

WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors	D Drought J Bennett A Cammack M Doody P Filby M Gage J Hart R Newnham R Rowland L Scoble J Squire R Fairclough	Chairman County Councillor Vice Chairman District Councillor
Clerk		

Minutes of the Wembury Parish Council meeting held at the War Memorial Hall, Wembury, on Monday 20 December 2010.

10-144 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought opened the meeting at 7.32 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting on such a cold evening.

Cllrs Bennett, Cammack, Filby, Gage, Newnham, Rowland, and Squire were present. Two members of the public and PC Rob Batchelor were present.

10-145 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Doody, Hart and Scoble.

10-146 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

10-147 NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR FOR THE WEMBURY WARD

An election for the vacant position of Parish Councillor in the Wembury Ward had not been requested. The vacancy was subsequently advertised and the Interview Panel had interviewed a prospective applicant. The Interview Panel recommended that Doug Packer was a suitable candidate to become a Wembury Parish Councillor. The recommendation was discussed and Cllr Drought proposed, seconded by Cllr Squire, that Doug Packer be co-opted as a member of the Wembury Parish Council for the Wembury Ward, until the next Parish Council elections. The proposal was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: That Doug Packer be co-opted as a member of Wembury Parish Council for the Wembury Ward, until the next Parish Council elections.

Doug Packer was called from outside the room and invited to sign the form of declaration of acceptance of office and undertaking to observe the authority's code of conduct. He was then welcomed into the Parish Council and took his place at the Council table. The Clerk gave Cllr Packer a pack of information for new councillors.

10-148 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 7.40 pm.

i) December 2010 Police Report

PC Rob Batchelor reported that there are no reported crimes for Wembury this month. He explained the larger number of crimes last month was committed by a gang who had targeted the Wembury area. Since then the Police had maintained a higher profile that had encouraged the gang to move on. The gang's activities are now a Devon wide matter.

COMMUNITY

Police had stepped up patrols in the area by Neighbourhood Police Teams and response officers due to the rare and unusual levels of reported crime in November.

Police have also been monitoring speed after reports from the public in Down Thomas and surrounding Villages.

Police are looking into utilising the local library van to hold a drop in surgery for the public to speak with us over any issues they have. We will advertise this when a date is arranged.

The Chairman explained that last month Bob Harvey had tried to report an incident at the Police Station at The Broadway, but it was closed. He had reported the closure and the incident, but had not received a response from the Police. **PC Rob Batchelor** undertook to look into the situation.

Cllr Gage reported a car break in incident at the Wembury Car Park, but said that as the car was stolen from Plymouth it doesn't appear to have been reported as a Wembury crime. **PC Batchelor** asked for details of the incident and **Cllr Gage** undertook to provide the information.

PC Rob Batchelor wished everyone a merry Christmas before he left the meeting. **The Chairman** thanked **PC Batchelor** for his attendance at the meeting, which was much appreciated by members.

ii) Longlands Brake Woods, Heybrook Bay

Unfortunately, **Adam King** was not able to make the meeting and so the Clerk reported on this matter.

A meeting had been held with the Woodland Trust about the future management of the Longlands Brake Wood in Heybrook Bay and a note of the meeting has been circulated to members. Several local people have expressed an interest and it was suggested that they form a local resident's group, with support from the Parish Council, and discuss with the Woodland Trust what is required to manage the woods.

Adam King is requested to set up a suitable meeting.

Adam had also secured funding from the Woodland Trust to form a Community Orchard adjacent to Wembury School and to plant the edges of the Wembury playing field.

However, he would need assistance from the school, scouts and the public to plant the trees. **It was suggested that Adam King should agree a date and then the event could be suitably advertised.**

Adam had also spoken to the sub committee dealing with the playground scheme at Down Thomas and he would assist with suitable planting for the scheme.

The members were most impressed with the work carried out by Adam in encouraging people to be more aware of tree planting in the area.

iii) Members of the Public

James Friend said that he was pleased that the draft minutes were now on the Wembury Parish website.

James also said that he had recently gritted a footpath using a grit bin provided by Devon CC. However, he was concerned that people had been taking the grit from the bins to grit their own drives and not using it on the public highway. A general discussion ensued and it appeared that all the grit bins in the Wembury Parish were now empty and that stealing grit from the bins for private use was a real problem. It was suggested that a suitable notice should be put on the bin lids. **The Clerk agreed to inform Devon CC accordingly and to request the bins be refilled with grit.**

Cllr Bennett thanked James Friend for his public spirit in gritting the footpaths for the local community.

