

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 statutory annual meeting held at the Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, on Monday 21 May 2007.

07-056 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2007/8

The Clerk opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that as all the Parish Councillors had recently been elected that they should all sign the declaration of acceptance of Council office.

The Clerk announced that he had received one nomination for Chairman and asked if there were any others. There being no further nominations, Cllr Drought, nominated by Cllr Doody and seconded by Cllr Squire, was elected unanimously.

Cllr Drought then took the Chair. He congratulated those councillors that had been re-elected and welcomed Cllr Gage to the Parish Council.

Cllrs Cammack, Filby, Gage, Martin, Rowland, Squire, Tarsky, Doody, Hart and Newnham were present.

District Cllr Cane, PC Richards and 8 members of the public were also present.

07-057 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman proposed and Cllr Cammack seconded Cllr Rowland, for the position of Vice Chairman. There being no further nominations, Cllr Rowland was elected the Vice Chairman unanimously.

07-058 ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Clerk collected all the signed Acceptance of Council Office forms from the councillors and asked Councillors to return the General Notice of Registerable Interests form direct to South Hams District Council.

The following Parish Council representatives were then elected:-

School Governors	Cllr Doody
River Yealm Harbour Authority	Cllr Drought
Down Thomas Silver Jubilee Hall Committee	Cllr Newnham
Wembury War Memorial Hall Committee	Cllr Cammack
Wembury Youth Club	Cllr Squire.

Wembury Alms Houses	Cllr Newnham
Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils	Cllr Rowland
Conservation Matters	Cllr Scoble
Wembury Point Management Group	Cllr Drought
Wembury Emergency Plan	Cllr Gage
River Yealm Estuary Management Group	Cllr Drought
Liaison with Neighbourhood Watch	Cllr Martin

The Clerk asked members to report back to the Parish Council on the various organisations, as required.

07-059 Apologies had been received from Cllr Scoble.

07-060 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 30 APRIL 2007.

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

07-061 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

07-046(i) The reinstatement of the Down Thomas Post Office was proceeding well and the Clerk hoped to arrange a meeting of the sub-committee within the next two weeks to finalise arrangements.

07-046(ii) The Clerk had circulated an email reply from Western Power, which had now covered safety matters.

07-046(iii) Cllr Hart reported that the work at Pump Hill had been completed ahead of time without problems.

07-047(ii) The Clerk had circulated an email from the National Trust which indicated that they were aware of the issues of overnight camping and barbeque / fires at Wembury Beach and had been liaising with the local Police. They had also erected suitable signage in order to prevent such incidents in future.

07-047 (iv) Cllr Hart was still investigating hedge adjacent to the Old Smithy which needed cutting back and that the hedge at the junction of Southland Park Road and Church Road which were overgrown.
Cllr Gage also informed members that the hedge had not yet been cut along footpath 29 adjacent to the electrified fence. The Clerk agreed to contact the footpath officer again. The Clerk had written to the Brixton Parish Council and expressed the support of Wembury Parish Council in their rejection of the Wimpy development at Stadiscombe.

07-049 Once the letter from the Lord Mayor of Exeter is returned the Clerk, he will reply expressing the Parish Council's concern about Exeter becoming a unitary authority.

07-050 The Clerk is awaiting a reply from Gary Streeter MP regarding planning issues.

07-054 The Clerk had circulated to all councillors a reply email from Mr Reddy, Managing Director of First Devon & Cornwall Ltd., with the current bus timetables.

07-062 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 7.52 pm.

i) Wembury Crime Report 2006/7.

The Chairman invited PC Richards to give the police report.

As this was the annual meeting of the Parish Council PC Richards provided some annual crime statistics for members.

From May 2006 to May 2007 there had been 73 reported crimes and 14 domestic incidents within the Wembury area, which was almost the same as in 2005/6. The greatest crime was miscellaneous thefts from gardens and theft of mobile phones. However, the fear of crime, rather than the actual crime, still persisted in the Wembury Parish because it was located on the outskirts of a large city.

PC Richards then gave the Crime report for May 2007.

Jl/07/441 - Criminal Damage. 2230hrs 4th May 07, until 0700hrs 5th May 07. Two plastic plant pots taken from a garden wall in Church Rd and then subsequently damaged. UNDETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/468 - Criminal Damage. 0900hrs 6th May 07, until 1000hrs 8th May 07. A small hole similar to an Air Gun pellet found in a lower ground floor window to a property in Brookside close, Hey Brook Bay. UNDETECTED. Enquiries continue.

PC Richards asked the public that if they are aware of anyone using an air gun in a dangerous way to contact the Police. He also reported that there had recently been a suspicious white male on Wembury Beach which he was following up.

