

## 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>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 29 November 2010.**

### **10-131 OPENING THE MEETING**

The Chairman, Cllr Drought opened the meeting at 7.02 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Delyth Jenkins Evans.

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

District Cllr Cane and 16 members of the public were also present.

### **10-132 APOLOGIES**

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

### **10-133 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None.

### **10-134 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 7.03 pm.**

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

Delyth introduced herself and said that she was responsible for checking the legality of Parish Councils within South Hams DC.

It is compulsory for each Parish Councillor to sign the Code of Conduct and it was her job, with the South Hams DC Standards Committee, to see that the Code was adhered to by councillors.

The Code was revised in 2007 and even though the government are considering major changes to codes and standards, Delyth felt that it would still apply for at least another 12 months.

Delyth then went through the major points in the Code of Conduct giving an interesting explanation of what each section meant and how it affects the actions of Parish

Councillors. The topics covered included, the Standards Regime, the Code, Personal & Prejudicial Interests, Bias, Predetermination & Predisposition, Dealing with Complaints. Delyth answered questions from the councillors and public during her presentation. The Chairman thanked Delyth for her very interesting presentation and at this point Delyth left the meeting.

## **ii) November 2010 Police Report**

The Chairman read out the October 2010 Police Report which had been provided by PC Rob Batchelor:-

Jl/10/960: Two garden statues were stolen from a house in Wembury. There are no further lines of enquiry

Jl/10/969: A male was assaulted by being deliberately hit with a glass bottle in Wembury needing hospital treatment. The offender has been arrested and is assisting the Police with enquiries.

Jl/10/970: A male was assaulted in Wembury. Enquires are continuing

Jl/10/986: A garage was broken into in Wembury and property was stolen within.

Enquires are ongoing

Jl/10/987: A garage was broken into in Wembury and property was stolen within.

Enquires are ongoing

Jl/10/988: An outbuilding to a property in Wembury was broken into and property was stolen from within. Enquiries are ongoing.

Jl/10/989: An outbuilding to a property in Wembury was broken into and property was stolen from within. Enquiries are ongoing.

Jl/10/991: The cricket pavilion was broken into in Wembury no items were taken.

Enquires are ongoing.

Jl/10/1009: A woman was found to be in possession of a razor blade in Wembury by Police and was arrested and charged.

Jl/10/1017: A spare wheel for a trailer was stolen in Wembury. There are no further lines of enquiry.

Jl/10/1041: A male telephoned a hotel in Wembury threatening to throw a petrol bomb inside. No damage has been caused. Enquires are ongoing

## **COMMUNITY**

As part of normal and regular patrols, Police have liaised with the school in Wembury regarding parking issues and concerns due to the new entrance. We will monitor the situation and look to enforce any offences. Police have also contact Trading Standards and have dealt with two individuals who were touting for business by knocking on doors in Wembury. The males would complete little or no work and charge hundreds of pounds. I would like to emphasise not to agree to any work on your property without a building firm name, address, contact numbers and names and to check their previous work or references. I would be very cautious if you employ someone of your doorstep I would not recommend doing this.

If you wish to have a sticker you can display in your door, with No Cold Callers written on and endorsed by Devon and Cornwall Police, please contact your local Police.

Concern was expressed by members about the sudden increase in crime activity within Wembury during November. **The Clerk was asked to enquire of the Police the likely reasons for the increase in crime.**

The Chairman then read out the dates when the Police would be attending Wembury Parish Council meetings during 2011. They would be attending in March, May, September and November.

Whilst Inspector Chivers had attended the Parish Council meeting in September, and PC Rob Batchelor attended the Wembury Parish Annual meeting in May, members were concerned to note that by the March 2011 meeting PC Rob Batchelor, our local community policeman, will not have attended a Parish Council meeting since January 2010 ie for 15 months.

Concern was also expressed that incidents, which are dealt with in Wembury, by police from Plymouth, are not being recorded in the Wembury Police reports. However, members were pleased with the more comprehensive Police reports now being received.

**Bob Harvey** said that he had tried to report an incident at the Police Station at The Broadway, but it was closed. He had reported the closure and the incident, but has not received a response from the Police.

