

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 30 March 2009.

09-29 OPENING THE MEETING

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Rowland, opened the meeting at 7.32 pm and explained that the Chairman was on holiday and so he would be chairing the meeting. He then welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Simon Garner from the National Trust who would be giving a presentation later in the meeting.

Cllrs, Bennett, Doody, Filby, Gage, Hart, Newnham, Scoble and Squire were present. District Cllr Cane and thirteen members of the public were also present.

09-30 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Drought and Cammack. Apologies also received from PC Nolan and PCSO Lawrence.

09-31 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from council members.

09-32 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 7.34 pm.

i) Simon Garner, National Trust

The Vice Chairman introduced Simon Garner and informed councillors that he would be giving a presentation about the proposed new footpath through Wembury Woods.

Simon thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and providing him with an opportunity to explain the proposed new pathway through Wembury Woods.

Simon then showed a series of beautiful photographs taken along the line of the new footpath through Wembury Woods. The National Trust has been clearing the route over

the last seven months and the photographs showed what a stunning route it will be, especially near the creek.

The section through the woods will be part of a circular four-mile route, starting at Wembury, across fields, through Wembury Wood, then along existing paths to Hollacombe Brake and along Traine Road back to Wembury. The National Trust hopes to have the pathway open during May this year.

The path through the woods is a National Trust permissive path and not a public right of way, so the National Trust has spent some time checking all the trees and making the footpath safe to use. All the trees will be surveyed and monitored. The local schools have been involved in the clearance of the path, as well as members of the community. There will be a bridge over a small creek and local timber from the wood has been used to make nice feature.

Part of the new route is across a farmer's field and will not be fenced off; therefore, Simon asked that the community respect the livestock in the fields when using the new route.

Simon then offered to answer any questions.

Cllr Gage asked if there was any car parking provision for the new footpath. Simon replied that existing car parking in Wembury should be used, as it was a circular walk. The new route is intended for the local community use and is not part of a national route. The National Trust will be producing local maps for distribution and there will be new signs to and along, the footpath route.

Cllr Newnham suggested that the signs need to show the way back to Wembury when the new footpath connects with the existing footpath routes.

Several people raised the question of speeding cars using Traine Road, which was part of the return footpath route. It was suggested that Robin Toogood should be contacted about suitable signing along Traine Road.

The Vice Chairman thanked Simon and Lorna Sherriff for an excellent presentation and said that everyone appreciated all the hard work which has gone into producing this new footpath route.

ii) Crime Report March 2009

Sid Lawrence was not able to attend the meeting but had submitted a crime report. He had also reported some good news; PC Nolan had seen the Force Medical Advisor today, who had stated that he could return to work, as from today, on light duties. Everyone wished PC Nolan a swift recovery.

The Chairman then read out the Crime Report for March 2009.

J1/09/206

At around 2200hrs on the 14th March 09, a Sat Nav system worth £200 was stolen from a vehicle at the Eddystone Public House, a side window was smashed to gain entry. An unknown black BMW was seen in the area at the time however, the crime remains undetected at this stage.

J1/09/224

Between the 12th of February and the 18th March 09, a caravan at the Bovisand Lodge Estate was broken into and electrical equipment was stolen including a flat screen TV. This crime remains undetected.

J1/09/259

On the 29th March 09, a male person had a small quantity of cannabis seized from him at the Knighton playing fields he was issued with a £80 penalty notice.

Jl/09/260

This crime is exactly the same as Jl/09/259 - different person same location and result.

Sid had also conducted a speed monitoring exercise in Hollacombe during the day. He reported that there is an issue with the speed of vehicles travelling in both directions, in and out of Wembury. In a 35 minute period between 13:15 and 13:50, 11 vehicles were recorded over the 30 mph speed limit. An average speed was about 38 mph and it was obvious that the vast majority of vehicles slowed down the instant they saw our radar trap.

Sid will raise the issue with the Plympton traffic unit as he feels this needs further attention. Disappointingly, the vast majority of people caught were local residents!! This exercise was carried out for 'educational awareness'. If the speed continues, people will start to be fined and have points recorded against their licence.

iii) Public Comments

Terry Clark complained about the amount and speed of traffic using Traine Road and asked whether a 'No Through Road' or a 'No Entry' sign could be erected. Alternatively, the road could be closed or made one way.

