

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 War Memorial Hall, Wembury, on Monday 29 June 2009.

09-72 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought opened the meeting at 7.33 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

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

09-73 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Hart.

09-74 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Bennett declared an interest in Panning Application 58/0939/09/F.

There were no declarations of interest from other council members.

09-75 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) Tick Tock Freedom of Information Act Video

Due to technical problems with equipment, the video will be shown at the next meeting.

ii) Crime Report June 2009

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

Jl/09/464 ; Possession of cannabis

In the early hours of Tuesday 2nd June, a male in a red Nissan Micra, which was parked in the public car park at Bovisand, was found to be in possession of a small quantity of cannabis. He admitted the cannabis was for his personal use only.

He has been given a Police 'warning' for the offence.

Jl/09/515 ; Criminal damage

Sometime between 20:30 hrs on Thursday 18th June and 09:30 hrs on Friday 19th June, a security light situated at the rear of a property in Heybrook Drive, Heybrook Bay, has been smashed. The damage is not believed to be accidental.

There are no witnesses to the offence, and the crime has been filed at this time as undetected

Jl/09/518 ; Theft

Between 10:15 hrs and 17:00 hrs on Friday 19th June a brass tap was stolen from an old kitchen sink which had been left at the side of a property in Knighton Road.

There are no witnesses to the theft.

The crime has been filed as undetected pending any new information coming to light.

Jl/09/557

Overnight on Saturday 27th June a 22ft boat trailer was stolen from a driveway at Staddon Heights, this is an ongoing investigation at this stage.

There have been three domestic related incidents since the last meeting on 1st June. Details of such incidents are not disclosed.

iii) Wembury Primary School, Richard Warne, Chairman of Governors

Richard presented his report as follows:-

New Build – Richard said thank you to the Councillors for arranging Vic Ebdon's recent visit to the school. During the visit, Mr Ebdon said he would arrange for John Sharpe and Chris Jay to visit the school to advise the school on how best to spend their devolved capital and outline other funding that the school may be able to claim. Unfortunately, the visit has not yet taken place and there seems to be a slight breakdown in communication once again. However, he was hopeful that there would be a site visit in the near future. Cllr Squire had spoken to Jonathan Sharp at Devon CC and they had discussed a suitable meeting, which he hoped would take place before the end of the school term.

Governor Training - The recent OFSTED report commented on the newness of the current Governor board. 12 out of the 14 Governors are new this academic year. Richard is new to both the role of Governor and the role of Chair. However, the Governors have been attending a variety of training courses provided by DCC and have been making use of the Governor support team. Richard was pleased to say the quality of training and support received has been very good. The Governors are reviewing the current committee structure and associated terms of reference, with the view of taking a strategic vision for the future. Unfortunately, one of the 'old' Governors has recently moved out of the area and the school will be advertising the vacancy in September to tie in with the parents of the new pupils starting 'next' year.

School Fayre is on July 4th, and Richard invited all the Councillors to attend.

iv) Public Comments

Planning Application No 58/0981/09/F

Margaret Shaw spoke on behalf of 7 objectors to this planning application. They objected to the proposed dwelling on the following basis:-

- 1) the description is incorrect in that it is a 3 storey building not a 2 storey building
- 2) the proximity of the walls to existing boundary walls
- 3) the original permission has lapsed over time
- 4) overdevelopment and incongruous appearance

Dennis Chamberlain agreed with the above and had written to South Hams DC. He suggested that the planning committee should visit the site.

Ann Mailes agreed with the two previous speakers.

Alan Puddicombe informed the meeting that the National Trust and Wembury Allotment Association would be holding an event at the allotments on 15 August, from 11 am until 3 pm, with a well-known celebrity travelling chef. All are invited to the event.

Tony Romang was concerned about builders vehicles parked at the junction of Train Road and Wembury Road and asked whether they could park their vehicles in a safer location.

The Clerk was asked to report the matter to the Police to take suitable action.

Richard Warne informed the meeting about the After School Club in Wembury. The club is run separately to the school but it rents the All Sorts (pre-school) building. It has come to the schools attention that the ASC is in financial difficulty for the 2nd year in a row. Richard and the Head had attended ASC committee meetings in recent weeks. The ASC is receiving good support (in my personal opinion) from Tania Skinner from DCC and Sharon Gehringer (Out of school development worker - South Hams). They have completed a Sustainability Health Check and as a result have set the ASC an action plan to help resolve their current difficulties. They are also supporting the ASC in their application for a sustainability grant. The ASC is run by a voluntary committee, if any of the councillors have any experience in this area or know of anybody who does Richard was sure that the ASC committee would welcome the support.

