

WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors	D Drought A Cammack M Doody P Filby M Gage 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 Wembury Parish Council meeting held at the War Memorial Hall, Wembury, on Monday 17 December 2007.

07-148 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought, opened the meeting at 7.31 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllrs Cammack, Filby, Gage, Hart, Martin, Newnham, Rowland, Scoble and Squire were present. Five members of the public were also present.

07-149 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Doody and Tarsky. Also from District Cllr Cane and PC John Nolan, Neighbourhood Beat Manager.

07-150 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Drought declared a personal interest in planning application 58/2449/07/F and informed members that he had only reported the comment of the neighbours.

Cllr Martin informed councillors that he was a member of the Conservative Party and DAPC.

Cllrs Newnham and Tarsky had updated their interests with the Clerk.

There were no further declarations of interest.

07-151 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2007.

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

07-152 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

Various items are discussed later in the minutes under Reports from Committees and Representatives.

07-128 ii) The Chairman reported that Cllr Tucker, leader of South Hams DC, has agreed to attend the Wembury Parish Council meeting on 28 January 2008, to discuss the budget and District Council services.

07-139 (iii) PC Nolan had spoken to his colleagues regarding the enforcement of the 20 mph speed limits and had responded via email. This was an ongoing matter.

07-139 iv) Cllr Hart reported that a 30 mph speed limit through Staddiscombe to Down Thomas was a non-starter as there were only a few houses in this area and it wouldn't warrant such a speed limit.

07-139 vii) A short discussion ensued about the legality of parking on a footpath whether in private or public ownership. There was little that could be done in the area near the Londis shop in Wembury.

Cllr Cammack raised the questions of lorries running over the footpath when turning round very early in the morning. Cllr Hart suggested that perhaps Cllr Cammack could speak to the transport operators and explain the situation and ask them to turn round in another location.

07-141 i) Devon CC - Sherford School Consultation

A meeting was held on 5th December 2007 at Yealmpton to discuss the proposals for an all through school at Sherford. Cllr Hart attended and said that Plymouth CC had questioned the need for such a school, as Plymouth would have sufficient spaces to accommodate the pupils, as they would have 2500 spaces available at Secondary School level in a few years time. The meeting finished in turmoil and so the outcome for the school is now unclear.

07-141 iv) South West Water

As the Clerk had only received two replies from Councillors since the last meeting, he suggested that those councillors interested should respond to South West Water on an individual basis.

07-141 v) Cllr Squire was still awaiting information from South Hams DC about the disposal of dog faeces. The Clerk had also written to South Hams DC on this subject and the lack of dog bins in the Wembury area.

07-153 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 7.20 pm.

i) WEMBURY CRIME RELATED INCIDENTS 26th Nov 07 TO DATE

Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC John Nolan had apologised for not attending the meeting and so the Chairman read out his crime report for December 2007.

Jl/07/1154 - Criminal damage to a vehicle. Between 1230hrs 22nd Nov 07 and 0745hrs 26th Nov 07. Southland park Rd, a vehicle had both doors scratched. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/1165 - Drink Drive. At 0145hrs 1st Dec 07, a vehicle was stopped at Hollacombe Brake. DETECTED.

Jl/07/1178 - Theft from motor vehicle. Between 0900hrs and 1515hrs 3rd Dec 07, a CD player was taken from a vehicle in Knighton Rd, the vehicle was also damaged and crime report Jl/07/1179 refers to this. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/1185 - Burglary. Between 1330hrs 2nd Dec 07, and 1800hrs 6th Dec 07. A private dwelling was subject to an attempted burglary in Ford Rd. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/1220 – Drink Drive. At 2045hrs 14th Dec 07, a vehicle was stopped in Down Thomas. DETECTED.

ii) Tony Romang

He informed the Parish Council that the hedge along Church Road had now been trimmed back and thanked Devon County Highways for doing this work.

The Chairman closed the open session at 7.24 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

07-154 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 to these minutes.

07-155 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) South Hams DC - Parish Election Costs

The Chairman explained that there would be costs to the Parish Council for the elections held in May, even though Wembury Parish Council did not require an election. This money needs to be budgeted for in 2008, paid in May 2008, and should be discussed at the next Finance Sub- Committee meeting.

ii) South Hams DC - Budget meeting with Town & Parish Councils on 17 January 2008

The Chairman said that he hadn't gained much information from the same meeting last year, however, he would attend this one.

iii) South Hams DC - Precepts 2008 / 9

This matter needs to be discussed at the Finance Sub-Committee meeting on 7 January 2008 as the precept returns need to be back with South Hams DC by 14 January 2008.

iv) Devon & Cornwall Constabulary - Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Funding

The Chairman read out a letter from Peter Dale, Chair of South Hams Neighbourhood Watch Forum in which he asked for a £50 grant toward the cost of purchasing suitable Neighbourhood Watch signs.

A lengthy debate ensued and Cllr Gage felt that money was not a problem in respect of purchasing these signs but rather the bureaucracy in getting them erected. Consequently, very few signs were erected. At the end of the discussion and after various proposals had been suggested, it was proposed by Cllr Gage, seconded by Cllr Squire that no grant be given for the Neighbourhood Watch signs. The proposal was passed unanimously.

PROPOSAL: No grant be given to the South Hams Neighbourhood Watch Forum for the purchase of signs.

v) **Plymouth CC** - Local Development Framework Consultation
No comments.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

07-156 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

None.

07-157 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Councillor Hart

Most members were aware that Exeter was unlikely to become a Unitary Authority now and that the Boundary Commission will shortly be looking at the boundaries in the South West. Cllr Hart said that he would wait and see what happened with the proposed local government reorganisation. It could be some time in coming, as the Boundary Commission is not available until the Spring.