Brian Hall also endorsed the comments about speeding cars, which he felt was dangerous because of the sharp bends. In addition, local people have to walk along the road because there is no footpath. Many delivery vans were using the route because of the use of satellite navigation instruments in their vans. He had reported this to Devon County Council, who are talking to the companies that provide Satellite Navigation instruments. He suggested that sleeping policemen might be an answer to slow down the vehicles.

Cllr Hart said that a Devon CC Steering Committee was speaking to companies that provide Satellite Navigation systems but mainly about lorry routes recommended by satellite navigation instruments.

Tony Romang acknowledged that the road was well used by vehicles and was sympathetic about slowing down the vehicles, but he could not support a closure of the road.

Alan Puddicombe informed the meeting that the Allotment Association have now opened an access to the Wembury allotments through the Devon bank and are waiting for a gate to be fixed. Cllr Squire was delighted to have helped the Allotment Association with the access.

Richard Warner, chair of Governors of Wembury School, was led to believe that the school was on a list to be rebuilt by Devon County Council. He now understands that it is unlikely that there will be any money for a new building.

Cllr Filby explained that the immediate problem at the school was the poor condition of the toilet, which was so smelly that children were not able to use it. The school don't wish to spend money on refurbishing the toilet if it may jeopardise a new school being built.

Cllr Hart replied that Devon CC had originally suggested that a new school should be built in Wembury. However, the government have changed the rules and all schools in the country are to be replaced, However, Devon is not in the first trial. At present only two new primary schools are programmed to be built in Devon and there are far worse

schools than Wembury higher on the list. He suggested that the school goes ahead with the toilet refurbishment, as it could be eight to ten years before a new school is built in Wembury.

Devon CC has already offered assistance to the school regarding the toilets and he will ask the Chairman of Schools to visit the school and see the situation.

Rachel Hills said that the governors were not going to take this lying down. The building is an absolute disgrace and the next generation of children should not have to experience such awful conditions. An outbuilding had been condemned and whilst some cosmetic work had been done to the school, it was only covering up the real problems with the school buildings.

Spencer Pearson has three children at the school and felt the school conditions were disgusting. He was currently in the process of setting up a Wembury Surfing Club and they would be able to assist in fundraising activities both for the club and for Wembury School.

Cllr Squire said that the school was way beyond its years and in need of urgent replacement. It appears that the school is not in a Devon CC rebuilding programme and this was just not acceptable. He urged Cllr Hart to press hard for an early replacement of the school.

The Chairman then closed this open session at 8.23 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

iv) Wembury School

Cllr Squire proposed and Cllr Doody seconded, that the Parish Council make strong representation to the Chief Officer for Education and the Chairman of the Education Committee at Devon CC requesting every effort be made for Wembury School to be replaced as a matter of urgency, rather than the proposed eight to ten year programme.

The proposal was carried by eight votes for with Cllr Filby abstaining.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council to make strong representation to the Chief Officer for Education and the Chairman of the Education Committee at Devon CC requesting every effort be made for Wembury school to be replaced as a matter of urgency, rather than the proposed eight to ten year programme.

v) Speed of Traffic in Traine Road

Cllr Bennett proposed and Cllr Gage seconded, that the Parish Council write to the Highway Authority to investigate the most suitable method of slowing down traffic along Traine Road, or to make it for access only and to report back to the Parish Council with a suitable programme for implementation. The proposal was carried by eight votes for with Cllr Rowland abstaining.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council write to the Highway Authority to investigate the most suitable method of slowing down traffic along Traine Road, or to make it for access only and to report back to the Parish Council with a programme for implementation.

09-33 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2009.

With a minor correction, the minutes were agreed as being a correct record and duly signed by the Vice Chairman.

09-34 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

09-20 i) Dangerous Bus Route

The Clerk informed councillors that First Devon & Cornwall Ltd is withdrawing the Number 15 bus service that exits the narrow lane adjacent to the Staddiscombe development. Consequently, from 24 May 2009 concerns raised about the bus turning movement will be removed.

A short discussion followed and it was still agreed to hold a meeting on site with Devon CC and the Police Traffic Safety Officer, to discuss the dangers of this junction.

It was agreed that the Clerk should still write to Devon CC to ask for a meeting to be arranged on site with the Police and Parish Councillors.

09-20 ii) Bus Stop Signs

The Clerk informed members that Devon CC Transport Co-ordination Service seem doubtful that there was any bus stop flag outside the Wembury Post Office and it has been suggested that this be a hail and ride location. The bus stop flag outside the Vicarage was removed when the telegraph pole was removed and Devon CC Highways will erect a suitable pole for the flag to be replaced.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that it would be useful to have a Bus Timetable near the Post Office and clarification of a Hail and Ride location.