Bridget Clifford objected to Planning Application No 58/1096/09/F and had written a letter to South Hams DC.

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

09-76 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE WEMBURY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 1 JUNE 2009.

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

09-77 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

09-78 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 1 JUNE 2009.

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

09-79 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

09-61 i) Weeds in Wembury Roads

The Chairman reported that weed killing had been carried out in Wembury. However, several councillors reported there appeared to be little signs that the weeds were dying. **The Clerk was asked to write to Devon Highways again to determine progress.**

09-63 i) Dangerous Bus Route

Cllr Gage was chasing Devon CC to erect the new junction warning signs that they had promised, located nearer to the junction of Coombe Lane and Wembury Road.

09-63 ii) Seat Near Post Office

Cllr Squire reported that South Hams DC had managed to find a seat and had fixed it in place in Church Road, but that the original plaque had not yet been refixed to the seat. The Clerk reported that he had received an email from the Wembury History Society indicating that they would like to purchase a seat in memory of Eileen Arnold. He suggested that they could put a plaque on the new seat in Church Road and make a contribution towards the seat.

The Clerk also informed members that the collapsed seat in Manor Bourne Road, Down Thomas had been removed. South Hams DC could purchase and fix a seat for £500. He then circulated details of the seat and alternative seats, which cost from £250 to £850 to purchase. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Clerk was asked to find out whether the History Society would object to both the original plaque and a plaque to Eileen Arnold being put on the seat in Church Road. Also, whether they would contribute towards the seat.

It was proposed by Cllr Cammack, seconded by Cllr Scoble, that a seat be fixed in Manor Bourne Road by South Hams DC at a cost of £500, to replace the original seat. Approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: A seat be fixed in Manor Bourne Road, by South Hams DC, at a cost of £500, to replace the original seat.

Cllr Scoble said that she would be willing to contribute toward the new seat in Manor Bourne Road in memory of her mother who used to regularly use the original seat.

09-63 iii) Footpath Cutting Programme

The Clerk has again asked Devon CC for the current footpath-cutting programme for Wembury Parish and is still awaiting a reply. Devon CC does appear to be later this year with the cutting of the verges. Many verges are overgrown and in need of cutting.

09-65 i) South Hams DC – Shoreline Management Plan 2

Cllr Martin to report back on the presentation on the Shoreline Management Plan 2, held in Plymouth on Monday 8 June 2009.

09-65 ii) Tony Romang - Tree Warden

Following acceptance of Tony's resignation at the last meeting, he has been asked for key points of his job so that the Clerk could advertise the post of the Wembury Parish Tree Warden in the Wembury Review and on the Wembury Parish website.

09-80 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 to these minutes.

09-81 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) South Hams DC – Local Development Framework

The above document was discussed and felt to be of a general nature and difficult to comment on. Any comments by the Parish Council will be made on specific items as they arise. The Wembury Amenity Society has been asked to see if they have any comments and the public can view the document on the South Hams DC website.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

09-82 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

None this month.

09-83 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Cllr Hart - No report.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire reported that he had attended a viability workshop on 9 June and he was concerned to learn that a viability assessment was now part of planning policy. It is expected that developers make 15% to 20% profit on a development. However, with poor sales and a lack of demand for flats, developers are having problems making a profit and are now seeking changes to previous planning applications.

On 20 July, South Hams DC is reviewing Section 106 Agreements and will be determining the Sherford Development. Already RedTree, the developer, are saying that they will not put in the infrastructure first but wish to build houses initially and then construct the main road system in 3 to 5 years time. This was not the original agreement with the district council, which had requested the infrastructure be put in place first, followed by the housing development. Cllr Squire was concerned about the viability of the Sherford scheme and the possible outcome of the meeting. He was also unclear who was backing RedTree, as he could not find out much information about the company or financial backers. A debate ensued and there was concern about the taxpayer possibly funding the infrastructure costs when it should be part of the development costs. It was generally felt that Sherford should go ahead as planned, or not at all.

The Clerk was asked to write to South Hams DC on behalf of the Parish Council

expressing the concern about the possible changes to the development of the Sherford Scheme.

Cllr Squire informed members that a South Hams DC councillor has been suspended for 3 months, for bullying a staff member and has to submit a written apology, or the suspension will be increased.

Cllr Cane had the results of a 2008 Customer Benefits Survey, which showed that 96% of people were happy with the South Hams DC services.

The recent Pink Elephant leaflet, which explained how to get help with the Council Tax payments, has been a success and 150 people have received help to date.

3000 people were sent a Place Survey and 1000 were returned. The survey results showed that South Hams came top in Devon for satisfaction as a place to live.

