

WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors	D Drought	
	J Bennett	
	A Cammack	
	M Doody	
	P Filby	
	J Hart	County Councillor
	R Newnham	
	D Packer	
	R Rowland	
	J Squire	District Councillor
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
Clerk	R Fairclough	

The above councillors were elected as Wembury Parish Councillors at the uncontested elections on 5 May 2011 and before the meeting was convened, signed the Declaration of Council Office.

Minutes of the Wembury Parish Council meeting held at the Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, on Monday 23 May 2011.

11-053 OPENING THE MEETING

Cllr Drought opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed everyone present to the first meeting of the new session.

Cllrs Bennett, Cammack, Filby, Newnham, Packer, Rowland and Squire were present. District Councillor B Cane, Robin Toogood and 10 members of the public were also present.

11-054 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2011/2012

Cllr Drought proposed, seconded by Cllr Squire, that Cllr Robert Rowland be Chairman for the year 2011/2012. The proposal was approved by 7 votes with 1 abstention.

Cllr Rowland then signed the Chairman's Declaration of Office and took the chair. He gave a big thank you to Cllr Drought, supported by all present, for an excellent job over his 4-year term of office as Chairman, the way he had kept everyone under control and the many improvements to the Parish he had overseen.

11-055 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Rowland proposed, seconded by Cllr Bennett, that Cllr Peter Filby be his Vice Chairman for the year 2011/2012. The proposal was approved by 7 votes with 1 abstention.

Cllr Filby then signed the Vice Chairman's Declaration of Office and took his place as Vice Chairman.

11-056 ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members handed their signed Acceptance of Council Office to the Clerk and also agreed to represent Wembury Parish Council as shown below:-

Wembury Primary School Governor	Cllr Filby
River Yealm Harbour Authority	Cllr Drought
River Yealm Estuary Management Group	Cllr Drought
Parish Cluster Group	Cllr Rowland
Wembury War Memorial Hall Committee	Cllr Cammack
Forward Planning Group	Cllr Filby
Wembury Emergency Plan	Cllr Packer
Wembury Beach Liaison Group	Cllr Packer
Down Thomas Silver Jubilee Hall Committee	Cllr Newnham
Wembury Alms Houses	Cllr Newnham
Ivybridge & District Association of Local Councils	Cllr Rowland
Conservation Matters	Cllr Squire
Leisure Facilities Group	Cllr Bennett
Church Room Project	Cllr Rowland

11-057 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs Doody and Hart and from PC R Batchelor.

11-058 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All members have to submit their Declaration of Interests to South Hams DC by 2 June 2011. There were no further declarations of interests.

11-059 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 7.38 pm.

i) May 2011 Police Report

The Chairman informed members that the Annual Police Report had already been read out by Cllr Drought at the Annual Meeting and it would be put on the Wembury Parish website.

ii) Robin Toogood

The Chairman then introduced Robin Toogood who wished to speak about the Wembury Marine Centre (WMC).

Robin Toogood thanked the Chairman for his invitation to speak to the Parish Council about the current situation at the Wembury Marine Centre.

The Wembury Marine Centre opened in 1994, has about 20,000 visitors a year and organises activities such as rock pool rambles, marine, arts and craft displays. Around 35 schools take part in many of the activities and for several of the pupils it is the first time they have been to the beach. It helps people to understand and care for the marine life overall, which underlines the importance of the work of the WMC. In addition, it provides a valuable service as a point of contact to advise and help people on the beach and is a valuable asset for Wembury Parish.

The work of the WMC is carried out by one employed warden supported by local volunteers and residents who give up their time to help. The Wembury Marine Centre runs by a partnership between Devon CC, South Hams DC, Devon Wildlife Trust,

National Trust, Wembury Voluntary Marine Conservation Area Advisory Group and AONB.

In the past, the WMC has worked hard at gaining good funding, but attracting funds in the current economic climate is increasingly difficult. Devon CC has reduced its financial support and so to save money the centre will reduce the number of days it is open.

Meanwhile, other funding sources are being examined.

The overall cost of running the WMC is about £30,000 per year. The funding this year is £4000 less and will be less again next year. The WMC is looking at charging more for school visits, an increase in funding from the National Trust and possibly funding from Plymouth City Council. Consequently, Devon Wildlife Trust have written to Wembury Parish Council asking if they would become a funding partner to help meet the ongoing challenge of keeping the WMC fully open. They would be looking for support of about £2000 per annum.

A general discussion ensued and other various suggestions for possible income were raised such as commercial sponsorship and income from car parking.

