

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 November 2009.

09-139 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought opened the meeting at 7.31 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

District Cllr Cane, Adam King, Tree Warden and seven members of the public were also present.

09-140 APOLOGIES

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

09-141 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllrs Cammack & Gage have now become trustees of Wembury Village Hall.

09-142 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 7.33 pm.

i) Crime Report November 2009

The Chairman informed members that there would again be no Police presence at the meeting. An apology had been received from PC Nolan and he had informed the Parish Council that he would be having his operation on 11 December and hopefully he would be back to normal duties in January.

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

J1/09/1090

Between Saturday 14th November 2009 and Monday 16th November 2009, a suitcase was stolen from the boot of a vehicle parked on a private drive in Leyford Close, Wembury.

JI/09/1111

On Wednesday 25th November 2009, an old iron bath used as a garden ornament has been stolen from a property in Rosehill, Wembury.

There has been one domestic related incident. Force policy does not allow disclosure of such incidents.

ii) Public Comments

Bob Harvey informed members that there doesn't appear to be any clearing up of the road after the hedges have been cut within the Parish. After the recent hedge cutting in Down Thomas he had a puncture to his car tyre caused by the debris left on the road.

Gwyn Jones and Cllr Newnham both agreed that the debris left on the highway after hedge cutting was dangerous to motorists and it should be cleaned up.

The Clerk agreed to write to Devon CC.

Bob Harvey also complained about mud on the road from the farmer entrance to a field along Renney Road and asked why the field entrance couldn't be hardcored.

The Chairman agreed to speak to the farmer concerned.

Cllr Gage mentioned that the build up of leaves on the pavements in Wembury had not been cleared properly by the South Hams DC workers. All they seemed to do was blow the leaves around the area, which appeared a pointless exercise and a waste of petrol.

Tony Romang raised the issue of potholes in Gabber Lane and again on Pump Hill.

Cllr Gage said that the pothole in Church Road has been filled in.

The Chairman then closed this open session at 7.41 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

09-143 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2009.

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

09-144 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

09-128 iii) Council Tax

Cllr Cane had circulated an email saying that South Hams DC does not charge for payment of the Council Tax at a Post Office, but that a charge was levied by the Post Office.

Tony Romang said that there was no charge in other Districts at the Post Office.

Both agreed to look into the problem again and to clarify the reason for the charges.

09-130 i) Bus Services

The Chairman said that discussions are ongoing with First and Devon CC.

09-130 ii) Wembury School

Cllr Hart had now sent the letter to Wembury School.

Cllr Filby thanked Cllr Hart for the letter and said that the School was more reassured now they had received the letter.

09-130 iii) Development Control & Conservation User Group

Cllr Squire said that the meeting was mainly taken up by the Vanguard project, which is about determining what people think of the planning operation. Various minor changes were now being made to the planning process.

The Clerk had already circulated the minutes of the meeting.

09-134 Quick Response to Save Lives Organisation

Cllr Gage had followed this up after the last meeting and informed members that the nearest South Hams response unit to Wembury was in Yealmpton, otherwise the nearest was in Plympton.

09-137 Pothole Repairs

Cllr Hart agreed to speak to Devon Highways about the various potholes mentioned earlier in the meeting in addition to ones at Ridge Cross, Hollacombe and at the bottom of Manor Bourne Road, Down Thomas.

09-145 TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY PLANNING REPORT AT ANNEX A TO THESE MINUTES

The Chairman went through the planning report shown in Annex A of the Agenda.

RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Report with resolutions as detailed in ANNEX A of these minutes.

09-146 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) Devon CC - Deep Lane Junction

Devon CC is consulting on the four options for the future layout of Deep Lane junction. Both Cllrs Bennett and Gage have sent off their views independently and both favour option no 4, as it would provide two accesses to the proposed Langage Energy Park. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that members should send their views to Cllr Gage. **He would compile a suitable letter to Devon CC taking into account the views expressed.**

ii) South Western Ambulance Service – Aspirant Foundation Trust

The South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust is consulting about them seeking Foundation Trust Status. Following a short discussion there was no specific comments that members wished to make. **Cllr Martin said that he would review the information.**

iii) Hooe Rovers Football Club

The Clerk had received a request from David Ledger for the provision of a non-muddy path around the Wembury football pitch. This matter has been raised on a previous occasion with South Hams DC and they will not provide such a path.

