

WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors	D Drought	Chairman
	J Bennett	
	A Cammack	
	M Doody	
	P Filby	
	M Gage	
	J Hart	County Councillor
	R Newnham	
	D Packer	
	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 31 January 2011.

11-001 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year 2011.

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

PC R Batchelor, L Sherriff National Trust Ranger, District Councillor B Cane and nine members of the public were also present.

11-002 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

11-003 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

11-004 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 7.31 pm.

i) January 2011 Police Report

PC Rob Batchelor reported crimes in the Wembury Parish for January 2011, as follows:-

Jl/11/23: Between 6th January 2011 and the 8th January 2011. A motor vehicle was stolen from the Wembury area, the registration number is K487 NAF. Enquires are continuing.

Jl/11/32: Relates to a non-crime domestic incident. Force policy dictates non-disclosure of information.

Jl/11/44: On 24th January 2011, a motor vehicle was broken into in the Wembury area where £280 worth of property was stolen. Enquires are on-going.

COMMUNITY:

The Police are currently working with other agencies regarding two vulnerable adults in the area who are in need of support.

The Police are also monitoring the fields around Cliff Road as suspicious people have been spotted near to horses in the field. The people are not dressed for either walking or horse riding. Owners of the horses are concerned that they may be trying to steal the horses. Rob asked that if anyone is walking in the area and sees anyone who looks suspicious to please contact the police on 08452777444, or 999 if an emergency. Please try to remember or write down any registration numbers of vehicles or descriptions of the persons.

PC Rob Batchelor also had enrolments forms for Community Messaging with him and circulated these. Community Messaging is where your phone number is registered with the police so they can contact you regarding any crimes in the area, or when they need your help. Normally the messages are recorded. Please contact PC Batchelor if you wish to receive an enrolment form on 08456568042 or visit the Devon and Cornwall Police website where you can register online. Several of the councillors said that they were already registered, but had not received information recently.

PC Batchelor agreed to check on the current registrations.

Cllr Gage highlighted national news about the theft of heating oil from householder's tanks and asked whether there was a problem in Wembury. PC Batchelor said that he had received no such reports in Wembury.

Cllr Filby passed on the thanks from the head teacher of the Wembury School for all the help the police had given the school recently.

The Clerk reported on a recent meeting between senior Parish Councillors and the Police to improve communication between them. It was a successful meeting with problems being resolved and everyone looked forward to improved communication.

PC Batchelor said that Police Sgt Anya Teakle would probably be attending the next Wembury Parish Council meeting and would provide feedback on the recent survey carried out in Wembury by the Police.

The Chairman thanked PC Batchelor for his report. PC Batchelor then retired from the meeting.

ii) Lorna Sheriff, National Trust Ranger

Lorna Sheriff gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation. She started with the history of the National Trust, then outlined personnel changes within the National Trust locally and the recent changes in National Trust policy, which is now promoting the countryside as well as historic buildings. She also explained the types of courses and events that the National Trust would be arranging locally and the work done with schools. Lorna then explained the recent drive for National Trust Volunteers and said there would be many more volunteers in the future, who would be helping to raise the profile of the National Trust. The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on the Wembury Parish and National Trust websites.

Cllr Cane referred to the proposed extensive sale of woodland by the Woodland Trust and asked whether the National Trust would be purchasing any woodland.

Lorna said that the National Trust was looking into this matter.

Cllr Doody said that Wembury Point is a lovely place to walk, but for lots of plastic bags containing dog poo by the side of the path. She suggested a suitable notice for dog owners to take their dog poo home. **Lorna was already looking into this matter.** **The Clerk** said that he had recently attended a National Trust Photographic day and it had been a resounding success. **The Chairman** thanked Lorna for a super presentation and for answering the councillor's questions.

iii) Members of the Public

Jeffrey Kenyon introduced himself as the new Chairman of the Wembury Bus User Group and said that he had recently taken over from Cedric Tarsky. He was also on the First Devon & Cornwall Bus Users Group and was in contact with Devon County Council. His background is in transport and he currently works for the Plymouth City Transport Division.

Cllr Filby said that Geoffrey would be a valuable asset to the Wembury Bus User Group and had already been in correspondence with Devon CC.

He then asked Cllr Hart about the future of the bus service to Wembury.

Cllr Hart said that the Sunday service was under threat and the Parish Councillors had received those details. Any bus subsidy over £1.50 was being reviewed and he did not think that there was a case to save the Sunday service, but it was up to the residents and the Wembury Bus User Group to fight their case. This matter would be decided by Devon CC at their budget meeting on 17 February 2011.