The Chairman thanked the public for their comments and closed this open session at 7.59 pm to resume Parish Council business.

10-149 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2010.

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

Cllr Filby wanted members to be aware that Wembury Parish precept was one of the lowest in Devon per head of population.

10-150 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

10-134 iii) i) Weeds in Down Thomas

The Clerk had raised the matter of weeds in the gutter through Down Thomas with Steve Mason the South Hams DC Cleansing manager.

10-134 iii) ii) Village Decision Making Facility

The Clerk was not able to find specific information about a Village Decision Making Facility. In a parish such as Wembury, the Parish Council are the decision-making facility. Alternatively, the function of the Parish Plan is to encourage the local community to set up ad hoc groups to develop specific ideas to fruition, with the support of the Parish Council.

10-136 i) Brownhill Lane, Wembury

No action has been carried out at Brownhill Lane.

The Clerk was asked to write to Peter Guy at Devon CC.

10-136 ii) Rural Memory Cafe

The Clerk is still awaiting a suitable date for the first meeting.

10-136 iii) Devon CC – Winter Service on Devon’s Highways

Devon CC has responded to various emails, which have been circulated to members, but it appears that there will be no extra gritting of highways in Wembury.

Everyone expressed disappointment at Devon CC’s intransigence and questioned why Devon CC wished to consult the Parish Council on gritting, if they were not going to change anything.

Councillors reported that the gritting lorry gritted to the end of Mewstone Ave, but instead of going to Down Thomas via Pump Hill, it turned round and returned via

Mewstone Ave. This occurred on both 19th and 20th of December.

The Clerk to raise this matter with Devon CC again and to ask for Southland Park Road to be gritted on any such return journey.

Cllr Squire had spoken to a Steve King at Devon CC about additional gritting in Wembury and had received a very abrupt response from him, verging on being rude.

Cllr Filby thought that support from the bus company might help the Wembury case, as a bus was stuck in Wembury for several hours recently, which must have caused problems with the bus company scheduling.

10-143 i) Gate Across Footpath

The problem of a gate across a footpath, adjacent to a collapsed wall, leading to Brownhill Lane has still not been resolved.

The Clerk was asked to write to Peter Guy again.

10-143 ii) 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 pub. At present, the Mussel Inn pub is being renovated and hopefully it will re-open with a new tenant in the New Year. Consequently, access to the Community Room and Post Office is not available.

The Post Office is looking to provide a mobile Post Office service in future.

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

10-151 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.

There was a general discussion about planning application 58/2442/10/F, 21 Cedar Park, Bovisand, for an extension to an existing chalet. The Parish Council had voted against this extension, as it will enable others to do the same and encourage the owners to make the park their permanent home. Even though South Hams DC put conditions on the planning application to prevent this, it is already happening, because there is no vigorous enforcement of the planning conditions.

The Clerk was asked to express the concern of Wembury Parish Council to South Hams DC regarding this planning application decision.

10-152 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) Devon & Cornwall Police Authority Conference

The Police Authority are holding a conference on 16th February 2011 at Exeter and the Chairman asked for a volunteer to attend on behalf of Wembury Parish Council, as he was not sure he would be available. **There were no volunteers and the Chairman asked for this matter to be raised again at the next meeting.**

ii) South Hams DC – Development Management Service 2010 Survey

South Hams DC Development Management Services have circulated a survey about their quality of service. **The Chairman and Clerk would respond accordingly.**

iii) Gabber Residents, Down Thomas

The Gabber residents in Down Thomas have circulated a copy of a petition to DCC about creating a 20 mph speed limit for through Gabber. Following a short discussion the Parish Council are supportive of such a 20 mph speed limit. **The Clerk was asked to write to Devon CC in support of the Gabber resident's request for a 20 mph speed limit.**

FOR INFORMATION.

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

10-153 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

None.

10-154 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Cllr Hart – no report on this occasion.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire said that South Hams now has more information about the Spending Review cuts. The government grant for next year will be £4.167m a cut of 14.5% and the following year it will be £3.653M a further cut of 12.5%. Consequently, there is real pressure on getting next year's budget in order, although he thought that South Hams DC should be ok next year. South Hams DC is going to freeze their Council Tax next year and the government will give them an additional £128,000 for the next four years. Members' allowances are also going to be frozen for next year. South Hams DC is hoping to provide 750 affordable houses over the next five years.

