

## WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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

**MINUTES of the meeting held at the Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, on Monday 29 January 2007.**

**07-001** The Chairman, Cllr Drought, opened the meeting at 7.31 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
Cllrs Bennett, Cammack, Doody, Filby, Hart, Newnham, Rowland, Scoble, Tarsky & Squire were present.  
Cllr Basil Cane, and seventeen members of the public were also present.

**07-002 APOLOGIES**

No apology had been received from Cllr Martin.

**07-003 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 18 DECEMBER 2006.**

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

**07-004 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES**

**06-150 i)** The bus shelter had been erected. Cllrs Bennett & Squire queried the lack of side panels. The erected bus shelter was one that the Parish Council had acquired some time ago and it was not clear whether it originally had side panels or not. Cllr Bennett requested side panels be provided if the minimum footpath width can be maintained. The Clerk will report back to the next meeting.

**06-150 ii)** The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting in Okehampton with Mr Butterworth from the Pub is the Hub organisation and Victor Walsh, Landlord of the Mussel Inn with Devon Renaissance, regarding a grant for the other 50% of the costs of providing the Down Thomas Post Office. Devon Renaissance felt that the project had a very good chance of gaining a grant up to £15,000, for the conversion of the garage to a Post Office. The Clerk had received the grant application forms and they had to be completed and returned by the end of February. The application would be considered at the grant panel meeting during the second week of March.

**06-150 iii)** Cllr Bennett observed that the notices to the ramps of the Wembury Playing Fields had not yet been repaired and he would again chase Devon CC.

**06-150 iv)** Cllr Hart is still investigating with the County Council the situation of verge ownership along Knighton Road, opposite the shops.

**06-158** Cllr Hart was still checking the situation with the lengthsman regarding detailed maps of the area.

**07-005 THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL WAS SUSPENDED FOR THE PUBLIC TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS OR PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

The Chairman suspended the business of the Council and opened this session to the public at 7.40 pm.

i) As PC D Richards was not in attendance and no Police Report had been received Mr Gage informed the meeting that he had attended a recent meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch with the Police and he was not aware of any problems in the Wembury Area. He then went on to explain the appointment of the new Chief Constable and recent changes to Police serving the Wembury area.

ii) Mr Gage then asked Council members if the dates that dogs are banned from Wembury Beach could be clarified. There is presently confusion about the dates between the National Trust and Churchwood Valley Park and the signs up around the beach. A short discussion ensued and the Clerk confirmed that he had already written to the National Trust seeking to clarify the matter.

ii) Mr Pinder representing the Wembury History Society confirmed that he had requested a grant from the Parish Council for a digital projector. The Society would safely store the projector but it would be made available for use by other societies in the Wembury area. The Chairman thanked Mr Pinder for his comments and informed him that the request for a grant would be considered at the next Finance Sub-Committee.

iii) Mr Puddicome, supported by Cllr Scoble, expressed concern about a pothole that was developing on the main access road to Heybrook Bay from Down Thomas. It was felt that it was becoming a danger to motorists and cyclists and the Clerk was asked to report the pothole to Devon CC Highways.

iv) Mrs Passmore expressed concern about an electric fence to a field behind Veasy Park, which was alongside a public footpath. Whilst walking with young children she felt that the electric fence was dangerous and too close to the public footpath. Cllr Rowland undertook to investigate the problem with the local landowner and to report back to members.

The Chairman closed the open session and resumed Council business at 7.55 pm.

**07-006 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 as detailed in ANNEX A.**

**07-007 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

i) **Young at Heart Club**

The Young at Heart Club had requested a grant for the purchase of an electronic number display for bingo. The Chairman suggested that this matter be referred to the next Finance Sub Committee.

**ii) Letter from Mrs K Williams**

The Chairman explained to Council that the 'thank you' letter received from Mrs Williams was in response to a bouquet of flowers sent to her on behalf of the Parish Council. He asked members to support his decision in sending Mrs Williams the flowers, in acknowledgement of the work Peter, her late husband, had done on behalf of Wembury Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Scoble and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED: The provision of flowers sent to Mrs Williams be approved.**

**FOR INFORMATION.**

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

**07-008 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

**Western Power Electricity Cables**

The Chairman explained the unfortunate death of a parishioner recently, who had inadvertently touched a high voltage cable whilst out walking. The cable / pole had been blown down in the recent gales.

The Chairman expressed concern at the time Western Power took to repair the cable / pole following a report that the cable was down. He also wanted reassurance that the electricity poles in Wembury were safe and inspected regularly. A discussion ensued and Cllr Bennett said that locals should also be informed if a cable was down and it posed a threat to walkers. He said that residents could contact members of the Emergency Planning Committee regarding such incidents.

It was proposed by Cllr Scoble and seconded by Cllr Cammack that the Clerk write to Western Power expressing the Parish Council's safety concerns and requesting reassurance regarding repair response times and pole maintenance within the Wembury area. The motion was passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to Western Power expressing the Parish Council's concerns and seek reassurance regarding maintenance and safety issues.**

**07-009 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC**

**Councillor Hart**

Cllr Hart informed members that he had attended two meetings with the Police recently regarding their reorganisation. Woolwell area is now to come under the Ivybridge Police Station and a new commander has taken over the station. Cllr Hart believes that it could mean less Police available for the Wembury area.