Cllr Bennett asked if Devon CC were stopping the over 60 year old concessionary bus fares. Cllr Hart said that it is a Government decision and everyone should lobby their MP's on this issue, as Devon CC has already lost 40% of the Government subsidy.

Andy Cogland said that he was the architect concerned with La Orotava and wanted to explain the current planning application 58/2951/10/F concerning this property. The building is outside the development boundary, but was originally built before the planning boundaries were established. The proposed alterations make better use of space, the building will be more thermally efficient, there will be an increase in the planted area and the roof will also be planted. The finished building will be more complimentary to the surroundings and will be better kept as a home. He then circulated before and proposed after photographs.

The Clerk said that this planning application would be considered later in the meeting.

Mark Bolton said that he was the owner of Trescan and wished to explain why he had submitted a retrospective planning application 58/2914/10/F. The property was flooded, the roof partially collapsed, and so he started replacing the roof. However, he was told that he required planning permission and stopped work and closed the site, hence the reason for the retrospective planning application. If approved, he will finish the work and the property will be the home for him and his family.

The Clerk said that this planning application would be considered later in the meeting.

Zillah Judd queried why corn starch bags for food recycling, purchased from South Hams DC at Totnes, could not have a local outlet, to save on postage costs or travelling costs to Totnes. Kingsbridge and Dartmouth have local outlets and so can purchase the bags cheaper than people in Wembury can.

Cllr Squire agreed to look into a suitable local outlet to purchase these bags.

Spencer Pearson said that last year the Parish Council had provided a grant towards the Wembury Carnival and he was seeking a similar grant again this year. The carnival would be separate from the Wembury School PTA this year and he would shortly be forming a Wembury Carnival Committee. The carnival would be on 9 July 2011 and he was seeking a grant of £300 again, which would go toward the carnival signing and road closure licence.

Spencer was asked to write to the Clerk with his request, copy to Cllr Hart, for consideration at the next meeting.

Spencer also informed members that he would be arranging the Mewstone Paddle Challenge on 14 May 2011.

The Chairman thanked the public for their comments and closed this open session at 8.23 pm to resume Parish Council business.

11-005 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 20 DECEMBER 2010.

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

11-006 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

10-148 i) Longlands Brake Woods, Heybrook Bay

Adam King is currently setting up a suitable meeting with interested parties.

10-150 i) Brownhill Lane, Wembury

Peter Guy has put the work in hand.

10-150 ii) Rural Memory Cafe

A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 9 February 2011 at the Yealmpton Cafe commencing at 3.30 pm.

Cllr Squire agreed to attend on behalf of Wembury Parish Council.

10-150 iii) Devon CC – Winter Service on Devon’s Highways

Following many emails and a meeting on site with the Clerk, Devon CC has agreed to provide five additional grit bins throughout the Wembury Parish.

However, Devon CC will not grit Southland Park Road despite much discussion, as it is against their current gritting policy.

Cllr Filby said that the Parish Council should keep the pressure on Devon CC to change their gritting policy.

Cllr Hart may have a self help scheme, which is to be discussed later in the meeting.

10-150 iv) Gate Across Footpath

Peter Guy is aware of the problem of a gate across a footpath, adjacent to a collapsed wall, leading to Brownhill Lane.

Cllr Cammack agreed to chase the matter further.

10-150 v) Mussel Inn Community Room & Post Office

The Clerk is in continual email correspondence with both the Post Office and Brewery regarding the future of the Community Room, Post Office and Mussel Inn.

The Clerk will continue the dialogue and keep members informed of progress.

10-152 Gabber Residents, Down Thomas

Cllr Hart said that the 20 mph sign would be moved by Devon CC, as requested by the residents.

10-155 Potholes and Flooding

The Clerk asked members to let him have details of potholes and blocked drains throughout the Parish, so that he could send a comprehensive list to Devon CC for remedial action.

11-007 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.

The Clerk had circulated a response from the South Hams DC Planners regarding planning applications on Cedar Park and Bovisand Park, Down Thomas, to extend the holiday period for chalet occupancy. A discussion ensued and the problem appears to be with the lack of planning enforcement on imposed conditions and the distinction between 12 months holiday and residential use. It is up to members to report any breaches of the planning conditions to South Hams DC. **The Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.** **Cllr Hart** declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion.