The Clerk to write to First Devon & Cornwall Ltd accordingly.

09-20 iii) Street Name Signs

Cllr Squire has arranged with South Hams DC to replace missing street name signs.

Parish Councillors to let Cllr Squire have details of missing signs.

09-20 iv) Wembury Allotments

The Clerk informed members that the agreement with the National Trust has been signed and the planning application for the allotments sent off to South Hams DC.

Allotment holders are now digging their allotments and the official opening of the allotments will be held on Saturday 18 April 2009.

09-20 v) Triangle of Land

Cllr Squire said that the triangle of land adjacent to Wembury War Memorial Hall is owned by South Hams DC.

09-20 vi) Hedge Around Wembury Playing Field

South Hams DC will not put a path around the playing field.

09-23 ii) South Hams Chairman's Civic Service

The Vice Chairman informed members that he was very honoured to represent Wembury Parish at Cllr Cane's Civic Service at St Mary's Church, Brixton on Sunday 29 March 2009.

09-25 iii) Seat Near Post Office

Cllr Squire confirmed that the seat had been taken away by South Hams DC. The seat was not repairable and had been disposed of, but the plaque on the seat had been retained. If the Parish Council wants a seat, then one can be purchased from South Hams DC and they will fix the seat in place and reinstate the old plaque.

However, Cllr Squire said that there might be a seat being removed from Dartmouth that could be used to replace this seat.

Cllr Bennett said that the old seat was in a handy location and well used and that the Parish Council should try to obtain the seat from Dartmouth.

Cllr Squire will pursue the acquisition of the seat.

Other councillors remarked that many people would be happy to purchase a seat at this location. **The Clerk was asked to find out the price of purchasing a seat and fixing it in place.**

09-35 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.

09-36 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) South Hams DC- Public Space Strategy & Improvements 2008 - 2010

There was a briefing session on 11 March 2009 that Cllr Bennett attended.

He will report later in the meeting.

ii) Ivybridge & Surrounding Area – Parish Cluster Meeting – 22 April 2009

The Chairman was elected to attend on behalf of Wembury Parish Council.

Any specific items for the Agenda to be given to the Clerk.

iii) South Hams Tree Wardens – Tree Planting 2009

The Vice Chairman explained that South Hams DC was launching a tree-planting year in South Hams and funding is available for suitable tree planting schemes. Further information can be obtained from the South Hams DC Tree Warden Steering Group.

iv) South Hams DC – National Litter Campaign

The Clerk passed round a series of posters and asked members whether they were happy for him to display them on the Parish Council notice boards. The consensus was not to display them, as it was considered they could offend people.

v) Devon Partnership - NHS Foundation Trust Membership

It was agreed to provide information about membership for circulation the Wembury Review and to put information on the Wembury Parish website.

vi) The Boundary Committee for England

Further Draft Proposals for the Devon Structural Review have been published and the Boundary Committee now recommends a Devon Unitary Authority or an Exeter & Exmouth Unitary Authority with the remainder of Devon as a Unitary Authority. Plymouth and Torbay are to remain unchanged.

A lengthy debate followed. The general feeling is that any recommendation by the Boundary Committee is likely to be caught up in a general election and may not be implemented. The Parish Council still favoured an 'Enhanced Status Quo' and again asked the **Clerk to send a letter to the Boundary Committee supporting such a view.**

vii) Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association

The Parish Council have been asked to provide a grant towards supporting the services of the Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association. Cllr Bennett believes that they provide a sterling service that is used by people within the Wembury Parish.

Cllr Bennett then proposed, seconded by Cllr Squire, that a grant of £100 be given to the Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association to support their services. The proposal was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £100 be given to the Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association to support their services.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

09-37 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

None

09-38 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Cllr Hart informed members that there are likely to be tighter controls on the free use of the buses by the over 60 year olds. Some local authorities have gone to a judicial review because of the cost of the service to their authority.

At a recent South West Highways meeting, it was explained that there is not enough money in the next year's budget to cover the repair of existing potholes in the road, never mind any new ones that may be caused by a wet winter. Devon has a £100m backlog of road repairs.

Cllr Hart has now emptied his allocated funds, with £10,000 allocated to a MUGA for Wembury and £10,000 towards the extension of Down Thomas Silver Jubilee Hall.