The County had a reasonable budget settlement of 7.5%, but that still meant a £30m reduction of which 30% has to be a cash saving. Currently, there is also an overspending on children and adult services. The budget is to be split into 5 pots, one large and 4 smaller ones and the services will have to bit for their money from the various pots. The County Councillors again have £10k of discretionary spending within their areas. There is a new Bill going through Parliament, which will allow Unitary Authorities to appoint a leader for 4 years, with 2 to 10 helpers, similar to an elected Mayor system. This will have to be consulted on by 2008.

Cllr Martin asked why there are no adverts in the Devon County magazine to offset the cost of the magazine. Cllr Hart said that the magazine was a communications exercise, required by the government and money was allocated for this purpose.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire

Cllr Squire informed councillors that Exeter was not going Unitary and that the Boundary Commission was meeting in January to consider possible County and local authority boundary changes to suit a Unitary structure within the South West. More details will then be worked up and put to government. If approved then it was likely that a new Unitary structure of local government for the South West could be in place by 2010 to commence in 2011.

The Standards Board have reported back on allowances and have not recommended any change to the Parish Councils ie no allowance for Parish Councillors. However, if a Parish Council is minded to pay allowances then it should be geared to the population of the Parish. The District Councillors allowance is recommended to be increased by 4.2% .

Cllr Cane

Cllr Cane had apologised and he had wished everyone seasons greetings.

07-158 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Forward Planning Working Group

Cllr Filby had circulated a note of the meeting held at the Down Thomas Silver Jubilee Village Hall on Monday 3 December 2007. He reported that the people who attended represented a good sample across the community. They discussed at length whether to prepare a new Parish Plan or to build on the previous one and it was agreed to build on the existing one. Alan Puddicombe agreed to circulate the original report and the attendees agreed to consult the community to co-ordinate the people's views and report back at the next meeting to be held on 29 January 2008. The work in updating the plan may need funding up to £1000 and this should be included in next year's budget.

ii) Wembury Beach Meeting

Cllr Gage had recently received an email from a local swimmer which had raised many issues already discussed which will need to be revisited next year. There is currently a lot of rotting seaweed on the beach and he asked if farmers could use it. Apparently, there are problems of getting vehicles on the beach to collect it.

iii) 20 mph Speed Limit in Wembury

Cllr Tarsky had circulated a report, which indicated that he had arranged a meeting on 20 December 2007 to discuss this issue further. He was still waiting for a response from Devon Highways.

He also suggested that another councillor should take on board the 30 mph speed limit through Staddiscombe. This had already been discussed earlier in the meeting and would not be pursued further.

iv) Yealm River Harbour Authority

Cllr Drought informed members that the next meeting was to be held shortly.

v) Parish Cluster Meeting

Cllr Drought had attended a Parish Council Cluster meeting on 12 December 2007 at Ugborough. It had been a very useful meeting with many common problems and topics being discussed.

There appeared to be a problem with waste collection, particularly with second homes, as the refuse was not always put out at the correct collection time, which meant rubbish could be left uncollected for up to two weeks. The group were to ask South Hams DC to look into this.

The group felt that there were lots of different agencies or departments involved in street cleaning, hedge trimming, drain cleaning and they would all benefit if it were carried out by one dedicated body.

There was a long debate about planning issues, especially when planning decisions go against the local community wishes. It was pointed out that planning is a national system of guidelines and it was considered that it should be all dealt with at a local level. There was also concern about problems caused by inexperienced planners and enforcement officers at South Hams DC.

vi) Church Rooms

Cllr Rowland informed members that the Church Rooms had been closed as they were in need of repairs and the current building presented health and safety problems. The Church would like the Parish Council to take them over.

A long debate followed about the potential use of the building and site. However, it was finally agreed that before anything could be considered, it was necessary for the Church to formally make a proposition to the Parish Council backed up with full documentation of the ownership and condition of the building.

Cllr Rowland would inform the Church accordingly.

07-159 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for December 2007

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

ii) South Hams DC Parish Election Costs

This had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

iii) Down Thomas Post Office & Community Rooms

The Clerk explained the current position with the alterations to the Mussel Inn garage into a Post Office and Community Room. The alteration work was currently behind programme and the work would not now be completed before Christmas. In addition, the training of the Postmistress could not be carried out by the Post Office until late January 2008. It was now hoped that the Post Office and Community Rooms would be opened in early February 2008.

The Clerk again asked the Parish Council to loan up to £4500 to the Post Office & Community Room project until completion, when the loan would be repaid. This was to assist cash flow on the Community Rooms work during the project, should it be necessary. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council could provide a loan for this work under the Local Government Act 1972 s137. He had also obtained a suitable legal contract for such a loan from the Devon Community Council, which required two guarantors, to ensure that the loan would be repaid. A lengthy discussion ensued.

It was agreed to discuss this matter again at the Finance Sub-Committee meeting to be held on 7 January 2008.

iv) Finance Sub-Committee on 7 January 2008 - Agenda

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the following should be on the Agenda.

Budget 2008/9

Wembury Parish Council Precept 2008/9

Parish Council election costs

DAPC Subscription

Mileage claims

Down Thomas Post Office & Community Rooms

Grant applications

07-160 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Rowland informed members that there was a large pothole at Monkswood. Cllr Hart undertook to contact Devon Highways for a suitable repair.

Cllr Martin reported on localised flooding just past the new housing development at Staddiscombe.

07-147 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.

R Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council