUTES

The Vice 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 to these minutes.

09-116 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) South Hams DC – Play Areas

South Hams DC was proposing new arrangements for the management of play areas with a possible transfer to various Parish Councils.

A discussion ensued about the future management, maintenance and costs involved with the Wembury Play Area and whether Wembury Parish Council wanted to take over this responsibility. It was eventually agreed that the Parish Council did not have enough factual information to make an informed decision on this matter.

The Clerk was asked to find out more information from South Hams DC and to report to the next Wembury Parish Council meeting for further discussion by members.

ii) South Hams DC – Invitation to the Conservation & Design Review Panel

Cllr Squire said that he would be attending this panel meeting and he would also act as the Wembury Parish Council representative.

iii) South Hams DC – Gambling Act 2005

South Hams DC has renewed their Statement of Principles for 2010 – 2013 and Cllr Squire informed members that there was little change from the previous South Hams DC statement.

iv) South Hams DC – Section 17 Document, Reducing Crime & Disorder

No specific comment by members.

v) Young Devon – Young Carers Project

Young Devon had requested financial assistance to help take young carers on activities and trips. A short discussion ensued.

The Clerk was asked to find out how many young carers are assisted from within the Wembury Parish area and to bring the item back to the next Wembury Parish Council meeting for further consideration.

vi) Plymouth CC – Plymouth Development Framework

Plymouth City Council is asking for representations on their Pre-Submission of the City Centre and University Area Action Plan. There were no comments from members.

vii) Devon Association of Parish Councils

There is currently a vacancy on the County Committee for a representative from South Hams. There were no nominations from members.

viii) Parish Cluster Meeting – 12 October 2009

The Chairman was nominated to attend this meeting on behalf of Wembury Parish Council.

ix) South Devon AONB – Annual Forum 16 October 2009

In addition to the Annual Forum, South Devon AONB is seeking nominations for the Partnership Committee. There were no nominations from members.

x) Totnes Town Council – May 2009 European Elections

Members noted the comments made in the letter.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

09-117 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

i) Police Authority Liaison Meeting

The Vice Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Police Liaison Authority would be at Widey Court Primary School, Crownhill on 13 October 2009 commencing at 7.30 pm.

ii) Budget Consultation Meeting

The Vice Chairman informed members that South Hams DC had arranged a budget consultation meeting with Town and Parish Councils on Wednesday 28 October 2009 at Follaton House, commencing at 6.30 pm.

The Chairman was nominated to attend as he normally attends these meetings.

iii) Development Control & Conservation User Group

Cllr Squire said that he would be attending this meeting on 14 October 2009 and would also act as the Wembury Parish Council representative.

iv) BT Red Telephone Box

The Vice Chairman reported that BT would like Parish Councils to take over the old red telephone boxes once the telephone has been removed. The telephone box opposite the shop in Down Thomas has been identified as low usage and for possible removal by BT. A discussion ensued and it was generally agreed that Wembury Parish Council do not want this telephone service to be removed.

The Clerk was asked to write to BT and South Hams DC accordingly.

09-118 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Cllr Hart said that the Local Government reorganisation appeal is on 6/7 October and depending upon the outcome, reorganisation in Devon could be back on the agenda. It is not dead yet.

The Highways Committee is looking to widen the scope of the committee and they will be looking for District and Parish representatives in the near future.

The four-month budget has been reviewed and various departments are overspending. They have been given until the end of the year to pull back their spending to meet the budget. There will be a budget consultation in Oct/Nov instead of December to become better prepared for the next financial year. Cllr Hart is also looking at reducing the number of committees to save on expenditure. The gross debt of the UK will have an effect on the Government spending over the next few years and local government will be affected. Consequently, he will be looking at reshaping and reorganising the Devon CC structure to meet future spending restrictions.

Cllr Hart has asked the Highways department to find a suitable weedkiller that will be effective in controlling weeds on the highway in future.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire reported that the Sherford planning application was passed at the meeting on 31 July by one vote. He was concerned that such a large planning application should have been approved by such a small majority. The phases of development have also been changed; Phase 1 will now contain 700 houses and Phase 2 will be infrastructure development. This is exactly what the Parish Council were against. Affordable housing within the development is also reduced from 50% down to 11.3%. This may increase to 25% if the developer gets a grant from the government. The developer claims that the

scheme as proposed did not stack up financially. South Hams DC is employing a locum solicitor in connection with the Sherford development, which has so far cost £33,000. The Langage Power Station has received a letter from South West Water expressing concern about the amount of water used. Concern was expressed that it will be worse when the 700 houses in Sherford are developed.