The Chairman thanked Robin for his insight into the working and funding of the Wembury Marine Centre. The letter referred to would be discussed later in the meeting. Robin Toogood left the meeting at this point for another engagement.

iii) Members of the Public

Jim Barratt asked whether the Mobile Library Service was still in operation. The Clerk reported that it was still in operation and details of the location and times it was in Wembury were on the Wembury Parish Notice Boards.

Trevor Gaught expressed concern about the infrequent cleaning of the roads and gullies. Some gullies at the bottom of Ford Road and Knighton Hill have not been cleaned for over 12 months. If they were not cleaned whilst the weather was good then it could lead to problems when the weather is wet. The Clerk explained about the infrequent visit of the lengthsman and how he grouped problems together to make a case for him to visit Wembury. **The Clerk agreed to write to Devon CC about the blocked gullies.**

Tina Barratt expressed concern about a white powder, which had been spread along footpath No 25 opposite the Londis Store in Wembury. It had affected her dog, which had to be taken to the vet. This matter has been reported to the Police, Devon CC and South Hams DC by the Parish Council, but no subsequent action appears to have been taken to remove the powder.

Cllr Squire agreed to chase up South Hams DC Environmental Officer.

Tina Barratt also complained that a wooden barrier had been removed from the bottom of the same footpath. The Clerk said that this had also been reported to the Police and Devon CC who did not seem to be too bothered about it, as there was already a steel barrier at the end of the path to prevent people going into the road. A short discussion ensued about the safety of the footpath.

It was agreed that this matter will again be raised with Devon CC.

The Chairman thanked the public for their comments and closed this open session at 8:12 pm to resume Parish Council business.

11-060 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 18 April 2011.

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

11-061 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

11-043 i) Adam King Tree Warden

A meeting has now been arranged on 25 May 2011 at the Eddystone, commencing at 7.30 pm, for people interested in taking over the management of the Longland Brake Woodland in Heybrook Bay. A suitable article has been put in the May issue of the Wembury Review and details are on the Wembury Parish Council notice boards.

11-043 ii) James Friend

Cllr Bennett said that he, James and a friend had met PCSO Sid Lawrence to discuss the problems on the Wembury Playing Fields. James will liaise with the Police and the Parish Council as necessary. James has also recently cleaned the Wembury Youth Shelter and had reported an incident with a car wheel, which had been causing a danger. James was thanked for being so public-spirited.

11-043 iii) Wembury Carnival and Mewstone Paddle Challenge

Spencer Pearson had written to the Parish Council and explained the costs of setting up the Wembury Carnival and Mewstone Paddle Challenge. He had asked for a grant of £1192 in total to cover the costs for this year's events and he said that in future the events would be self-funding. Spencer had also written to Devon CC and Cllr Hart had agreed to fund £600. He had also written to South Hams DC and Cllr Squire had agreed to £250. It was therefore suggested that Wembury Parish Council should provide the difference ie £342, to make up the total cost. A short discussion ensued. **It was agreed that Spencer should be asked for financial details of both events, showing income, expenditure and the money given to charity.**

Cllr Drought proposed, seconded by Cllr Packer, that Wembury Parish Council grant £342 to the Wembury Carnival Committee, to support the Wembury Carnival and Mewstone Paddle Challenge. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Wembury Parish Council grant £342 to the Wembury Carnival Committee, to support the Wembury Carnival and Mewstone Paddle Challenge.

11-030 Traffic Management Near Wembury School

A meeting with Devon CC, Police, WPC members and local parents was held on site on 28 April at 9.15 am to discuss the traffic dangers to schoolchildren in Wembury. Devon CC has responded to suggestions at the meeting and has made a series of proposals, which are to be carried out to improve the road safety of children going to the school.

Cllr Filby was not happy with the attitude of Mr Halliday, Devon CC, during the meeting. He was rude, most unhelpful, had already made his mind up on several issues and did not give the public the respect that they deserved. His proposal to lower the kerb was not considered useful, whilst some of the items, which Mr Halliday did not agree to, would be more relevant to road safety.

Cllr Filby suggested that the Parish Council write to Devon CC and ask them to propose a safe route to school for the children.

Cllr Bennett suggested that improvements to the footpath could be made on the back of any development at Knighton Hill.

11-032 Chalet Parks in Down Thomas

A meeting of Wembury Parish Councillors with South Hams DC Cllr Howard, Planning representatives and members of the two Chalet Management Companies was held on Tuesday 26 April to discuss the enforcement issues raised by the planning approval of 12 months holiday occupancy of individual chalets. The concern is that several owners may use the chalets as a permanent residence. Several methods of enforcement were discussed at the meeting and a formal response is awaited from South Hams DC.

11-032 i) Corn Starch Bags

Cllr Squire is currently following up whether the bags could be delivered with the refuse collection rounds.

