

## 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 Wembury War Memorial Hall on Monday 30 April 2007.**

**07-043** The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.33 pm and thanked Cllr Rowland for chairing the previous meeting in his absence  
He then reported that as a result of the current election process, 11 existing members had been re-elected and that Mr Michael Gage had been newly elected and he would replace Cllr Bennett who had elected not to stand for re-election.

Cllrs Bennett, Cammack, Squire, Rowland, Drought, Filby, Scoble, Martin and Hart were present.

District Cllr Cane, Police Community Support Officer Sid Lawrence and 9 members of the public were also present.

In the absence of the Clerk who was away on personal business, Cllr Filby acted as Clerk for the meeting.

**07-044** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Doody, Tarsky and Newnham.

### **07-045 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 26 MARCH 2007.**

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

### **07-046 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES**

**07-018(i)** The reinstatement of the Down Thomas Post Office was proceeding well. The Chairman proposed a sub committee comprising himself and Cllrs Doody and Scoble be formed to take the matter forward and sign the necessary grant contract.

**07-018(vi)** No reply has yet been received from Western Power about safety matters. It was supposed that the possibility of an impending inquest was delaying their response.

**07-036 (vii)** Cllr Martin reported that his response on behalf of the Parish was proceeding.

**07-038** Cllr Hart reported that the problems associated with the diversion at Pump Hill had been resolved and a satisfactory solution agreed.

**07-038** Cllr Cane apologised for the success of the free compost event and agreed to provide more next time.

**07-047 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) Wembury Crime Report April 2007.**

The Chairman invited Police Community Support Officer Sid Lawrence to give the police report for the period.

There had been only two crimes in the period 1 March to 30 April 2007.

Jl/07/406 - Theft of crab pot. 1900hrs 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 07, until 1900hrs 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 07. Pot taken from approximately 600yds off shore. UNDETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/341 - Theft of diving equipment. 1600hrs – 1900hrs 3rd Mar 07, several items of diving equipment taken whilst a group of around 16 divers were out diving from Bovisand, the items had been left against the harbour wall. UNDETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Extra patrols had been put in to deal with anti social behaviour in the Wembury playing fields area and as a result of getting to know the young people better the situation was calming down.

There had been problems on Wembury beach with bonfires at weekends, sometimes involving up to 40 to 50 people. Although this is contrary to National Trust Bye Laws there are no signs to say so.

The plastic waste bins are prone to fire damage but South Hams DC is not willing to replace them with steel ones because of the cost.

Speed surveys had been carried out in Hollacombe and the full results will be published at the end of May. Initial indications are that most of the speeding motorists are residents of the village.

**ii) Mr Gage** expressed concern about overnight camping on the area of grass behind the toilets, where a bonfire had damaged the grass and that the National Trust had no signs to indicate that it was not allowed. The owner of Churchwood estate (also part owner of the beach) was more vigilant.

**The Clerk was asked to contact the National Trust to clarify this and the matter of bonfires on the beach.**

iii) **Mrs Oliver** was concerned about rubbish being left outside the Post Office in Wembury. Cllr Bennett who had looked at this problem in some detail said that it was his opinion that some one who lived nearby and possibly didn't have access to a wheelie bin was responsible. He suggested that local residents could be asked to keep an eye on the situation and maybe the police could help.

iv) **Mr Romang** reported that the hedge adjacent to the Old Smithy needed cutting back and that the hedge at the junction of Southland Park Road and Church Road was overgrown. There were safety issues in both cases. **Cllr Hart agreed to investigate and report.**

He was also concerned about the Wimpy development at Stadiscombe behind the Crossroads garage. The original plan that included 3 storey buildings had been refused. A resubmission was currently being made but he was unsure if 3 storey buildings were still included?

Cllr Cane stated that this site was in Brixton but he appreciated the concern of Wembury residents who were likely to be more affected by it. It was a development that included affordable homes and that meant getting a lot of housing into a small area.

Cllr Squire said that the initial application was refused on the grounds of design and on the mix of private to affordable homes, which had been set at 2 to 1.

**The Chairman requested the Clerk to contact both the Clerk at Brixton Parish Council and the South Hams District Council Planning Officer to express the concerns of the Wembury residents.**

v) **Mr Nicholls** reported that he had seen 2 car parking attendants at Bigbury beach, one with a camera and one taking notes. This seemed to be a poor way of spending tax payers' money. **Cllr Squire agreed to investigate.**

vi) **Mr Clarke** asked when the bus shelter at the Odd Wheel was going to be repaired. The Chairman said that he believed that the Clerk had the matter in hand.

#### **07-048 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 to these minutes.**

#### **07-049 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

i) **Children's Trust** - Request for a grant

Following a short discussion, this grant request was refused.

ii) **Down Thomas Post Office**

A sub-committee to take this matter further had already been agreed under item 07-046.

iii) **Society of Local Council Clerks** - Conference information

It was agreed that the Clerk was not required to attend the forthcoming conference.

iv) **Ivybridge Town Council** - Training for New Parish Councillors

It was agreed that Michael Gage and Peter Filby should attend this training.

v) **Devon Association of Parish Councils** - Nominations for County Committee  
Cllr Martin will possibly volunteer, depending on the outcome of the District Council elections.

vi) **South Devon AONB** -Yealm Estuary Environment Management Plan Consultation  
Cllr Drought will return the consultation document on behalf of the Council.

