

WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES of the meeting held at the War Memorial Hall, Wembury, on Monday 26 February 2007.

07-014 The Chairman, Cllr Drought, opened the meeting at 7.31 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Cllrs Bennett, Cammack, Doody, Filby, Martin, Newnham, Rowland, Scoble, & Squire were present.
Cllr Basil Cane, PC Richards and forty-two members of the public were also present.

07-015 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Hart & Tarsky.

07-016 MARK REDDY, MANAGING DIRECTOR, FIRST DEVON & CORNWALL

The Chairman suspended the business of the Council and opened this session to the public at 7.32 pm. He then introduced Mr Reddy and his colleague Mr S Newport, Commercial Director of First Devon & Cornwall.

Mr Reddy started by answering some of the queries that had led him to attend the meeting. He explained that double decker buses were necessary to cater for schoolchildren and that the bus was kept in service outside school hours for economic reasons. Regarding the use of old buses Mr Reddy said that the average age of all their buses was between 7 and 8 years old, which was within the government's target of 8 years. He would love to put new buses on all the rounds but as he worked for a commercial company this had to be done gradually. His programme was to have all easy access single decker vehicles by 2015. The No 48 route was providing little return for the company and so there was a longer programme of change on this route. He then explained that there would be minor changes to the timetable from 1 April 2007. In future buses would terminate at the viaduct in Plymouth not Bretonside Bus Station.

Mr Reddy explained his involvement in the company and that First was the largest bus operator in the UK. In Devon, the company had made a loss of some £6.4 M in 2006 and his role was to turn the Devon company around. In spite of the loss, he had spent £30M on 56 new buses during the last two years and currently operated 140 in the area. Some routes were supported by Devon CC during the evenings and on a Sunday.

Regarding the concessionary free bus pass, he explained that the company is reimbursed by one single fare based on an average fare price and not on the length of journey, ie it is a fixed amount per passenger. Therefore, there is no financial advantage in making the journey longer or issuing a return ticket, as queried by Cllr Filby.

Mr Reddy then asked for questions from the public.

Mrs Coumbe explained that last November the bus she was on smelled of fumes. Mr Reddy explained that the buses are checked every day before leaving the depot and every 28 days a mechanical and emissions test is carried out. When First find a defect it is repaired immediately and a standby bus is used during that period.

Mr Romang asked how much influence First had in trying to improve the poor condition of Bretonside Bus Station. Mr Reddy agreed that it was not a good environment and that is why the No 48 bus shortly to terminate on the viaduct and not at Bretonside Bus Station. He had written to the leader of Plymouth City Council, Tudor Evans, but had not received a reply and suggested that perhaps the Parish Council should write to him also.

Cllr Squire was still concerned about the use of double decker buses on the Wembury route pointing out the numbers of elderly people who use the bus are unable to use the upper deck. He asked Mr Reddy to speed up the programme of replacement buses on this route, possibly with the assistance of Devon CC or the use of a section 106 agreement. Mr Reddy agreed that this was a possibility.

Cllr Rowland expressed concern that concessionary bus pass passengers were not allowed to get on the bus that was on a circular route, when going to the terminus. They had to catch it when it came back. Mr Reddy said that at the terminus each passenger started a new journey and that they would have to charge for two journeys. However, he agreed to brief drivers on the route mentioned and to investigate the Wembury circular route that did not come back the same way. He would also look at circular fares.

Cllr Bennett asked about the form of communication if a bus broke down. Most drivers have a two-way radio and in Plymouth, real time information notice boards are now operating. A real time information board would be useful in Wembury and perhaps one could be installed with the assistance of Devon CC. It would cost in the region of £1500 to £2000.

Mr Harding asked how long it took to replace a broken down bus on the Wembury route. Mr Reddy explained that they try to use a replacement bus as soon as possible and hoped to replace the bus in 15 minutes to 1 hour depending where the breakdown occurred.

Cllr Martin was concerned about the difference in price of a day ticket either side of an arbitrary boundary. Mr Reddy said that there had to be a boundary somewhere, some people on the right side gained, and others unfortunately lost out.