The Boundary Committee's proposals are in a mess and it is not clear what will happen; whether they will go ahead or events overtake the recommendations. The latest proposals are trying to help Exeter, but they are just not viable.

The government have just made some money available to start preparing the Deep Lane junction for the proposed junction improvements.

Devon CC recently gone from a 3 star to a 4 star authority. However, Cllr Hart said it that it has taken four years to get back to a 4 star authority, as they were in 2005 and now there are more changes are on the way.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire was recently listening to the South Hams DC Design Panel but was concerned to note that the Architects are only interested in the architecture of a building and they don't seem to take into consideration the location of a building. Hopefully this will be addressed in future. At the same time, they will also be looking at building materials used and whether they are from a sustainable source.

The payout from the bankrupt Icelandic Bank is likely to be substantial, which will limit any District Council losses.

From 1 April, South Hams DC is to provide free swimming for people over 60 years old. There will be notices in the press and leaflets circulated later this month. However, the Ivybridge indoor swimming pool is likely to be closed for repairs later in the year, to seal a leak in the pool.

Cllr Squire attended a talk by both Stagecoach and First about bus services and both say that they are commercial companies and don't receive enough subsidies from the local authority to maintain some bus routes. About 40% of over 60 year olds use the buses.

Each South Hams District Councillor now has a Sustainable Community Fund of £1000 and residents wishing to use the fund should fill in an application form or contact their local councillor.

Cllr Cane thanked the Parish Council for supporting the 'Enhanced Status Quo' in connection with the Boundary Review.

South Hams DC is putting forward a motion for 14 to 19 year olds to gain free bus passes and is going to put it to the Government for suitable funding.

The Citizens Advice Bureau has been awarded £29,000 to extend their opening hours.

They will now be open on a Friday and one evening each week.

Cllr Cane thanked the Parish Council for their good work and their kind words to him as Chairman of South Hams DC.

09-39 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Forward Planning Working Group

Cllr Filby reported that the group were now on the last lap and the final draft of the Wembury Parish Plan was being completed. Prices were being obtained for publication costs and for a print run of 1500 plans. However, many of the committee were either on holiday, or off sick, at the present time.

It was then up to the community to take suitable action for the plan to be realised.

Cllr Filby would report to the next Parish Council meeting.

ii) Leisure Facilities Working Group

Public Space Strategy & Improvements

Cllr Bennett had attended the recent presentation at Follaton House about Public Space Strategy & Improvements. He was accompanied by Gill Fyall from the Down Thomas Silver Jubilee Hall committee. South Hams DC officers had recently received audit reports for all the 105 play spaces in South Hams. The reports considered many aspects of the play areas, including play value, life expectancy, development potential, general site condition and standard of existing play equipment.

Wembury play area has been allocated up to £10,000 for new equipment and the Down Thomas play area up to £3000. This money has to be spent by 31 March 2010. To ensure that a full consultation has taken place, a questionnaire has been sent to the local school. Children of all ages have been asked to give information about the play equipment they use at present and what equipment they would like to see in their play area. When the survey is complete, it will be presented to South Hams DC, Landscape and Leisure department, who will negotiate with their suppliers for the new equipment. Wembury Parish Council will almost certainly be asked to contribute if extra finances are required.

Wembury Skateboard Park

The Skateboard Park Committee is expecting to hear the result of their funding application to the Youth Opportunities Fund by the end of April.

Wembury Tennis Courts / Multi User Games Area (MUGA)

The Tennis Courts / Multi User Games Area (MUGA) Project has received offers of grants from both Devon CC and South Hams DC and the Parish Council is now being asked what contribution it is prepared to make to the total cost of £60,000 for a tennis court and MUGA or £71,500 to extend the MUGA to accommodate 5 a-side football.

Cllr Bennett suggested that the Parish Council make a contribution of £2000 towards the project and will make such a proposal at the next Finance Sub Committee meeting.

Wembury BMX Track

It appears that the BMX Track is not being used at present and the Allotment Society has been offered the use of the material. However, the cost of moving the material would be too expensive for the Allotment Association and so the offer has not been taken up. The BMX Track will remain as it is at the present time.

Cllr Bennett to report on progress at the next meeting.

iii) Wembury Beach Liaison Group

Cllr Gage had previously circulated a note to councillors about the meeting held on 25 March 2009.