The Energy Park is now laid out but there have been no takers for development at present.

Cllr Squire presented some statistics about abandoned vehicles and flytipping. Cars parked in the street are making it difficult for the street sweepers to effectively sweep the streets and South Hams DC is considering suitable action to remove such vehicles.

The current budget gap is £900,000 but it is expected to reduce during the year.

Cllr Cane reported that the South Devon Action Group have launched a new Community Facility Fund. This can provide financial help for non-profit organisations, such as allotments, village halls and local leisure facilities. Grants can range from £2500 to £15,000 and will be on a 50% matching funding basis.

Cllr Cane to forward details to the Clerk.

Sports South Hams is looking for suitable sportsmen/women and coaches for submission for the annual sports awards. Let Cllr Cane know if you know of any suitable person worthy of such an award. **The Clerk was asked to put this information in the Wembury Review and on the Wembury Parish website.**

09-119 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Parish Plan Action Group

Cllr Filby referred to the July minute 09-98 where he suggested that the Parish Council should review the Wembury Parish Plan and set up a suitable action group of Parish Councillors to action the items in the Plan that comes under the remit of the Parish Council.

In the Wembury Parish Plan, the call is for results and further work to be reported to the Annual Wembury Parish Meeting, which is independent of Wembury Parish Council. Following a short discussion, it was considered better for the whole Parish Council to consider the plan and to take the appropriate action collectively.

Each Parish Councillor was asked to review the Plan and for the Clerk to put the Parish Plan on the next Parish Council Agenda for further discussion.

Cllr Filby had recently been to a workshop at South Brent on how to move Parish Plans forward. The communities in action website will contain all Parish Plans and will be a useful source of information on how to move the plan forwards. The website can be found at www.communitiesinaction.org.uk.

ii) Leisure Facilities Working Group

Cllr Bennett reported on the leisure projects as follows:-

Skate Park

The finalised Skate Park design has now been accepted by the Skate Park committee. A group has now been set up to oversee the skate park area and to carry out painting of the surface, which is recommended every 2 years.

Due to the provision of noise reduction, foam will be injected into the hollow areas of the skate equipment. This has added extra cost and so there is no money left to remove the existing pyramid and reinstate the surface. South Hams DC has been asked to deal with this and a meeting with Jon Parkinson is scheduled for 9 October 2009. The Youth Club will now be asked for the money for the equipment.

Wembury Tennis Court / MUGA Project

Cllr Bennett confirmed that both Devon CC and South Hams DC consider a complete rebuild of the tennis courts is necessary and that one tennis court and a MUGA is the way forward. Both authorities have confirmed that the money will be found. However, it is unlikely that the scheme will commence before next year.

09-120 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for August/September 2009

The Vice Chairman presented the financial reports as per ANNEX C.

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

09-121 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Squire asked that next time a representative from the Bus Company is to address the Parish Council could the meeting be arranged at the Wembury Village Hall.

09-122 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Bennett reported that the Parish Notice Board at Hollacombe is in need of repair.

There being no further business the Vice Chairman closed Part 1 of the meeting at 10.02 pm.

PART 2

09-123 OPENING PART 2 OF THE MEETING

The Vice Chairman opened Part 2 of the meeting at 10.03 pm.

The Vice Chairman proposed and Cllr Hart seconded, that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. Passed unanimously.

RESOLVED: In view of the nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

The Vice Chairman asked the public to leave the room.

09-124 APPOINTMENT OF THE WEMBURY TREE WARDEN

The Clerk reported that one person had been interviewed for the position of Wembury Tree Warden and a further candidate would be interviewed on 29 September 2009. A third candidate would be held in reserve, with his agreement.

The Vice Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Hart that the Interviewing Committee, comprising of Cllrs Cammack, Gage, Squire and Tony Romang select the most suitable candidate for ratification at the next Parish Council meeting. Approved by 5 votes for with 3 abstentions.

RESOLVED: The Interviewing Committee, comprising of Cllrs Cammack, Gage, Squire and Tony Romang select the most suitable candidate for ratification at the next Parish Council meeting.

09-124 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) The Odd Wheel Pub

Cllr Filby informed members of the current situation regarding the operation of the Odd Wheel pub.

ii) Potential Development In Down Thomas

It was generally agreed that there was no scope for development in Down Thomas. South Hams DC is not looking for exception sites within Down Thomas and there are no identified development sites within any development plan for Down Thomas.

There being no further business the Vice Chairman closed Part 2 of the meeting at 10.20 pm.

Roy Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council