Cllr Bennett said that Malcolm Brown from the football club had reported excessive dog fouling of the pitch on a regular basis. Cllr Bennett asked whether suitable signs could be displayed and if the byelaws on dog fouling applied to the football pitch.

The Clerk undertook to investigate the situation and to ask the South Hams Dog Warden to visit the area.

iv) Odd Wheel Pub, Wembury

Cllr Filby informed members that the Odd Wheel pub in Wembury had temporarily closed and explained the details behind the closure. A group of Wembury villagers had set up an Action Committee to try to save the pub and a flier had been produced which would be circulated in the Wembury Review.

Cllr Filby asked the Parish Council to support this community initiative, which was to find out if there was support in the village for the pub to remain. If so, the Action Committee would pursue the matter with the owners to try to keep the pub open.

Following an interesting discussion, the Parish Councillors supported the endeavours of the community in trying to save the Odd Wheel pub from closure.

Cllr Filby said that there was a meeting of the Action Group on Thursday to assess the response to the leaflet.

v) South Hams DC

The letter concerning the Wembury Recreation Ground, Tennis Courts, MUGA and Skate Park from South Hams DC would be discussed later in the meeting.

vi) DAPC – Service Delivery

Stokenham Parish Council is carrying out a trial where they are responsible for providing and maintaining non-statutory services. The DAPC are holding two briefing meetings to let Parish Councils know how well the trial is progressing.

The Chair and Clerk agreed to attend the briefing meeting in Totnes on 11 January 2010.

vii) South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau

The South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau requested financial support for their operation from Wembury Parish Council. Following a short discussion, it was agreed not to provide financial assistance on this occasion. **The Clerk to inform them accordingly.**

FOR INFORMATION.

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

09-147 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

i) St Werburgh Church

Cllr Newnham declared an interest in this item.

The Clerk had received a request from Mr Vasey requesting a grant of £400 towards the upkeep of the churchyard. It was pointed out that £500 had been allowed for in the current budget for such a request. A short discussion ensued.

Cllr Rowland proposed, seconded by Cllr Bennett that £500 is allocated to St Werburgh Church to help towards the upkeep of the churchyard and to assist any flower festival.

The proposal was carried by 7 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

PROPOSED: That £500 is allocated to St Werburgh Church to help towards the upkeep of the churchyard and to assist any flower festival.

ii) Ivybridge Town Council

The Chairman had received a letter from Ivybridge Town Council explaining that because Devon CC and South Hams DC are considering devolving non-statutory services to a local level, they have offered to facilitate discussions with local parishes to look at options for shared parish working. They would like to know whether Wembury Parish Council would be interested in participating in such discussions. Following a lively

discussion, it was agreed that Wembury Parish should become involved in these discussions.

The Clerk to liaise with Ivybridge Town Clerk accordingly.

iii) Dangerous Manhole Covers

Cllr Rowland explained that a manhole cover in Train Road is being continuously dislodged due to excessive water pressure and the manhole exposed, which is dangerous to vehicles using the road.

In addition, local culverts have not been cleared and so water is becoming more of a problem on the highway. Several people have been out to look at the problem but no suitable action has been taken.

Cllr Hart said that it was a job for the local lengthsman.

Cllr Cane pointed out that Devon CC have changed the policy of the lengthsman and because the local people can't speak to them anymore, the communication link between parish and lengthsman about what needs to be done, has been lost.

Cllr Hart agreed to contact Devon Highways.

09-148 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Cllr Hart outline the current budget situation and explained that there is a large gap between the budget and expenditure and that this gap will have to be reduced.

He informed members that several large schemes would have an indirect impact on Wembury Parish.

The four options proposed for the Deep Lane junction improvements - he noted that the Parish Council would make a suitable comment.

The possible incinerator at New England Quarry, Lee Mill

The development of the Langage Energy Park, which should progress now that ERDF are involved.

Anyone visiting County Hall at Exeter will now have to pay for parking in the car park after the first 30 minutes, which are free. Council members will have to pay and cannot claim it back as expenses.

The County have just received £80m from the government, as part of the schools development programme, to build four secondary schools and one special needs school.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire said that budgets are being considered at the moment. The government has only given South Hams DC a 0.5% increase on their budget, which amounts to £28,000 for the financial year 2010/11, and they were looking for an increase of 1.3%, or about £61,000. There is currently a budget deficit of £436,000. Investment income is falling and has reduced by over £1m between 2007/8 and 2010/11. The concessionary bus fares account is currently in credit, but is likely to reduce by £210,000. The provision of public toilets, which is a non-statutory function, is costing £810,000 per year to maintain.