Mr Giles asked about the routes run by First and Mr Reddy said that they were specified by Devon CC. He was always willing to change routes, but Devon CC should be the first point of contact.

The Chairman thanked Mr Reddy and Mr Newport for attending the meeting and answering the questions posed.

Mr Reddy and Mr Newport then left the meeting and the Chairman closed the open session and resumed Council business at 8.07 pm.

07-017 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2007.

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

07-018 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

07-003 i) The Chairman reported that the Bus Shelter had now been cleaned but that the footpath was too narrow to provide side panels to the shelter.

07-003 ii) The Clerk reported that he was in the process of completing an application form for a grant submission to Devon Renaissance towards the conversion of the garage at the Mussel Inn, Down Thomas into a Post Office. The application should be submitted by the end of February and would be considered at the grant panel meeting during the second week of March.

07-003 iii) Cllr Bennett reported that replacing the missing notices to the ramps of the Wembury Playing Fields was the responsibility of South Hams DC and they were currently looking into the problem.
The Chairman reported that the Clerk had received an email from Mr R Butland about the area around the youth shelter, which he considered a disgrace. Following a short discussion, PC Richards agreed to look into the matter.

07-003 iv) Cllr Hart is still investigating with the County Council the situation of verge ownership along Knighton Road, opposite the shops and checking the situation with the lengthsmen regarding detailed maps of the area.

07-005 i) The National Trust were producing a report, on the whole issue of dogs on the beach over the next six weeks. Meanwhile, it looked like the 1 May would be the date of the dog ban on Wembury Beach.

07-005 ii) The Clerk was still awaiting a reply from Devon CC regarding the moving of the electric fence adjacent to the footpath behind Veasy Park.

07-008 i) The Chairman reported on the reply received from Western Power about their pole maintenance but he didn't feel that they had addressed the issue of speed of response and priority of pole repairs when adjacent to public footpaths.
Western Power had considered it beneficial to have a contact name for briefing on specific faults and the councillors agreed that the names of the Emergency Planning Committee should be provided to Western Power.
The Clerk was asked to write again to Western Power, to ask for more information and to provide the contact names.

07-009 i) The Clerk was still awaiting a reply from Cllr D May to attend a suitable Parish Council meeting. Cllr Cane undertook to speak to Cllr May.

07-012 i) The Clerk was still awaiting a reply from Devon CC regarding the Grit Bins.

07-012 ii) The Clerk reported that the road to Wembury beach was a public road, but the road to Wembury Church was a private road. Consequently, the Highway Authority would not give priority of a private road over a public road.

07-012 iii) The Chairman reported that the Down Thomas direction sign missing from Rack Corner had still not been replaced and that the blocked drain on the corner had not been cleared and was still flooding. The Clerk will chase again.

07-019 THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL WAS SUSPENDED FOR THE PUBLIC TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS OR PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

The Chairman again suspended the business of the Council and opened this session to the public at 8.23 pm.

i) Mr Turner and a colleague spoke on behalf of the many residents attending the meeting who were concerned about the proposed planning application for a telecommunications mast at South Barton Farm, behind Veasy Park. Concern was expressed about this application as a previous one had been turned down. The general feeling was that the mast was harmful to the environment of the area and contrary to several District Council policies. It was close to residential property and a school and posed a potential health risk.

A general discussion ensued about the mast proposals and several residents express their personal concerns about the mast location and detrimental affect it would have on their lives and property. Others expressed the need for an improved mobile network coverage in Wembury, especially for emergency communications.

Cllr Squire informed the meeting that he had spoken to the South Hams DC Planning Officer and it was likely that she would refuse the mast application under delegated powers and that he would support such action.

Mr Romang suggested that everyone should still write an individual letter of objection to the South Hams DC Planning Officer.

Mr Clarke confirmed that the school headmaster had written objecting to the mast and had asked him to bring to the Council's attention the schools concern about the mast.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for expressing their concerns.

Many residents left the meeting at this point.

ii) PC D Richards apologised for unavoidably missing the last meeting and presented his report for both January and February.

JANUARY 2007

Jl/07/7 Theft; Churchwood Holiday Park between 26th Dec to 2nd Jan.