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

**Bob Harvey** complained about the weeds in the gutter through the Down Thomas village. He said that it would only need a man and a barrow to clear it.

**The Chairman agreed to raise this matter at a meeting on 8 December with Devon CC and South Hams DC.**

**Mike Haycock** asked about the current situation with the proposed planning application for 30 houses within Down Thomas; Application No 58/2422/10/F.

The Chairman explained the situation regarding the application and said it would be considered later in the meeting.

**Ken Haydon** asked whether there would be a public meeting about the proposed development.

**The Chairman** said that there would not be a public meeting at this stage. He explained the Parish Council's position about the Down Thomas site, which had been made to the Inspector prior to the recent Inspectors' Hearing in Totnes. The Parish Council did not endorse developments outside the development area and would continue to abide by that rule. Particularly as South Hams DC themselves were against any such development. If the land was redesignated for development, then that would be the time for proper opposition.

**Cllrs Cane and Squire** confirmed that the Parish Council had made a good case at the Inspectors' Hearing against the housing allocation on the site at Knighton Hill, Wembury, but were not allowed to speak about the Down Thomas site at the hearing. However, it would be some time next year before the Inspectors' decision would be known. Meanwhile, the Parish Council had to consider the specific planning application before them today.

**Ingrid Haycock** asked whether the Parish Council had received copies of the many email objections to this planning application, sent by local people to South Hams DC.

**The Clerk** said that he had not received copies of objections to this specific planning application and when sending emails to South Hams DC in future, he asked to be copied in to them. However, if there was objection to this planning application, then the objections should be made at the meeting, before the application was considered by members.

**Ken Hayden** said that the majority of people in the village of Down Thomas were opposed to the development shown in Planning Application No 58/2422/10/F. The proposed development is outside the Village Development Plan Area, in a Coastal Protection Area and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There would be disruption to traffic through the village and be environmental issues with the size and location of the proposed development. He was not against all development in Down Thomas but could not see the need for such a large development. There was genuine concern in the village to move forward, but not to have such a large scheme thrust upon them.

**Mike Haycock** expressed concern about the increase in traffic from the proposal and questioned the need for affordable housing in such a rural area. Other villages had set up a Village Decision Making Facility and felt that something similar should be set up in Down Thomas.

**The Clerk was asked to investigate such a facility to see how one is set up.**

**The Chairman thanked the public for their comments and closed this open session at 8.30 pm to resume Parish Council business.**

#### **10-135 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 25 OCTOBER 2010.**

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

#### **10-136 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES**

##### **10-121 i) 48 Bus Service to Wembury**

The new timetable had started today with better single decker buses. It appears that the school route had changed and there was confusion over the new daytime and Sunday routes. The routes being distributed by First Buses were different from those issued by Devon CC.

**Cllr Hart agreed to email the Clerk with the Devon CC final agreed routes, for circulation.**

He confirmed that some children would have to pay for their school bus service in future

**Cllr Filby** said that the bus service had worked well during the day and is more useful for commuters than the old service.

**Cllr Hart** said that the public needed to use the bus, because there will be a major restructuring of bus services after April 2011.

**Cllr Filby** said that the Bus User group were looking at other options for a late night service.

##### **10-121 ii) Draft Parish Council Minutes**

The Clerk confirmed that the draft Parish Council minutes are now put on the Wembury Parish website at [www.wemburyparishcouncil.info](http://www.wemburyparishcouncil.info) .

##### **10-121 iii) Brownhill Lane, Wembury**

Peter Guy, Devon CC has reached an understanding with the owners of Brownhill Lane and the potholes are to be filled in.

##### **10-121 iv) Lighting in the Park**

**The Clerk** confirmed that Devon CC would not take over the street lights along the footpath, adjacent to the tennis courts and MUGA, in Wembury. One main reason is that the footpath is not an adopted path.