09-84 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Forward Planning Working Group

Cllr Filby explained the contents of the Parish Plan and confirmed that it had now been printed. It was shortly to be circulated to every household in the Wembury Parish.

He had given each councillor about 150 plans and a list of addresses, and each councillor was responsible for delivering to those addresses.

Cllr Filby will have a stall at the Wembury School Fayre on 4 July to promote the Parish Plan. It was now up to the people to become active in making the plan work.

ii) Leisure Facilities Working Group

Skate Park

The grant of £22,971 has now been lodged in the Wembury Youth Club bank account. Martin Woods of HAGS, the equipment supplier, met with the group on 2 June to discuss the new layout of the park. He will forward his proposals to the group by the end of June for approval and subsequent implementation.

Children's Play Areas

Wembury Park

Three items of equipment, chosen by local users, have been costed and should be installed by late August.

Down Thomas Park

There are three major pieces of equipment which will reach the end of their life in March 2010, the swings, slide and see saw. The capital outlay to replace this equipment will be around £20,000. Mr Alex Whish, South Hams DC, Landscape and Leisure Department has recommended the Down Thomas Village Hall Committee to apply for a grant to the Groundwork Trust to replace this equipment and will liaise with the Village Hall Committee. Consequently, the £3000 allocation from South Hams DC to improve equipment will be kept safe until required.

Wembury Tennis Court / MUGA Project

According to John Parkinson, South Hams DC Landscape and Leisure Department, they have applied for funding from the Groundwork Trust for funding to refurbish a Wembury Tennis Court. Mr Parkinson assumes that the MUGA will be funded by Devon CC and would like confirmation of this. It was generally understood that South Hams DC had the capital money to refurbish the tennis court. **Cllr Squire agreed to resolve this issue.**

The funding for this scheme and programme of implementation needs to be discussed at the next Finance Sub Committee to ensure that momentum is maintained.

iii) Land Working Group

Cllr Drought informed members that the Land Working Group had met since the last Parish Council meeting and had visited the seven potential areas for development within Wembury, as identified by South Hams DC in their Rural Area Development Plan. Cllrs Drought and Squire had also attended the meeting with the Prince's Foundation on 16 June to discuss the development potential within Wembury.

The Wembury Amenity Society had also issued a leaflet expressing their concern about such development.

Both Cllr Squire and Cllr Drought stressed that this was a consultancy exercise by South Hams DC and that the people of Wembury should not be concerned as the Parish Council were representing them very well.

The Chairman went on to explain that the areas of land identified as possible housing sites had to successfully satisfy nine criteria before being considered as suitable.

There is an obligation upon the Parish to help in identifying such pieces of land rather than have an appeal decision forced upon us.

While there are fixed housing site requirements throughout the South Hams, Wembury is not one of them.

The Prince's Trust Foundation had already decided that five of the seven sites within Wembury had failed. We reinforced that view using the Amenity Society's findings, which happily coincided with ours. We further bolstered our arguments against any further development in Wembury by pointing out the annual difficulties each summer caused by the influx of visitors to the beach, coupled with the narrow road access to and through the village. We suggested that Wembury had already been overdeveloped. Our objections were considered valid.

However two sites were considered possible; one behind the pub (they were not bothered by the flooding issue) and the site top right of Knighton hill as you leave the village. We recommended that this site be used for a single row of houses allowing room for safer access points from the narrow confines of Knighton hill. We thought this a small price to pay in order to avoid an appeal decision.

However, we will be very surprised if they utilise either site.

The Princes Trust Foundation is involved in an attempt to ensure that any development is sensitively sited, designed and built in order to enhance their location.

09-85 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for June 2009

The Chairman presented the financial reports as per ANNEX C.

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

ii) Finance Sub-Committee

The Chairman suggested several dates for the next Finance Sub Committee meeting.

It was agreed to hold the meeting on 15 July 2009, at the Mussel Community Room, Down Thomas, commencing at 6 pm.

09-86 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Drought was concerned about the numerous letters the Parish Council had received about the development proposals for Wembury and assured everyone that the Parish Council is active in this matter and will defend the Wembury Parish against any unwanted development.

Cllr Squire reported that there had been a recent problem with litter bags not being collected from the toilet area near Wembury beach. However, he had spoken to the collector and this had occurred because he was on holiday. He was assured that the litter bags would be collected daily including weekends (except Wednesdays) throughout the season.

Cllr Cammack said that the grass on the playing field in Wembury had been cut too short in places and could damage the playing area. **The Clerk was asked to write to South Hams DC about the standard of grass cutting on the Wembury playing field.**

Cllr Bennett said that an old elm tree will be cut down near the Wembury playing field and that it will be used by the BMX group.

09-87 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.03 pm.

R Fairclough,
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council