In order to meet the County budget there are financial cuts in all departments. The biggest cut is in Highways, which means that there are likely to be more potholes in rural areas as the backlog of maintenance increases. Consequently, there is likely to be more emergency work and less planned maintenance. The County are also looking to sell of Old Peoples Homes and are closing some Libraries. Cllr Hart said that it looks like we will be paying more for less. The final budget figures will be available on 15 February.

## **SOUTH HAMS DC**

### **Cllr Squire**

Cllr Squire informed members that the District Council have a shortfall of £650,000 to meet their budget figure. However, he was confident that with the savings identified the Council Tax rise would be under 5%. However, there is still concern about the concessionary bus fares as it will cost an additional £100,000 more than originally budgeted for.

It is not clear how local government will react to the recent white paper on Local Government Reorganisation, which is promoting strong and prosperous communities. All two-tier authorities will have to have joint working within two years, but South Hams DC already has joint working with other local authorities.

Cllr Squire had recently attended two days of the Inspector's Sherford Action Plan meeting to see if the proposals are sound or not. The Co-op is employing barristers, which will delay the inspectors report by a couple of months.

### **Cllr Cane**

Cllr Cane informed members of the changes to personnel in the South Hams DC Planning Office and management of the Development Control section.

Cllr Rowland had received more complaints about the collection of recyclable materials. This is being collected at 7 am and so the bags are being put out the night before, which are then blowing around the area. Cllr Scoble also said that recyclables in Heybrook Bay were being collected on the wrong day. Cllr Cane said that Cllr David May was the person responsible for the changes in refuse collection and suggested that the Clerk invites him to attend the next meeting of the Wembury Parish Council. Cllr Hart proposed and Cllr Scoble seconded a motion to invite Cllr David May to the next meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED: To invite South Hams DC councillor David May to the next Wembury Parish Council meeting to speak on refuse collection.**

## **07-010 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE**

### **i) The Yealm River Harbour Authority**

Cllr Drought informed members that the last meeting had again been cancelled and would be rescheduled.

### **ii) Budget Meeting with Town & Parish Councils**

Cllr Drought attended the above budget meeting on 18 January 2007. However, the meeting did not discuss the Parish Council's precepts as expected, but representatives explained the budgets of the Fire and Police organisations.

The Devon Fire Brigade will now become the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service from 1 April 2007, the merger being due to financial pressures.

The Devon & Cornwall Police will have an extra 202 uniform officers by the end of the year, which is being funded from financial reserves. However, this is not sustainable and the numbers will reduce in the long term.

Overall, it appears that the two services are expected to do more with less!

## **07-011 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) Request For Grants**

The Chairman informed members that following the Clerk's article in the Wembury review, the Parish Council had received requests for grants from five local organisations. Cllr Bennett proposed and Cllr Newnham seconded, that these matters be discussed at a Finance Sub-Committee meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Following a short discussion the Clerk was asked to arrange a suitable Finance Sub Committee meeting at the Silver Jubilee Hall on Monday 5 February 2007, commencing at 6.30 pm.

**RESOLVED: To discuss requests for grants at a Finance Sub-Committee meeting to be held on 5 February 2007 at the Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, commencing at 6.30 pm.**

Cllr Squire informed members that South Hams DC would again be asking the Parish Council for a contribution towards the provision of buoys across Wembury and Bovisand beaches.

## **07-012 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Cllr Drought had received a complaint about the state of disrepair of the grit bin in Heybrook Bay. The grit inside was also hard and unusable. The Clerk was asked to write to Devon CC Highways to determine their policy on the repair or replacement of such bins.

Cllr Drought had received a suggestion that on the grounds of safety, the egress from St Werburgh's church should have priority over the egress from the National Trust car park. It was suggested that a white stop line should be painted across the National Trust road at the junction with the road to the church. As these are private roads, it is up to the owners to do this. However, the Clerk agreed to write to the National Trust.

Cllr Rowland remarked that the sign to Down Thomas at the Rack Corner junction was missing. The Clerk agreed to write to Devon CC Highways.

Cllr Cammack thanked Devon CC for removing the dangerous trees across a local footpath.

Cllr Bennett informed members of the opening times of the My Devon, the contact for DCC Highways, lighting and footpaths, are from 8 am until 8 pm weekdays and from 9 am until 1 pm on Saturdays.

He also reported that plastic bags were being blown all over the place from the bottle bank at Staddiscombe.

Cllr Bennett would like to see the Wembury Tennis Courts locked at night to prevent youths using them for other activities and will report back further on this matter.

Cllr Tarsky raised the future use of the closed quarry in Plymstock and questioned whether the Sherford development was the right area to develop. Cllr Hart confirmed that Plymouth City have earmarked the quarry for future development to meet their housing need and that both developments would be required in the long term.

Cllr Filby was concerned that the bus fares were charged at the single fare rate even if requesting a return.

## **07-013 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Squire had raised the issue of fumes on the local buses into Plymouth previously and he had now received a reply from First. However, whilst First extolled their provision of quality buses he considered that the reply had not addressed the

dangerous nature of the problem of fumes in the buses.

Similarly, their response for the use of double decker buses to cater for schoolchildren was not satisfactory, as they were also used outside school times. Cllr Squire asked the Parish Council for support in writing to First to see if a sensible outcome could be achieved regarding the fumes and the provision of a low-level easy access buses for use on the No 48 route. The Clerk was asked to write to First accordingly.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.06 pm.

Roy Fairclough  
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council