**Cllr Bennett** explained that the Scouts, who are responsible for and control the footpath lights, have agreed to put the lights on from 6 pm until 10 pm four days a week including a Saturday, as a trial period, so that the MUGA can be used in the evenings. The Scouts will bear the extra cost of electricity until the end of the year. If the lighting is to be continued, then Cllr Bennett suggested the Scouts should be given a grant to cover the additional cost of electricity and this was one of the Finance Sub Committees resolutions, for consideration later in the meeting.

**10-121 v) Cars Parking on Pavements**

**The Chairman** referred to an email from South Hams DC, which said that parking on pavements is a Police matter. The Police had responded that they take a common sense view and approach, to such obstructions.

**10-121 vi) Rural Memory Cafe**

**The Clerk** is awaiting a suitable date for the first meeting to discuss this matter.

**10-123 i) Manor Bourne Sewer**

**Cllr Hart** confirmed that Devon CC was again looking at this matter.

**10-125 i) Devon CC – Winter Service on Devon’s Highways**

The Clerk has responded to Devon CC regarding a revised gritting route and location of grit bins. However, Devon CC has responded and said that they will not revise the gritting route. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Hart and the Clerk would again raise the issue of a revised gritting route through Wembury, to ensure the bus service continues running during icy weather.

**Cllr Hart and Clerk to contact Devon Highways again.**

**10-125 ii) Brixton PC - Speed Limits**

Peter Guy, Devon CC is investigating the situation further with Devon Highways and has asked for a risk assessment.

**10-137 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.**

**10-138 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

**i) Plymouth CC – Third Local Transport Plan**

Plymouth’s Third Local Transport Plan is out to consultation and Cllr Gage agreed to respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

**ii) Devon & Torbay – Third Local Transport Plan**

Devon & Torbay’s Third Local Transport Plan is out to consultation. There were no specific comments to be made.

**iii) Devon CC – Community Workshop**

The Chairman and Clerk agreed to attend the Community Workshop on 8 December 2010, at Ivybridge, on behalf of the Parish Council.

**iv) South Hams DC - Budget Meeting with Parish Councils**

The Chairman agreed to attend the Budget Meeting with Parish Councils on 13 January 2011.

**v) South Hams DC – Ivybridge & Area Parish Cluster Meeting**

The Chairman and Cllr Rowland agreed to attend the Ivybridge & Area Parish Cluster Meeting on 20 January 2011.

**vi) South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau & The Wembury Twinning Association**

Both these organisations had requested grants from the Parish Council. The Finance Sub Committee resolutions concerning these requests are considered later in the meeting.

**FOR INFORMATION.**

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

**10-139 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

**Parish Council Vacancy – Wembury Ward**

The Chairman explained that on 9 November 2010, Cllr N Martin automatically vacated his position as a Wembury Ward Parish Councillor under S85 of the Local Government Act 1972, as he has failed to attend a Parish Council meeting for a consecutive period of six months, without having given a reason for his absence.

Suitable notices have been displayed and after 1 December 2010, if no election is required, then the Parish Council can appoint a suitable councillor under the casual vacancy procedure. Such an appointment would be agreed at the next Wembury Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk asked councillors to make up a Selection Panel and Cllrs Drought, Bennett, Rowland and Squire all volunteered to make up the Selection Panel.

**A suitable recommendation from the Selection Panel would be made to the next Parish Council meeting for agreement, should an election not be called.**

**10-140 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC**

**Cllr Hart** said that members were still looking at the budget and proposed cuts, but some officers had sent out letters to various organisations suggesting cuts in their subsidies, the Wembury Marine Centre being one of them. However, the officers are jumping the gun and the members will make the final decisions.

Education is still the responsibility of local government and in the future, there will be no subsidies for 16 year olds or free bus passes.

The Devon & Cornwall Police will see a reduction of around 700 officers over the next 4 years, mainly from officers with over 30 years experience being retired.

Cllr Hart has been going around Devon County to discuss with local people financial cuts to the Devon CC budget, through the 'Tough Choices' workshops. So far, he has saved around 1000 jobs through vacancy management.

Devon CC is arguing throughout Devon for a better internet broadband service and is liaising with South Hams DC.

Devon CC and South Hams DC are putting out a joint magazine in future that will save £200,000 per year. The Devon CC Council Tax details will also be sent out jointly with others to save on publication costs.