As mentioned earlier he was liaising with the National Trust regarding fires and camping on the beach, and was working with the National Trust Wardens. He felt that more robust signs would be helpful.

He was concerned that a litter bin on Wembury beach, adjacent to the toilet block, had been set alight and the fire could have easily spread to the toilet block. He asked Cllr Squire if he would ask South Hams DC to review the location of the litter bins.

Cllr Squire to chase up.

New Street Wardens have the power to issue fixed penalties for litter contravention and this was soon to be trialled in the Wembury area. However, he has still not received the necessary penalty tickets from South Hams DC.

Cllr Squire to chase up and liaise with Police Community Support Officer Sid Lawrence.

Speed surveys had been carried out in Hollacombe and he was surprised that in spite of complaints of speeding vehicles, the traffic analysis had showed low traffic numbers and low vehicle speeds.

ii) **Mrs Oliver** was still concerned about rubbish being left outside the Post Office litter bin in Wembury. She has spoken to the South Hams DC Street Scene Manager, Ian Hoskin and he has agreed to put up a suitable sign to deter people from dumping unwanted rubbish adjacent to the litter bin.

iii) **Mr Coulson** reported that footpath No 25, Knighton Stores to Wembury House is overgrown with crops and the kissing gate impassable. It is the farmer's duty to reinstate the footpath. **The Clerk to write to the Devon CC Footpath Officer.**

iv) **Cllr Newnham** informed all that the Down Thomas Annual Festival will take place on the 8, 9 & 10 June.

v) **Cllr Squire reported a letter from Mr Syling about planning matters.** The letter proposed various measures to ensure that the elderly residents were clearly informed of the scale and effect of any planning application. The Chairman reported that many of the suggestions were already being done by Parish Council members. He explained that Parish Council members have an identity badge, which they use when visiting houses regarding planning applications. However, at the end of the day it is South Hams DC who makes the final decision on planning applications. However, he agreed that plans should be clear and show the relevant dimensions of any proposal. **The Clerk to write to the South Hams DC Planning Department accordingly.**

vi) **Cllr Filby** asked whether the Churchwood Estate and the National Trust could be asked to erect suitable information notices, particularly regarding the disposal of rubbish and litter. **The Clerk to write to both organisations.**

vii) **Cllr Hart** reported that the buoys were not yet out across Wembury and Down Thomas Beaches. **Cllr Squire agreed to chase up this matter with South Hams DC.**

The Chairman closed the open session at 8.25 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

07-063 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.

07-064 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) Devon CC - Proposals for Unitary Authority for Exeter

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should respond on the same lines as the letter to the Lord Mayor of Exeter ie that Exeter as a unitary authority will have an adverse effect on the people of Devon. The District Council's and County Council are now working more closely together. South Hams DC is also working closely with West Devon DC and Teignbridge DC.

It was proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Squire that the Clerk to write to the Chief Executive of Devon CC accordingly. The motion was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to the Chief Executive of Devon County Council expressing the Parish Council's views.

ii) Devon CC - Minerals & Waste Development Framework

The development Framework was noted.

iii) Devon CC - Primary School at Sherford

Cllr Hart reported that he was on this committee and confirmed the meeting on 23 May 2007 to discuss the Primary School. The Sherford Refined Scheme has a different location for the Primary School. Cllr Martin will also endeavour to attend the meeting.

iv) Letter from F Barker re Closure of Hairdressers in Wembury

The Clerk informed members that he had also received a letter on this matter from Mr J Coulson.

Cllr Martin had spoken to both ladies concerned and the hairdresser had moved to a better job in Plymouth.

Cllr Tarsky, following complaints from residents, had removed the advertising board from the top of Knighton Hill and returned it to the hairdresser. He had explained that it would possibly be acceptable to display it for a couple of days, but not as a permanent sign.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council was not responsible in any way for the closure of the hairdressers.

v) South Hams DC - Strategic Partnership - Working Together

The document was noted

vi) Shoreline Management Plan for South Devon & Dorset

Cllr Hart said that plans and a register of who owns land along the coast was currently being drawn up. The document was noted.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

07-065 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

The Chairman informed members that he had received an email from the Clerk of Yealmpton Parish Council who wanted to convene a meeting of the A379 Cluster Group on the 4, 5 or 6 June 2007 to consider a co-ordinated response to the Sherford Development. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman should attend the meeting on a suitable date.

07-066 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Councillor Hart

Cllr Hart said that with a cut of £1.7 m from the roads repair budget it was not surprising that they were not catching up with repairs to the road network. In addition, the cost of tarmac was rising. He was concerned that road repairs did not have a high enough priority within the County Council. He was also concerned about larger lorries being used in

narrow roads in the rural areas, which meant that the verges were being damaged and subsequently lost.