11-008 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) Devon & Cornwall Police Authority Conference

The Police Authority is holding a conference on 16th February 2011 at Exeter. The Chairman is now available and will attend on behalf of Wembury Parish Council.

ii) South Hams DC – Quiz Night on 8 February for Devon Air Ambulance

The Clerk asked if the Parish Council wished to enter a team. There was not enough support to make up a team.

Cllr Filby agreed to raise this with the local quiz teams.

iii) South Hams DC – A Councillor..... Who Me?

The Chairman reminded everyone about the recent literature circulated by South Hams DC to encourage people to stand as a Parish Councillor at the next elections in May 2011.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

11-009 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

None.

11-010 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Cllr Hart said that Devon CC had now found the money to carry out a CCTV survey of

the damaged drain at the bottom of Manor Bourne Road, Down Thomas. Devon CC has over £54 m less money to spend this year and £30 m next year and so everyone is unhappy with Devon CC. He has made budget cuts over all areas and everyone in Devon will be poorer over the next two years. As a country, we are spending more than our earnings and we will only break even over the next four years. Devon CC has only been given target savings for two years as the government is hoping the economy will have improved by then. It is going to be a rough two years. However, the Council Tax will remain unchanged and news magazines and budget information will be combined over all Devon authorities to save money. Schools will also be slightly better off.

The five new grit bins for Wembury are part of 14 in total being provided by Devon CC at a cost of £4200 from Cllr Hart's budget. He suggested a form of community watch, to ensure that the grit is being properly used in future.

The Devon CC gritting policy is to grit 20% of the roads, which is used by 80% of the population. However, all the small villages within Devon are complaining about the lack of gritting.

Cllr Hart suggested that a self help solution might be to purchase a towable gritter and this is shortly to be tested by Devon Highways. It could be towed behind a 4x4 vehicle and he was willing to use his Councillor budget to purchase one for the Brixton and Wembury Parishes for around £1400. It would mean it has to be stored, with a ton of grit, which could also be used to refill the grit bins, and someone would have to take responsibility for its maintenance and operation. Devon CC is already willing to train snow wardens.

Cllr Rowland said that it would be cheaper to grit Southland Park Road.

Cllr Hart agreed and said that a change in one parish is not a problem, but it is when 400 parishes want similar changes.

Cllr Squire thought that Devon CC has an obligation to grit important bus routes, such as Southland Park Road.

Cllr Hart replied that Devon CC would not budge in its policy of only gritting bus routes with less than a 15 minutes bus service.

Councillors thought that the towable gritter was a good idea and asked Cllr Hart to pursue this matter further.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire said that South Hams DC had received the Local Development Framework report from the Inspector and once checked would be returned to the Inspector. It would then be reported to SHDC members in February / March and subsequently published.

The District Council was currently going through a review of the staff and will be substantially reducing the number of Directors and Heads of Service.

The lead on the roof of Follaton House is continually being stolen and the repair costs all add to the Council's expenditure.

Planning fee increases are being considered and will cover retrospective planning applications, which hopefully will be much higher, to deter them in future.

Cllr Squire was concerned about the erosion of the AONB and the casual way that the planners were approaching the AONB. He hoped that South Hams DC would change their attitude and take the AONB more seriously.

Cllr Cane said that South Hams DC are not proposing to increase the Council Tax this year and was in a good position to accommodate the government cuts which will be

£1.3 m over the next two years. This will be achieved by in-house savings, consulting on new homes grants, increasing planning application fees and other savings measures. South Hams DC is a prudent council and the budget will be approved at full council in February.

Cllr Cane asked members to try to avoid damage to the wheelie bin lids, as this could save about £1000 per month on replacement lids.

The Clerk was asked to put this message in the Wembury Review.

11-011 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) PARISH PLAN ACTION GROUP

a) Information Board

Cllr Filby had circulated a quote for the notice board costs, which was £215 for a board and £140 for erection. He was currently arranging for the artwork, which would be based on the map in the Discovering Wembury book.

Cllr Scoble asked if there was to be a similar Information Board in the Down Thomas area.

Cllr Hart asked for details of the costs for two Information Boards and he would consider suitable funding.

Cllr Filby was asked to forward details of the costs of two boards to Cllr Hart for consideration for funding and to determine a suitable location for each.

ii) WEMBURY SCHOOL REPORT

Cllr Filby has recently circulated the January 2011 report from the headteacher.

There were so many good things going on at the school and he was pleased to see that the Police are also helping the school.

He was concerned about the after school clubs being closed and the school has set up an interim provision until numbers warrant something more substantial put in place.

The school Summer Fayre is on 9 July 2011 and he suggested that the Parish Council should take a stand to promote the Parish Council work.