In future Devon CC will be focusing on common issues so that it can work more closely with other district councils in Devon.

It appears that there will be an underspend on the Wembury MUGA Scheme and Cllr Hart expects Wembury Parish Council to receive a £1000 refund, to spend on other leisure facilities within the Wembury Parish.

### **SOUTH HAMS DC**

**Cllr Squire** said that South Hams has some of the highest house prices and the least number of affordable houses within Devon. Consequently, South Hams DC will do all it can to provide affordable housing.

Cllr Squire was pleased to report that sixteen out of seventeen beaches within South Hams meet the EU Standards. However, he was concerned to note that the Wembury Marine Centre may have its contribution reduced by up to 50% by Devon CC, but he stated that South Hams DC would also have to consider cuts in subsidies to similar organisations. On a personal note, he felt that this was short sighted as the Marine Centre attracted a lot of visitors and children to the area.

South Hams DC has set up a group to investigate how to improve internet broadband in the area, on a task and finish basis. Broadband via satellite is now available.

Cllr Squire was concerned about the high reduction in the Police Force manpower over the next few years, especially losing the more experienced officers.

**Cllr Cane** informed members to make sure that dog owners have their dog chipped, because if they lose their dog it will now cost £150 to get it back and there could be a huge fine for not having the dog chipped.

He wished to congratulate the people in South Hams, as the District Council is the top district for recycling within Devon for the third year running. The District is also the third best in Britain for throwing away the least rubbish per household.

Concern has been expressed by people about their liability when clearing away snow from the pavements outside their own property. He said that there was no reason why a person should not do this providing they use common sense and the area was no worse after the snow clearance. The people using the footpath also have a responsibility to use the footpath safely.

In the South Hams DC news magazine to be circulated shortly, the District Council are also asking residents about the sort of financial cuts that should be made in the coming years.

## **10-141 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE**

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

#### **a) Bus User Group**

**Cllr Filby** had reported on the 48 Bus service earlier in the meeting.

## **b) Information Board**

A short discussion ensued about the cost and location of a suitable Information Board for the Parish. **Cllr Filby was asked to obtain further information and to report with details to a subsequent Parish Council meeting.**

## **ii) WEMBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT**

**Cllr Filby** informed members that the headteacher, Suzy Evan has produced a report for November, which he would circulate to members. It highlighted the problems of setting the budget in the current difficult financial climate but noted that despite all the problems the school remains in the top 5% - 10% nationally of all primary schools. There has been a popular change in school uniform after a full consultation with parents staff and children. A number of activities taking place recently in and out of the school were listed, including the PTA's notable achievement in raising £470 for Children in Need.

## **iii) LEISURE FACILITIES WORKING GROUP**

### **a) Down Thomas Play Area**

**Cllr Bennett** reported that he and the Clerk had recently met two members of the Silver Jubilee Hall Sub Committee who were dealing with the refurbishment of the Down Thomas Play Area. The total cost of the scheme which has been drawn up, is in the region of £50,000 and is very impressive. The existing enclosed area will be mainly used by younger children with swings, slide and see-saw elements. There will be an open area extending down the field, which will have more challenging elements, like a zip wire and assault course, for the older children.

The sub committee have applied for a lottery grant of £43,000, have raised £1500 and received £3000 from South Hams DC so far. With Parish Council support, they should raise the scheme funds.

Once the funds are in place and a supplier agreed, it is envisaged that the scheme will be in place by next summer.

### **b) Wembury Play Area**

The painting of the tennis court posts is now complete.

Usage signs have still to be erected around the Tennis courts and MUGA.

Lighting to the MUGA is now in place, as discussed earlier in the meeting.

The three swing set in the children's play area have been removed by South Hams DC for repair.

## **iv) CHURCH ROOM, WEMBURY**

**Cllr Rowland** reported on the recent meeting held with the St Werburgh Parochial Church Council (PCC) regarding a joint venture with the Parish Council to redevelop the old Church Room in Wembury.