There was to be a first meeting of the new County Council on 24 May 2007, so watch this space.

The Down Thomas sign at Rack Corner has still not been replaced and he will chase the Highways Department again.

The AONB Annual meeting is to be held on 20 June 2007.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire

Cllr Squire informed members that it was all change at the District Council. They had held their first meeting earlier in the day and the new Chairman is Cllr Canter with Cllr Cane the Vice Chairman. The new leader of the Council is Cllr Tucker. There is also to be a shared Chief Executive with West Devon DC.

South Hams DC has expressed concern about the recent proposed closure of the Dairy, which will effect employment in Totnes and they are seeking a meeting with the Dairy management.

He was also concerned about the deterioration of the road network and felt that the County Council were building up a backlog of repair work. It appeared that lots of patching work was being done due to limited funds and he was supportive of more government funds for road repairs.

Cllr Cane

Cllr Cane said that there were exciting times ahead at South Hams DC. There were 16 new councillors who would all have a new input.

He thanked the people of Wembury for voting for John Squire and himself.

07-067 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) The River Yealm Estuary Management Group

Cllr Drought reported on the first meeting of the River Yealm Estuary Management Group, which was well attended. Concerns were expressed about the Sherford development and the effect 4500 new homes would have on the water run off, which would eventually reach the estuary or the sea. There are already problems in maintaining the high standard of water quality. In addition, the large influx of people will put more of a strain on the already oversubscribed waiting list for yacht berths. The group did not want to see any more yachts in the estuary. The environmental issues will be ongoing.

ii) The Wembury Point Management Group

Cllr drought reported on a recent meeting of the group and minutes would be circulated when received. The main discussion was the provision and location of a small car park for 8 to 10 cars on the site, which would preferably be within sight of nearby houses for security reasons. The buildings have now been demolished and are being 'greened over' very successfully. A discussion took place over the management of the land and it was agreed that some form of grazing should take place.

Following an initial approach by the Parish Council, the good work and commitment shown by the late Peter Williams for the National Trust was recognised and it was suggested that a seating area with a suitable seat, be dedicated to Peter within the site.

07-068 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 to Bus Shelter at Knighton Road

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote for the repair work to the glass panel from D Hopper Property Care in the sum of £195.

Cllr Squire proposed and Cllr Filby seconded approval of the £195 repairs to the bus shelter. Approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Bus Shelter at Knighton Road be repaired at a cost of £195 by D Hopper Property Care.

iii) Repair to Tennis Courts & Skateboard Park

The Clerk reported that he had eventually received invoices from South Hams DC for the repairs to the Wembury Tennis Court and Skateboard Park carried out last year, in the sum of £1100. Although budgeted for last year, this money had not been spent.

Cllr Cammack proposed and Cllr Filby seconded payment of the invoices from the current budget for the work done. Approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The invoices from South Hams DC for work carried out to the Wembury Tennis Courts and Skateboard Park during 2006, in the sum of £1100, be paid from this year's budget.

iv) Grant Request from Down Thomas Short Mat Bowls Club

The Chairman had received a letter from the Down Thomas Short Mat Bowls Club seeking assistance with the purchase of new mats. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should seek further financial information from the club and raise it again at the next meeting.

The Clerk to seek further financial information from the club.

07-069 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Hart informed members that he was shortly to have meetings about the Maritime Royal Action Plan and about digital TV in the area.

Cllr Doody reported that Wembury School have a new Headmaster who would be starting in September.

Cllr Newnham reported the high grass impaired sightlines at the junction of Leyford Lane and Wembury Road. **Cllr Hart to investigate.**

Cllr Rowland reported large potholes in Monkswood, Wembury Square and near the Village Hall. **Cllr Hart to investigate.**

Cllr Tarsky acknowledged the extensive contribution to the Parish Council work over many years by John Bennett and thanked him. All the members reiterated their thanks.

Cllr Martin handed out his manifesto.

Cllr Cammack was concerned that only half of the broken rails around Wembury Park have been replaced and vehicles can still gain access. **The Clerk to write to South Hams DC.**

07-070 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman referred to a letter from Cllr Filby about continuing the work of the late Peter Williams in connection with the Leisure Report for the Parish. A short discussion ensued and it was felt that a Leisure Centre was not required. However, some provision could be made for community / leisure activities when the Wembury School is rebuilt. Cllr Filby undertook to form a small sub-committee to finalise the report on leisure and to produce a 4 year Leisure Plan for the Parish.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.33 pm.

R Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council