Cllr Rowland proposed, seconded by Cllr Squire, that Wembury Parish Council book a stand, as in previous years, at both the Wembury School Fayre and the Down Thomas Festival, at a total cost of £30. The proposal was approved by 11 votes for with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: Wembury Parish Council book a stand, as in previous years, at both the Wembury School Fayre and the Down Thomas Festival, at a total cost of £30.

iii) LEISURE FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

a) Down Thomas Play Area

Cllr Bennett reported that the Silver Jubilee Hall Sub Committee, who is dealing with the refurbishment of the Down Thomas Play Area, is now progressing to stage 2 of their £43,000 grant application to Community Spaces.

b) Wembury Play Area

Cllr Bennett said that the large gate to the MUGA is now locked, to prevent BMX bikers using the MUGA and muddying the surface.

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

The three-swing set in the children's play area is still being repaired by a company in Totnes.

iv) IVYBRIDGE & LOCAL AREA PARISH CLUSTER GROUP

Cllr Bennett had attended the Parish Cluster Group meeting on 20 January 2011 at the Watermark, Ivybridge and had circulated a written report on the meeting.

The meeting had been wide ranging and had members had discussed, the South Hams DC budget forecast, affordable housing, the Localism Bill, low broadband speeds, winter gritting and the Grounds Maintenance review. There were also two financial presentations on behalf of South Hams DC and Devon CC.

v) CHURCH ROOM, WEMBURY

Cllr Rowland said that there was a meeting on 3 February 2011 to discuss the current situation.

vi) BUDGET MEETING FOR PARISH COUNCILS

Cllr Drought had attended the Budget Meeting for Parish Councils on 13 January 2011 at Follaton House, Totnes and had circulated a written report on the meeting.

There had been financial presentations from Devon CC, the Devon & Cornwall Police and the Fire Authority.

vii) RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Cllr Drought said that they had held the first meeting of the year that mainly concentrated on internal matters and activities for the year ahead. Minutes of the meeting would be circulated in due course.

11-012 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for January 2011

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

ii) Repair to WPC Notice Board

The Clerk reported that the lowest quote to repair the damaged notice board at Manor Road, Down Thomas was from Mr G Staddiscombe in the sum of £150.

Cllr Drought proposed, seconded by Cllr Doody, that repairs are carried out to the WPC Notice Board in Manor Bourne Road, Down Thomas, up to the value of £150 by Mr G Staddiscombe. The proposal was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: Repairs are carried out to the WPC Notice Board in Manor Bourne Road, Down Thomas up to the value of £150, by Mr G Staddiscombe.

iii) Shared Use of a Towable Gritter

Cllr Filby proposed, seconded by Cllr Packer, that Wembury Parish Council agrees in principle to the shared use and maintenance of a towable gritter, with Brixton Parish Council. The proposal was approved by 11 votes for with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: Wembury Parish Council agrees in principle to the shared use and maintenance of a towable gritter, with Brixton Parish Council.

iv) South Hams Grant

Cllr Cane said that he would like to grant £250 towards the Church Room project and £250 towards the Down Thomas Play Area from his District Council Member's Budget. **Cllr Rowland** proposed, seconded by Cllr Drought, that a grant of £500 from Cllr Cane, South Hams DC is accepted with thanks and allocated, £250 towards the Church Room project and £250 towards the Down Thomas Play Area. The proposal was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: A grant of £500 from Cllr Cane, South Hams DC, is accepted with thanks and allocated, £250 towards the Church Room project and £250 towards the Down Thomas Play Area.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Wembury Parish Council, thanked Cllr Cane for his generosity.

11-013 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Scoble said that the WPC Notice Board in Heybrook Bay required repair.

Cllr Squire said that solar panels will be erected at the Energy Park though a £1m government grant. However, it would not create any permanent employment.

Cllr Squire has £600 in his District Council Member's Budget and asked members to let him know of any worthy projects.

Cllr Gage asked about the direction signs to the Wembury Surgery as requested by Dr Gillespie. Cllr Hart said that they had been turned down by both, MP's and Devon CC.

Cllr Bennett said that several Street Name Plates have not yet been replaced by South Hams DC. **Cllr Squire asked Cllr Bennett to let him have a list of the signs to be replaced.**

Cllr Cammack said that the WPC Notice Board opposite the Londis Store in Wembury, also required repair.

The Chairman said that he would not be available for the next two meetings and asked Cllr Rowland to chair these meetings in his absence.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.38 pm.

Roy Fairclough
Clerk