11-032 ii) Rural Memory Cafe

Cllr Squire has provided a suitable article for the Wembury Review but there has been no response from the article. There has been a similar lack of response from other parish magazines. At the end of the meeting is on 16 May 2011, there was a feeling that there is a stigma attached to dementia and people generally don't want to know about it. Other partners in this venture favour a Carers Group rather than a Memory Cafe and a carers meeting will be arranged later in the year. The next meeting of the group is on 31 May 2011, but there is not much support for creating a Memory Cafe.

11-032 iii) WPC Notice Boards

The Clerk outlined the cheapest quote to repair and tidy up all WPC Notice Boards, in the sum of £225. A short discussion ensued. Cllr Drought proposed, seconded by Cllr Cammack, that the quote from Hammer and Mow of £225 to repair and tidy up all the Wembury Parish Council Notice Boards, is accepted. The proposal was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The quote from Hammer and Mow of £225 to repair and tidy up all the Wembury Parish Council Notice Boards, is accepted.

11-032 iv) Dead Trees Adjacent to School

Cllr Bennett said that the trees had now been cut down.

11-034 Parish Elections

The Clerk explained that following the May elections, Wembury Parish Council was short of two members, one in each ward. As this was an election year, the Parish Council is able to co-opt members up to 24 June 2011 without the formal procedure. He suggested a small group of members should form an interview panel, fix a date before 24 June to interview, and co-opt any suitable candidates. He would advertise the two vacancies on the Notice Boards and on the Wembury Parish website. A discussion ensued.

It was agreed that Cllrs Bennett, Drought, Newnham, Rowland and Squire would form the Interview Panel and a meeting was fixed for 7 pm on Monday 13 June 2011 at the Down Thomas Community Room to interview and co-opt two suitable candidates to the Parish Council.

11-039 Footpaths

The footpath No 25 opposite the Knighton Store had already been discussed.

11-049 Wembury Bus Service

Cllr Filby was not satisfied with the response from Devon County Councillor Hughes regarding the Wembury bus service. He was hoping that Cllr Hughes would be attending a Parish Council meeting to discuss his response fully and in person. A discussion ensued. **It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond to Cllr Hughes email and formally invite him to attend the July meeting.**

11-052 Street Name Signs

Cllr Squire said that a list of street name signs that required replacing was with the relevant department at South Hams DC and they will be attended to in due course.

11-062 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.

11-063 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) South Hams DC – Register of Parish Councillors Interests

All elected Parish Councillors to complete and return the forms to SHDC by 2 June 2011.

ii) Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association

The Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association have again requested a grant towards the cost of running the Ring & Ride Bus and Car service. Following a short discussion, it was agreed to increase the grant from £110 to £150.

Cllr Bennett proposed, seconded by Cllr Drought, that Wembury Parish Council grant £150 towards the cost of running the Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association Ring & Ride Bus and Car service. The proposal was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: Wembury Parish Council grant £150 towards the cost of running the Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association Ring & Ride Bus and Car service.

ii) Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC)

The Devon Association of Local Councils is seeking nominations for the DALC County Committee for 2011 to 2015. **Following a short discussion Cllr Filby put his name forward for nomination.**

iii) Devon Wildlife Trust

The Wembury Marine Centre had made a request for financial support Robin Toogood has already explained the working of the centre and the financial support that was required. A short discussion ensued.

It was agreed that this matter should be put on the agenda of the next Finance Sub-Committee meeting for a full discussion, before making any decision. A suitable date for a Finance Sub-Committee will be made at the next Parish Council meeting when more members will be present.

iv) Devon CC – Wembury Primary School Road Safety Response

This matter had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

11-064 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

None.

11-065 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Cllr Hart was away and so there was no report on this occasion.

SOUTH HAMS DC

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, congratulated both **Cllr Squire** and **Cllr Cane** on their re-election to South Hams District Council at the elections on 5 May 2011. **Cllrs Squire and Cane** both thanked the Chairman for his kind words.

Cllr Squire informed members that following the elections there had been various changes at South Hams DC. The new chairman was Rufus Gilbert and the vice chairman Rosemary Row. The Leader of the council will now be appointed for a four-year term of office and John Tucker remains the leader. The deputy leader is Michael Hicks. The officer management structure is also changing with a Chief Executive, two Corporate Directors and seven heads of Service. These jobs are shared with West Devon DC and it does mean that several top officers well known to Wembury Parish will be leaving. However, there will be a saving of more than £200,000. Grounds maintenance will be carried out 'in house' by South Hams DC for the next two years.