The Empty homes initiative is progressing and South Hams DC hope to bring some 600 homes back into use.

Members' attendance allowance can only be claimed now if members attend 65% of meetings each year.

The leak in the Ivybridge swimming pool was found in the dosing unit and it has now been suitably sealed.

Work at the Deep Lane junction and on the Langage Energy Park should commence in 2011.

Cllr Cane reported that South Hams DC councillors had met government ministers to discuss why the business rated had to increase in a time of recession. There is a petition on the No 10 website and he urged members to sign the electronic petition.

The Cosy Winter EON Scheme, where householders can have a house insulation survey done and insulation provided at a reduced rate, is shaping up. Anyone interested should telephone 0800512012, or go online at www.cosydevon.co.uk.

South Hams DC is now getting names together with jobs and travel details, as part of the Devon Home Choice scheme. This will help people to move house more easily to be nearer their place of work. The Housing Register will be available at a promotion on 14 December 2009 at the Watermark, Ivybridge, from 3 to 6 pm.

09-149 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Parish Plan Action Group

Cllr Filby, on behalf of the Action Group, thanked the Parish Council for going through the Parish Plan at the last meeting. However, he felt that the Parish Council should take more of a lead in providing suitable information boards around the Parish. A short discussion ensued.

Cllr Filby was asked to discuss this with the Action Group and to report to the Parish Council with types of information board, suitable locations and costings.

ii) Leisure Facilities Working Group

Cllr Bennett reported on the leisure projects as follows:-

Skateboard Park

A site meeting was held on 20 November 2009 with all the interested parties. It had been agreed to go ahead with the installation of the new skateboard equipment and upgrading of the skateboard park. Various issues about future maintenance still need to be finalised.

Wembury Tennis Court / MUGA Project

Cllr Bennett and Cllr Hart explained the four proposals and funding availability for the refurbishment of the tennis courts and the construction of a MUGA.

It would appear that Devon CC have allocated £30,000 for the scheme and could possibly raise £60,000. A grant application has been made for one £30,000 allocation from Devon CC. South Hams DC can raise about £30,000 and the Parish Council £2000.

The selection of a suitable scheme appears to be governed by the funding available.

However, it was generally agreed that the resurfacing of the two tennis courts and a smaller stand-alone MUGA, whilst not the ideal scheme, may satisfy all user needs.

Cllr Bennett informed members that the Wembury Tennis Club was now to be reformed.

Cllr Squire had spoken to Ross Kennerley and suggested a possible further meeting to resolve all the various issues that had been discussed and sent to the Parish Council in a letter. **Cllr Bennett agreed to liaise with South Hams DC and Devon CC to call a meeting with all concerned, to finalise and confirm a suitable scheme, to determine costings and the amount of money available from the local authorities.**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bennett for all the hard work he had put into this scheme so far. He suggested to members that it might be time to form a suitable action group to help Cllr Bennett with the workload in seeing this scheme through to completion.

Cllr Bennett agreed to consider the formation of a suitable action group.

The Chairman felt that the formation of a Tennis Club was a step in the right direction and that things now seemed to be coming together for this exciting project.

09-150 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for November 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 Meeting

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to hold a Finance Sub-Committee meeting on Thursday 7 January 2010, in the Down Thomas Community Room, commencing at 6.30 pm. **The Clerk to notify members accordingly.**

09-151 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Drought informed members about a pothole in Renney Road, Down Thomas, at the bottom of the dip near the Giles access gate. Also that the road at the bottom of Manor Bourne Road, the road surface is breaking up due to water run off.

Cllr Bennett said that there was a pothole leading to Ridge Cross.

Cllr Hart agreed to speak to **Devon Highways** about the two potholes and breaking road surface.

Cllr Hart asked to be taken off the planning circulation list until further notice.

09-152 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman asked members whether they wished to meet in December as the meeting was scheduled in only three weeks time. Following a discussion, the members agreed that they did not need to meet in December. **The Clerk to inform members accordingly.**

The Clerk said that he would shortly circulate the dates of the Parish Council meetings for 2010.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.43 pm.

Roy Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council