Fire Hose taken from Locker

UNDETECTED

Jl/07/36 Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicle; Wembury Point Overnight 12th to 13th Jan.

Rear screen to vehicle damaged by BB Gun, Pellets found near vehicle

UNDETECTED

FEBRUARY 2007

Jl/07/108 Criminal Damage to Fence; Barton Park 1st to 2nd Feb

Section of fence removed by unknown means

UNDETECTED

Jl/07/144 Burglary; Wembury 0440hrs 11th Feb

Male Offender entered insecure property and was challenged by Occupant.

Male Offender subsequently arrested and processed by Police.

DETECTED

Jl/07/148 & 149 Harassment; Wembury 2005 to Present

Female victim harassed and caused alarm and distress by 2 Male Offenders

DETECTED & Enquiries continue

Jl/07/150 Domestic Assault & D&D; Wembury 0020hrs 13th Feb
Male Offender involved in drunken assault with family members, left the property and continued drunken behaviour in a public place.
DETECTED

Jl/07/161 Burglary; Knighton Road Stores 1430hrs 15th Feb
2 Male Offenders entered rear of property and forced entry to cigarette store. Property removed but Offenders disturbed and left in a Blue Daihatsu Van vrm R131UWB
ENQUIRIES CONTINUE

Jl/07/198 Theft from Garden; Upland Gardens 1920hrs 24th Feb
Youths seen climbing fence to rear of garden and remove Solar Lights
UNDETECTED Enquiries continue.

PC Richards explained the recent Police reorganisation and said that there had been a reduction in the number of neighbourhood beat officers. He was now covering six parishes as opposed to three previously. However, with the team now in place, he would have more support and so more officers were available within each parish.

PC Richards raised the problem of minor damage to the school and the problems with youths from the Youth Club. He would be asking one of the local beat managers to investigate, meanwhile, he asked members of the public to report any gangs of youths within the school grounds, to the Police.

There had also been some unsavoury activities on Wembury Beach around 4 am and again he asked the public to report the registration of cars seen in the area around this time so that he could follow them up.

Finally, several cars had been broken into in Holbeton and items stolen. Therefore, he again reminded the public to remove any valuable items from the car and to keep cars and garages locked at night.

iii) Mr Clarke informed the Council about the minor damage to the school. He then explained that Brownhill Lane was impassable on foot due to large ruts and extensive ponding. Mr Clarke felt that whilst it was a private road, a public footpath ran along the road and this should be able to be walked by the public. Following a short discussion the Clerk was asked to write to Devon CC about the problem.

iv) Mr Romang expressed thanks to Cllr Bennett for organising the removal of plastic bags that had been blown around the area.

The Chairman closed the open session and resumed Council business at 9.04 pm.

07-020 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. **Planning Application 58/0257/07/F - Telecoms Mast, Barton Farm, Wembury**
Cllr Rowland declared an interest and left the room during the subsequent discussion. The Chairman explained that members had held a site meeting to discuss this planning application and all the Parish Councillors views were taken into consideration when reaching the decision.

RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Report as detailed in ANNEX A.

07-021 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION

i) South Hams DC - District & Parish Elections - 3 May 2007

The Clerk reminded councillors and the public that all twelve positions on the Wembury Parish Council were up for re-election and that nomination forms had to be submitted to South Hams DC by noon on 4 April 2007. Counting of the votes will be done the day after the election.

ii) DTI - Jim Fitzpatrick MP

The MP had replied to the Parish Council's consultation letter with lots of statistics. However, there will be some support for Post Offices after 2010 but at a reduced level. The Government will give details of their support in late March.

iii) Victim Support

It was too late to consider a grant this year, but the Chairman announced that Victim Support were looking for new volunteers and asked the Clerk to put the notice on the main notice boards.

iv) Audit Commission

There were no objections to the re-appointment of the external auditor for the next five years.

v) Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members

If members wish to comment, then any consultation comments need to be submitted by Friday 9 March 2007.

vi) First Devon & Cornwall and Western Power - their reply letters had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting

FOR INFORMATION.