Representatives of the newly formed Wembury Surfing Club had attended the meeting. The club would be holding a Surfing Competition on the 18th of April and all should be aware of potential car parking problems on the day, especially as there were also two weddings at the Church that day.

The current situation regarding litter collection and beach cleaning appears to be under control and satisfactory.

Simon Garner, the representative of the National Trust, said that he does not intend to enforce the National Trust by-laws prohibiting camping & bonfires on their land, as it was not practicable to do so. Sid Lawrence said that the police were unlikely to be involved unless criminal damage was involved, or they were asked to take action by the National Trust.

Steps are in hand to ensure that the yellow lines along the lower portion of Church Road are clear and Ian Hosking, representing South Hams DC Street Scene, said that parking fines would be issued to people who illegally park on double yellow lines.

It was agreed that there would be an annual meeting of the group in March each year with other meetings being called on an ad hoc basis.

iv) Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils

Cllr Rowland had attended the Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils meeting on 18 March 2009. They had received a presentation from Lady Frere about the magistrate's service and there was a discussion about the 'Power of Wellbeing', which was related to a Parish Council becoming a 'Quality Council'.

Cllr Hart referred to a pilot scheme in Stokenham where the Parish Council are carrying out many of the local services currently being done by the District Council.

A recent DAPC Newsletter suggested that the 'Power of Wellbeing' is what a Quality Parish Council should adopt and Cllr Bennett suggested that this might help to defend any future takeover by Plymouth City in the future.

The Clerk informed members that at the present time there were no incentives or advantages from the Government in becoming a 'Quality Council'.

v) River Yealm Harbour Authority- River Steps

The Clerk informed members that he and the Chairman had inspected the river steps down to the local Yealm Ferry, which enabled the coastal path to extend across the Yealm estuary. The steps had been reconstructed around 2002, but that they were now in a dangerous condition. The River Yealm Harbour Authority in conjunction with the South Devon AONB Unit, have arranged for the steps to be repaired as a goodwill gesture and without prejudice, to enable the Yealm Ferry to commence on 1 April.

The cost of the work was £1122.23 and it has been suggested that the costs are split, £500 AONB, £311.12 Yealm River Harbour Authority and £311.12 Wembury Parish Council. The Clerk pointed out that Newton and Noss Parish Council frequently contribute to repairs to the slipway on the other side of the Yealm estuary.

There is currently a dispute about the ownership and long-term responsibility of the steps. The general feeling is that the steps are part of the coastal path and therefore the responsibility of Devon CC. However, Devon CC refutes this, as they maintain the steps are not part of the coastal path. Meetings are to be arranged to resolve the long-term responsibility for the steps. An investigation is also underway to see whether the workmanship of the builder who constructed the steps, is responsible for the poor condition of the steps so soon after construction.

Cllr Scoble proposed and Cllr Bennett seconded, that Wembury Parish Council contributes £311.12 towards the cost of repairing the Yealm Estuary steps as a goodwill gesture and without prejudice. The proposal was passed by eight votes for, with Cllr Hart abstaining.

RESOLVED: That Wembury Parish Council contributes £311.12 towards the cost of repairing the Yealm Estuary steps, as a goodwill gesture and without prejudice.

vi) Wembury Emergency Self Help Plan

Cllr Gage had called a meeting of the Emergency Management Team on 23 March 2009 to update the Wembury Emergency Self Help Plan and to discuss how the plan would be implemented if an emergency occurred.

It was agreed that in the event of an incident, whichever member of the Management Team first alerted, would contact the other team members. A Command Centre will then be established at the War Memorial Hall in Wembury, with the Silver Jubilee Hall in Down Thomas as a back-up. It was also agreed to provide a large-scale map with perspex overlay & marker pens, that so any incident can be clearly identified and monitored.

Various names in the plan were updated and steps are in hand to ensure that there is a back-up contact person for each team member's area of responsibility, in the event that a team member is on holiday during an emergency.

09-40 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for March 2009

The Chairman presented the financial reports as per ANNEX C.

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

09-41 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Filby informed members that the South Hams DC signs at Staddiscombe have been changed and no longer say 'an area of outstanding natural beauty'. The AONB will be erecting additional signs at the boundary of the 'area of outstanding natural beauty'.

Cllr Filby also informed members that a boy had recently been found living in a tent in Staddiscombe following the loss of his job and breakup of his family. The boy is now in a hostel and has a mentor.

09-42 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.46 pm.
R Fairclough, Clerk to Wembury Parish Council