The Church want to move on with the demolition of the old building and South Hams DC have said that because of its poor condition it could now be knocked down. Cllr Squire said that the PCC should liaise with South Hams DC regarding early demolition of the building.

**The Clerk reported that two Parish Councillors need to be nominated to serve on the Joint Working Group for this scheme. Cllrs Rowland and Squire volunteered.**

## **v) EMERGENCY PLANNING**

**Cllr Gage** said that the distribution of the Emergency Planning leaflet to every household in the Wembury Parish was in hand and being delivered by the Parish Councillors. He

had received a letter from Peter Dale, Devon CC Emergency Planning Officer thanking the Wembury Parish Council for distributing the leaflets within their Parish. Dr Gillespie had asked Cllr Gage not to go ahead with the distribution of a Red H to households, so he recommends that the Parish Council do not take this any further. Cllr Gage is still chasing Inspector Chivers to arrange for a paper copy of the Wembury Emergency Plan to be put in the Ivybridge and Plymouth Police Control Rooms.

#### **vi) BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETING**

**Cllr Drought** attended a budget consultation meeting with South Hams DC on 24 November 2010 and reported on the main points of discussion below:-  
The coalition government inherited a financial situation where £1 in £4 was borrowed, but the situation should be recovered by 2015.  
South Hams DC is in a good financial position to deal with the government financial cuts. Local Government subsidy from the government is to fall by 7.4% over the next 4 years.  
There is an incentive for local government to build homes, of £4000 per home built. South Hams DC is waiting until the government has published all the savings figures before taking suitable action.  
Everyone at the meeting carried out an exercise to select where they wanted the cuts at South Hams DC to be made. The general consensus was that South Hams DC should carry on providing all the services, but to make general cuts across the board.

#### **vii) RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY**

**Cllr Drought** reported that the Harbour Master's job had been advertised recently and the harbour authority had received over 120 applications for the job. They had whittled the numbers down and were currently interviewing the 10 most suitable candidates for the job.

### **10-142 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C**

#### **i) Financial Statement for November 2010**

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

#### **ii) Finance Sub Committee Resolutions**

The Chairman went through the resolutions taken at the Finance Sub Committee meeting held on 27 November 2010. Cllr Doody proposed, seconded by Cllr Bennett that all the Finance Sub Committee resolutions as shown in Annex D are approved. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED: All the Finance Sub Committee resolutions as shown in Annex D are approved.**

#### **iii) Grants & Annual Subscriptions for 2011/2012**

Cllr Newnham proposed, seconded by Cllr Filby, that the grants and annual subscriptions shown in Annex D for 2011/2012 are approved. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED: The grants and annual subscriptions shown in Annex D for 2011/2012 are approved.**

**iv) Budget & Parish Precept for 2011/2012**

The Clerk outlined the budget proposals as discussed at the recent Finance Sub Committee and the minor changes made following the meeting. If approved, the new Parish Precept would be £22,500, an increase of 4.6%.

Cllr Filby said that Wembury Parish have one of the lowest Parish Precepts in Devon. Cllr Newnham, proposed, seconded by Cllr Filby that the Wembury Parish Council budget for 2011/2012, as shown in Annex E, is approved. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION: The Wembury Parish Council budget for 2011/2012, as shown in Annex E, is approved.**

**The Clerk confirmed that the Wembury Parish Precept for 2011/2012 would be £22,500 and he would inform South Hams DC accordingly.**

**10-143 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

**Cllr Rowland** said that the Wembury Marine Centre could apply to local businesses for financial support.

**Cllr Cammack** said that there is a gate across a footpath, adjacent to a collapsed wall, leading to Brownhill Lane. This has already been reported to Peter Guy, at Devon CC.

**The Clerk** reported on the closure of the Mussel Inn and the affect this could have on the Down Thomas Post Office. He was still trying to contact both the brewery and the Post Office to find out the current situation. A petition has already been circulated to keep both the pub and Post office open and is being signed by many people.

**It was suggested that the Clerk should write to both the Post Office and brewery.**

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for their forbearance and closed the meeting at 10.16 pm.

Roy Fairclough  
Clerk