**FOR INFORMATION.**

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

Cllr Hart referred to letter from the Lord Mayor of Exeter regarding their bid for Unitary status. Following a short discussion Cllr Hart proposed and Cllr Bennett seconded, that Wembury Parish Council should write to Lord Mayor stating the Council's view that whatever Exeter does will have a profound effect on Devon and that it is better that Exeter should remain within Devon. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to the Lord Mayor of Exeter expressing these views.**

**07-050 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

The Chairman expressed concern about the way planning matters are being dealt with by South Hams DC. There have been a number of cases recently where the clearly expressed views of residents and the Parish Council have been ignored by the planning authority and local objections have been over-ruled. There was some discussion in agreement, with references to properties at Heybrook Bay, the Andurn Estate and the proposed new development at Wembury Point. It was felt that government pressure on local authorities to speed up the planning process was at fault. It was agreed to invite the local MP to view some of the properties concerned and to support the Council's views.

**The Clerk was asked to write to Gary Streeter MP to convey the views of the Parish Council and to seek his support.**

**07-051 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC**

**Councillor Hart**

Cllr Squire informed Cllr Hart that he had received a letter from Devon County Council referring to the road works at Deep Lane junction on the A38, which would take 6 to 8 weeks to complete. Cllr Hart explained that the Deep Lane work was to allow for the movement of staff and equipment on to the site. His view was that there had been insufficient assessment of the potential problems and that there would be significant difficulties. He had recently expressed concern about children walking along footpaths beside the A38. Staff had claimed that there was sufficient separation from the traffic for them to be safe. He felt otherwise and in both cases felt that the response from staff had not been satisfactory.

He also informed members that major arguments were taking place about the reorganisation of the Highways Department in Devon County Council.

Cllr Hart said that the cost of using a day centre in the County had risen from £12.50 to £20 from the first week in April. Some people could now only afford to use the centres two days a week instead of three.

He also reported that the problems with a tree on footpath No 1 had now been sorted out.

## **SOUTH HAMS DC**

### **Cllr Squire**

Cllr Squire informed members that the performance of South Hams DC had recently been assessed by the external auditor Price Waterhouse as strong, with a score of 3. The highest possible score was 4. There have, however, recently been errors in the planning department which probably result from attempts to speed up the process too much and from too much delegation.

### **Cllr Cane**

Cllr Cane said that the planning office work load had gone up by 25% in the last six months and they had received an efficiency grant from the government. He was not sure that this was the right way to go because mistakes will be made when working under pressure.

Cllr Cane encouraged voters to go out and vote in the elections on 3 May.

He also expressed his thanks to the Parish Council and Wembury Parish for the welcome he has received and hoped to be back after the elections.

## **07-052 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE**

### **i) Parish Clerks Workshop held on 27 March 2007**

The circulated report was noted.

### **ii) Yealm Harbour Authority**

Cllr Drought reported on the recent AGM of the Yealm Harbour authority. The current waiting list for a mooring was in excess of 25 years. One suggestion from a member of the public was to put up the cost of moorings and thus discourage some applicants, but the view of the meeting was to maintain a fair price for every one.

## **07-053 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C**

### **i) Monthly Financial Statement**

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

### **ii) Repair of Notice Board**

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had arranged for the Notice Board in Manor Bourne Road to be repaired immediately after being vandalised, to prevent further deterioration of the Notice Board.

The Chairman proposed and Cllr Filby seconded, approval of the £70 repairs retrospectively. Approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED: The cost of £70 to repair the Notice Board in Manor Bourne Road be approved.**

### **iii) Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Filby, that Mr Ken Abrahams of Totnes again be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor, to audit the 2006/7 Annual Report. Approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED: Mr K Abrahams be appointed as Internal Auditor to audit the 2006/7 Annual Report**

**iv) Renewal of Annual Insurance**

The Chairman proposed and Cllr Filby seconded, that the Parish Council renew their Annual Insurance with Allianz Cornhill in the sum of £797.83. Approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED: The Parish Council renew their Annual Insurance with Allianz Cornhill in the sum of £797.83.**

**07-054 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Cllr Cammack reported that the 48 bus route had changed, plus there had been a change in the timetable during the school holidays. The company should keep the passengers and the Parish informed.

**The Clerk was asked to contact the bus company and to circulate further information.**

Cllr Filby reported that the Nat West bank had started to operate a mobile bank service and would be present in Wembury village on Friday afternoons between 2.00 and 2.30 pm.

**07-055 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman referred to Cllr Bennett's decision to step down as a Councillor after 20 years of service. He expressed his thanks to Cllr Bennett for his selfless service to the Council and all agreed that he would be sorely missed.

Cllr Bennett responded by noting the changes that had happened over the years. In particular, the way that modern technologies had been adopted and which now were responsible for the efficient running of the Council. He thanked the Chairman for his kind thoughts and said that above all, he had enjoyed his years as a Councillor and would still be active in local affairs.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.

P Filby  
Acting Clerk  
Wembury Parish Council