

# WEMBURY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

**Minutes of the Wembury Parish Annual Meeting held at Down Thomas Jubilee Hall on Monday 19 May 2008 at 7.00 pm.**

**Present:**

**Chairman**  
**Clerk**

Cllr D Drought  
Mr R Fairclough

Chairman of Wembury Parish Council  
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council

Eight electors were present.

## **08-01 OPENING THE MEETING**

The Chairman, Cllr Drought, opened the meeting at 7.05 pm and welcomed those present to the annual meeting of the Wembury Parish.

## **08-02 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2007**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21 May 2007 which had been read and signed at the Wembury Parish Council meeting on 25 June 2007, were approved.

## **08-03 MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman reported that in recognising the achievements of the late Peter Williams, Cllr Filby was currently leading a group that was reviewing the Parish Leisure Appraisal and producing a Parish Plan for the future.

## **08-04 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman then read his Annual Report and commented on activities within the Wembury Parish throughout the year.

Cedric Tarsky had reluctantly resigned from the Parish Council last month due to hearing problems and the Chairman thanked him for his tireless service to the community over many years.

The full text of the report is shown at ANNEX A to these minutes and will be published in the Wembury Review and on the Parish Council website at [www.wemburyparishcouncil.info](http://www.wemburyparishcouncil.info).

## **08-05 QUESTIONS & COMMENTS**

Robert Rowland was not aware of the update to the Discovering Wembury booklet mentioned in the Chairman's report. The Clerk advised those present that he was currently preparing the updated insert for the booklet and that it would be available for distribution shortly.

Mary Doody gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman for all his hard work over the last year, which was endorsed by all those present.

## **08-06 CLOSING THE MEETING**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those attending and closed the meeting at 7.14 pm.

Roy Fairclough  
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council

## **ANNEX A to Minutes of Wembury Parish Annual Meeting - 19 May 2008**

### **Wembury Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2007-8**

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The past year has been a very productive period for Wembury Parish Council (WPC) and happily, a year of Council stability. The only change to our council line up occurred only last month, when Councillor Cedric Tarsky resigned because of his hearing problems. I wish to thank Cedric for his enthusiastic input to Parish Council business and his willingness to take on difficult issues. His resignation now leaves a vacancy in the Wembury ward and anyone interested in taking his places should contact the Clerk.

The business of the Council proceeded throughout the year as usual, with four statutory meetings and other meetings on a monthly basis; the August meeting being limited to planning matters. Councillors have continued to represent the Parish on local and area committees and at various organisations' meetings on a wide variety of topics.

#### **Plans and Planning Matters.**

This has been a fairly quiet year as regards planning applications, our policy of visiting the neighbours of a proposed development to assess their views, remains the same. You may recall the Parish Council's concern about the undemocratic Planning Appeal system that is currently practiced. At the Parish Council's invitation, Gary Streeter MP attended last August's planning meeting. He listened to our points of view and toured a couple of sites to see for himself the results of the poor appeal system. He not only agreed with our assessment, but also declared it a national problem and he will do what he can to have the system changed. He also agreed to write to SHDC planning in an effort to encourage their enforcement programme.

#### **Policing**

During the year, we had yet another change of Neighbourhood Beat Manager; PC John Nolan has now been appointed in place of David Richards. He is currently assisted by Police Constable Support Officer (PCSO) Sid Lawrence.

#### **In General**

Earlier, I said it has been a productive year; the Down Thomas Post Office has now been reinstated, but not without problems. My thanks for patience and perseverance are due to Victor and Lyn Walsh of the Mussel Inn and our Clerk, Roy Fairclough. They encountered extreme difficulties in their dealings with the original contractor. Suffice it to say that the job is now being finalised by another contractor.

Wembury Point (formerly HMS Cambridge), with the exception of the Radar Station, has now been returned to its natural state by the National Trust and provides a new and pleasant addition to the walks in the Parish.

The Parish Council have instigated the formation of a Wembury Allotment Group and the National Trust (NT) has agreed to provide land suitable for allotments. Discussions are ongoing. The Parish also owe thanks to David Pinder, the National Trust and the owners of Wembury Wood for their efforts, which has resulted in the successful purchase of part of Wembury Wood by the NT. This enables extended footpath routes to be created in the Hollacombe area.

Apart from Gary Streeter's visit, the Parish Council have also welcomed John Tucker the Chairman of SHDC who spoke and answered questions on waste management, street cleaning and budgets. Susie Evans, head teacher of Wembury Primary school gave a successful presentation about future works planned for the school play areas. Simon Newport, Commercial Director of First Devon and Cornwall Ltd, did his best to defend their bus policy. Jenny Rowland gave a very successful presentation on the Montana 4<sup>th</sup> congress she attended on behalf of The Young Farmers Association.

## **The Future**

As part of my Chairman duties on behalf of WPC, I attend the A379 Group Cluster meetings. Already we have tackled SHDC on planning issues, the coordination of street cleaning, grass cutting and hedge trimming in addition to the Sherford development and its ramifications. At the next meeting, I have little doubt we will be discussing the Boundary Commission review.

I also sit on the River Yealm Management Plan Committee and the River Yealm Harbour Authority; both bodies are particularly interested in the pressures that will be exerted by the Sherford development on the river Yealm and its environment.

The Parish Plan Working Group headed by Councillor Peter Filby is seeking new goals by updating the Parish Appraisal. This group will gladly listen to anyone with a sensible wish list for the future of the Parish.

The Parish now has a very useful website and I would urge you to visit the Wembury Parish Website for Parish Council minutes, Parish news and updates. Simply 'Google' Wembury Parish or go to [www.wemburyparishcouncil.info](http://www.wemburyparishcouncil.info) .

## **Finance**

The Parish Council have given grants totalling £1000 to local organisations plus further grants totalling £2000 to the Wembury Primary School, Wembury Youth Club and St Werburgh church. In accordance with SHDC wishes, The Parish Council only increased the Parish precept by 1% for 2008/9.

Our Parish booklet, Discovering Wembury, continues to sell well and provides us with a steady income. An addendum concerning Wembury Point has recently been added to the booklet.

The Parish Council financial reserves remain very healthy, despite regular outgoings on typical expenditure such as the maintenance of notice boards, the website and footpaths, in addition to the office rent, supplies, clerk's salary and expenses.

## **Thanks**

My thanks go to all those organisations who work with the Parish Council for the benefit of the community. Thanks also to the members of the public who regularly attend our Parish Council meetings, to Councillor Basil Cane, PC Nolan, Sid Lawrence and Mr Tony Romang, the Parish Council Tree Warden who all give up their evenings to sit through our meetings.

Many thanks to my fellow Councillors for the excellent work they do; for supporting me and putting up with me as their Chairman.

Moreover, a special thank you from me to Roy Fairclough, for his very hard work during this past year and for his continued support and guidance.

**Dermod Michael Drought**  
**Chairman, Wembury Parish Council**