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

07-022 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Next Meeting

The Chairman explained that he would be on holiday for the next Parish Council meeting and invited Cllr Rowland to chair at the meeting on 26 March 2007.

Cllr Rowland agreed to chair the next meeting.

07-023 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY

DEVON CC

Councillor Hart

On holiday.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Cane

Cllr Cane said that he would also take back the comments about the mast to the Planning Officer.

The District Council part of the Council Tax will rise by 3.9% and this will mean a charge of £468 for a Band D property, which goes to the District Council.

He informed members and the public about the Compost Give-a-Way Day on 31 March in Ivybridge. The compost made from recycling the kitchen waste would be distributed free to people with suitable bags. The compost would be suitable for the garden. The Clerk confirmed that posters would shortly be up on the notice boards.

Cllr Squire

Cllr Squire informed members that the Waste Collection Service had overspent by

£190,000, which was not surprising considering the changes carried out. However, new corn starch bags to keep the brown wheelie bin clean could now be purchased from South Hams DC at a cost of £3.50 for 5 bags.

The District Council's Scrutiny Committee was concerned about the recent 16% rise in the water charges and have asked a representative from South West Water to attend their next meeting.

From 7 May 2007 there will be a No Smoking policy at Follaton House.

07-024 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Finance Sub Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2007

The Chairman and members discussed each of the following recommendations of the Finance Sub Committee in turn.

Young at Heart Club - a grant of £239 to provide an electronic number display for their bingo sessions.

Wembury History Society - a grant of £600 for a laptop computer. This was approved with the proviso that the History Society would fund the ancillary hardware and software also requested.

Wembury History Society & Wembury Camera Club

Both clubs would like a digital projector to allow displays from a laptop computer. Cllr Hart informed members that as the projector would be looked after by the History Society and be available for other organisations to use, he would be prepared to fund the digital projector in the sum of £850 from his Devon County Council budget. This would be subject to the clear condition that the projector was made available to local organisations within the parish and suitably insured by the History Society.

Wembury Football Club - a grant of £270 to purchase a white lining machine so the Club could mark out the pitch properly for all users of the pitch.

Wembury Youth Club - a grant of £500 to continue paying the Youth Leader to keep the club active.

Home Start South Hams

The Clerk had written to Home Start South Hams asking for further details of the organisation and financial position but had not received a reply. It was agreed that no grant be given on this occasion.

Weed Removal

Weed removal from footpaths in the Wembury area would cost in the region of £400. The Clerk to provide Cllr Hart with a suitable invoice before the end of March, which was to be jointly funded on a 50-50 basis with Devon CC.

Wembury Tennis Court

The Wembury Tennis Court may require a new net costing about £100 and it was agreed that £100 should be kept in reserve.

The above recommendations were proposed by Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Scoble and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The recommendations of the Finance Sub committee be approved.

ii) The Yealm River Harbour Authority

Cllr Drought informed members that the previous meeting had not been cancelled but that he had not received notification and papers due to a change in their computer email system.

The recent meeting had been concerned about rationalising a fair way to allocate moorings, particularly as there was a long waiting list. In future, a person requiring a mooring must be living in the area.

07-025 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Monthly Financial Statement

The Clerk presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

ii) Photocopier

The Clerk informed members that the 5-year photocopier lease was due for renewal. He had spoken to Ricoh UK Ltd and had asked about a photocopier that could print on both sides of the paper, to cut down on paper costs. An upgrade model was available for about the same rate as the current monthly rental.

Cllr Cammack proposed and Cllr Newnham seconded, that the Parish Council take out a new 5-year rental agreement for an upgraded photocopier. The proposal was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council take out a new 5 year rental agreement with Ricoh UK Ltd for an upgraded photocopier.

07-026 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Bennett informed members that the Wembury Football Club had been asked to keep off the pitch after the football season finishes, so that South Hams DC can carry out work to the pitch.

Cllr Squire had twice reported water running down Church Road to South West Water but no action had been taken to date.

07-027 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk reported that Gary Streeter would be attending the Open Evening of the Wembury Marine Centre on 15 March 2007, commencing at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.

Roy Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council