Plymouth City Council have applied for a £5 m grant to construct a cycle route all around the city in conjunction with Sustrans and aim to use the old Laira railway bridge. The Localism Bill is now being considered and means different things to different people.

Cllr Cane congratulated **Cllrs Rowland and Filby** on their new appointments and gave thanks to **Cllr Drought** for all his hard work over the last four years. He said that following the recent elections a quarter of the 40 strong South Hams District Council were new members. The political make up of South Hams DC was 30 conservatives, 5 lib-dems and 5 others. Top management and the provision of services will be shared with West Devon.

11-066 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) PARISH PLAN ACTION GROUP

a) Information Board

Cllr Filby confirmed that the Information Board is progressing.

b) Wembury Bus User Group (WEMBUG)

Cllr Filby said that **Jeffrey Kenyon** is a good Chairman of WEMBUG. He is currently analysing the bus user survey and will complete it upon his return from holiday. **Cllr Filby** was hoping that Devon County Councillor **Hughes** would have attended the Parish Council meeting so that everything concerning the 48 bus service could have be

thrashed out at the next WPC meeting, as there are lots of outstanding matters which need to be addressed. However, he went through a suggested reply to Cllr Hughes, which he will circulate for comments.

Cllr Packer asked whether the Parish Council could influence the Devon CC tender in any way. A short discussion followed.

The Clerk was asked to respond to Cllr Hughes accordingly.

ii) WEMBURY SCHOOL REPORT

Cllr Filby said that there were lots of personnel matters currently being addressed at the school. The headteacher supports the road safety issues previously discussed. There will be an Arts & Craft week at the school from 30 June and all are welcome to attend to help with the children.

iii) LEISURE FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

a) Down Thomas Play Area

Cllr Bennett reported that the Silver Jubilee Hall Sub Committee, guided by Camilla Ayres, is still awaiting return of tenders for the play equipment.

b) Wembury Play Area

MUGA

Cllr Bennett said that the installer, Courtstall Ltd have replaced some of the rebound panels with heavier duty versions as per the original design. They have also repaired a 3-inch diameter hole in the tarmac surface.

Youth Shelter

Cllr Bennett said that South Hams DC have repaired the split to the wall seam. James Friend, who monitors conditions on the playing field, took it upon himself to clean and wash the area around the shelter. A letter of thanks has been sent to him.

Wooden Seat

The wooden seat which was damaged recently will be replaced by South Hams DC with one recently removed from another park which is no longer required.

Children's Play Park

The two self-closing mechanisms are being replaced by South Hams DC so both gates close properly.

iii) DOWN THOMAS POST OFFICE & COMMUNITY ROOM

The Clerk confirmed that the lease for the Down Thomas Post Office and Community Room building is in its final stage of agreement.

Western Power Distribution had now connection a separate electricity supply to the building. It only remains for an electricity supplier to make the final connection.

Once the lease has been signed and the electricity supply connected, then the Post Office will start their two day per week service.

If all goes well, the Post Office and Community Room will be operational during June.

The members suggested that the re-opening of the Post Office and Community Room should be well advertised. **The Clerk said that he would put up suitable notices, a paragraph in the Wembury Review and on the website.**

vi) RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Cllr Drought said that the new Harbour Master has been working alongside the current Harbour Master for the last month and starts on his own in June.

Cllr Drought said that For many months now the river Yealm has been polluted by bin bags of rubbish being dumped into it or placed in such a manner, that the rising tide carries them downstream. It would appear that an individual living rough in the woodland between Cofflete Creek and Hollacombe (Brake) might be responsible. By the time the bags find their way into the vicinity of the harbour they are usually found burst and in a disgusting state. The harbour master and his assistants do what they can, but they should not have this additional problem.

The police and the National Trust have been notified.

11-067 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for May 2011

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

ii) Annual Return for Year Ending 31 March 2011

The Clerk explained that the Wembury Parish Council accounts to 31 March 2011 have been to the internal auditor who has provided a clean report with no action necessary. He then went through the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2011.

Cllr Drought proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowland, that the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2011 is approved and signed by the Chairman. The proposal was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2011 is approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman signed the Annual Return as an accurate record of the Parish Council finances to the 31 March 2011. **The Clerk will now send the Annual Report to the external auditor.**

11-068 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Squire said that whilst the recent Mewstone Paddle was very successful it had caused huge traffic problems in Wembury. If the event is going to be repeated next year then he requested that there is a Police presence to control the traffic.

Cllr Bennett said that the Wembury Twinning Association had recently held a very successful 30 Anniversary celebration with the French.

Cllr Cammack said that stones from various walls around the Wembury playing field have been stolen and the Police have been informed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:33 pm.

Roy Fairclough
Clerk