Cllr Cane – no report on this occasion

10-155 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) PARISH PLAN ACTION GROUP

a) Parish Plan

Cllr Filby said to let the plan stand for the next couple of years to see what the community can achieve.

b) Information Board

Cllr Filby will continue to pursue the notice board costs.

c) Wembury 48 Bus Service

Cllr Filby reported on the response from Devon CC regarding his many queries about the 48 bus service to Wembury. He felt that the response took some time to receive and such a delay is not helpful in maintaining a good responsive dialogue with Devon CC. He is circulating an email address to which problems with the bus service should be reported. Alternatively, members of the public can report bus problems to any Parish

Councillor, for onward transmission to Devon CC. Reporting problems in this way will help to collate useful statistics regarding the bus service.

There will be no double decker buses used on this route, only single decker buses.

Cllr Filby is still concerned about the usage figures for the Sunday bus service and will challenge them further with Devon CC. He is still exploring whether the subsidy for the Sunday service would not be better spent on an evening service instead of the Sunday service.

ii) LEISURE FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

a) Down Thomas Play Area

Cllr Bennett reported that the Silver Jubilee Hall Sub Committee who were dealing with the refurbishment of the Down Thomas Play Area have now received an acknowledgement of their £43,000 grant application to Community Spaces. They are expecting a response by the end of January 2011.

b) Wembury Play Area

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

Cllr Bennett has agreed with South Hams DC to lock the large gate to the MUGA to prevent BMX bikers using the MUGA and muddying the surface.

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

iii) CHURCH ROOM, WEMBURY

Cllr Rowland said that there was nothing further to report at present.

iv) EMERGENCY PLANNING

Cllr Gage said that he had now received confirmation from Inspector Chivers that a paper copy of the Wembury Emergency Plan has been put in the Ivybridge and Plymouth Police Control Rooms.

Cllr Gage reported that the new grit bin to go opposite the bottom end of Southland Park Rd was not yet in place. He understood it had been approved by Cllr Hart.

To prevent possible localised flooding Ford Road could do with a good clean and the drains cleared out. **The Clerk agreed to inform the lengthsman and South Hams DC cleansing department accordingly.**

v) FUTURE STREET CLEANING BY SOUTH HAMS DC

The Clerk reported on a meeting he attended with Steve Mason, Cleansing Manager, South Hams DC to see how the street cleaning can be improved within the Wembury Parish and to improve communication with the Parish Council. Notes of the meeting have been circulated to members. The manual street sweeping is to be reviewed and there will teams of two operatives in future, to maintain continuity of sweeping. However, currently there is only 222 hours per year allocated to Wembury Parish, which equates to about 2 hours per week. Mechanical sweeping, litter bins, litter removal, dog bins and toilets were also discussed.

vi) COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON 8 DECEMBER 2010

Cllr Drought reported on the Community Workshop called by Devon CC and South Hams DC to consider which service areas should have financial cuts and what services could be improved. The main topic of discussion on Cllr Drought's table was the

improvement of broadband to the rural areas, to improve working from home and rural small businesses. There are about 100 small businesses in Wembury.

The leaders of both Devon CC and South Hams DC explained how the two authorities were working more closely together to save on expenditure.

Cllr Squire was also on the same table and endorsed his support for improved rural broadband. South Hams DC and West Devon DC have formed a joint working party to investigate rural broadband and they will be working closely with Devon CC. However, it still comes down to costs of broadband provision.

The Clerk also attended the meeting and was on another table, where the difference between rural and urban areas was highlighted. It was agreed that a one service for all provision does not necessarily work. Other topics ranged from improved social welfare in rural areas, to more dialogue with villages regarding planning matters, to more detailed information about each parish.

There is to be a formal feedback from the meeting in due course.

vii) RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Cllr Drought reported that the Harbour Master's job had now been filled and Mr Robert Dearn had been appointed. They had whittled the numbers down to two candidates after interviewing the 10 most suitable candidates for the job.

10-156 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for December 2010

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

10-157 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Gage had emailed councillors and agreed to collate survey information about broadband reception within the Wembury Parish.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm and invited members to have a mince pie and a glass of wine with him.

Roy Fairclough
Clerk