

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 Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, on Monday 24 September 2007.

07-104 OPENING THE MEETING

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Rowland, explained that the Chairman was currently on holiday and that he would be chairing the meeting.

He opened the meeting at 7.31 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllrs Cammack, Filby, Gage, Martin, Hart and Newnham were present.
District Cllr Cane and six members of the public were also present.

07-105 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Doody, Drought, Scoble, Squire and Tarsky.

07-106 PRESENTATION BY JENNY ROWLAND ON HER VISIT TO THE MONTANA 4H CONGRESS IN JULY 2007

The Vice Chairman introduced Jenny Rowland who gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on her visit to Montana in July and August. She had been representing the Young Farmers Association and was one of only a handful of international delegates at the 4H Congress.

She then answered questions about the different farming methods used in Montana. Finally, she thanked the Parish Council for their grant, which had helped with her finances during the trip.

The Vice Chairman thanked her for her excellent presentation. He then informed members that the equipment used for the presentation was the electronic projector, which has been purchased by the Wembury History Society with a grant from Devon CC and Wembury Parish Council. This equipment is available for any local organisation to use and he thanked David Pinder for managing the use of the equipment and for providing the equipment for the presentation.

The Clerk reported that an article about the use of the electronic projector was in the September Wembury Review.

07-107 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 30 JULY 2007.

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

07-108 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

07-089(i) The Clerk reported that the reinstatement of the Down Thomas Post Office was currently on programme. The Postmistress was awaiting confirmation of her appointment. The planning application had been approved and final quotes were being obtained from builders.

Once the quotes had been received, the Clerk suggested that the Parish Council working party should meet to sign the necessary contracts for the grant from Devon Renaissance and the Post Office Ltd.

Work on the garage conversion should start during October / November and the Post Office is scheduled to open late November or early December.

07-089 (ii) Cllr Hart would further investigate the repainting of the yellow lines and areas of the road that had been patched, adjacent to Wembury Beach.

07-089 (iii) The Clerk informed councillors that the new proposed Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors had been advertised and was on the Parish Council website.

07-090 (ii) A notice had been put in the Wembury Review asking the youngsters in Wembury to clear up and look after the Wembury Youth Shelter area.

The new Wembury Neighbourhood Beat Manager would be appointed on 15 October and a meeting would be arranged with him soon after his appointment. The Police at Ivybridge have also been informed of the activities around the youth shelter and they will monitor the situation.

Cllr Tarsky was agreeable to being the Parish Council's odd job person and it was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a suitable contract with him for ad hoc work. Cllr Tarsky has already made contact with the local youths and has cleared up the area near their shelter.

07-090 (iii) The Clerk had written to the National Trust regarding suitable land for allotments but had not yet received a reply.

The Clerk also asked councillors to let him have suggestions for suitable sites. He was also asked to put a request for suitable land for allotments in the next Wembury Review.

07-092 (ii) Cllr Martin confirmed that he had responded to the consultation request from the Devon Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

07-092 (v) Cllr Martin reported that he had been for an interview for the Standards Committee but had not been subsequently appointed.

07-092 (vii) The Clerk reported that the notice board had now been completed by Mr Fragell and was ready to collect.

The Clerk would arrange the erection of the Notice Board at Wembury Point shortly.

07-092 (viii) The Clerk had already circulated a reply from South West Water regarding sewerage on Wembury Beach during July. Following a short discussion, it was agreed to monitor the situation and to take a much stronger line if it happens again.

07-095 (i) The Clerk had written to Devon County Highways regarding a 20 mph speed limit in Wembury and had not yet received a reply.

Cllr Filby was waiting for Devon County Highways to send him the plans of the previously proposed traffic calming for Wembury.

The Clerk also asked if councillors could obtain support for a 20 mph speed limit from the local school.

07-097 (i) The Clerk reported that Devon County Highways do not have an official 'Concealed Entrance' sign and as the verge in this section of Church Road was in private ownership, they had suggested that the householders should put up their own sign.

07-097 (ii) Cllr Cammack said that the grass on the Wembury football pitch had been cut and piles of grass left all over it. He had complained to South Hams DC and the grass had been spread all over the pitch the following day. The grass-cutting contractor does not appear to be doing a good job.

The Clerk agreed to write to South Hams DC pointing out the Parish Council's concerns about grass cutting in the Wembury area.

07-109 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 20 AUGUST 2007.

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

07-110 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

The Vice Chairman reported that Gary Streeter had written to South Hams DC expressing his concerns and those of the Parish Council, but had not yet received a reply.

The Clerk also reported that he had put a short report about Gary Streeter's visit to Wembury in the Wembury Review. He had also sent an email to the South Hams DC new planning enforcement officer, but had not received a reply.

07-111 THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL WAS SUSPENDED FOR THE PUBLIC TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS OR PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

The Vice Chairman suspended the business of the Council and opened this session to the public at 8.21 pm.

i) Wembury Crime Report August/September

Sid Lawrence the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) had apologised for not being able to attend the meeting and the Chairman read out his crime report for August/September.

WEMBURY CRIME RELATED INCIDENTS AUGUST / SEPTEMBER.

JL/07/778 - Theft. 1000hrs 7th Aug 07, until 1445hrs 7th Aug 07. Wembury Beach, surf boards stolen. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/781 - Criminal Damage to vehicle. 2000hrs 7th Aug 07, until 0900hrs 8th Aug 07. Highfield Drive. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/785 - Theft. 1400hrs 9th Aug 07, 1600hrs 9th Aug 07. Camera taken from Bovisand. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/816 - Domestic Incident. 19th Aug 07.

Jl/07/817 - Arson. 1600hrs 11th Aug 07, 0900hrs 12th Aug 07. Park Bench set alight . UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/822 – Assault ABH. 1200hrs 5th Aug 07. Wembury Beach. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/833 – Criminal Damage. 1800hrs 24th Aug 07. Bovisand lane Down Thomas a boat was damaged by stones being thrown. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/853 – Theft. 0900hrs 28th Aug 07, 0900hrs 29th Aug 07. Sports equipment taken from Fort Bovisand. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/884 – Domestic Incident. 5th Sep 07.

Jl/07/885 – Theft. 2115hrs 5th Sep 07. Jewellery taken from Point House. DETECTED.

Jl/07/892 – Domestic Incident. 7th Sep 07.

Jl/07/894 – Theft. 25th Aug 07. Money taken from phone box in Church Rd. UN-DETECTED. Enquiries continue.

Jl/07/898 – Domestic Incident. 9th Sep 07.

ii) David Pinder - 20 mph Speed Limit in Wembury

Mr Pinder informed councillors that the Amenity Society had reservations about the originally proposed 20 mph speed limit and traffic calming measures. Any scheme needs to have robust measures to ensure the Traine Road does not become a 'rat run'. He will let the Clerk have the Amenity Society's comments on the original scheme.

iii) David Pinder - Extension of Footpath Network

He was delighted to inform members that the Amenity Society would shortly be circulating a paper, which identifies additional footpath links around the Wembury area. After long negotiations between the National Trust and landowners, a price has been agreed for an exchange of woodland. This will allow the development of a footpath to connect Warren Point and Hollacombe, which is the last piece in the jigsaw of footpath links around the Wembury area. The paper will explain the proposed footpaths and make a case for them. However, he urged the Parish Council to put the paper on the next Parish Council agenda when he would seek support from the Parish Council for the proposals and request that they write to the National Trust. The National Trust Committee needs to be persuaded that this footpath is necessary to open up the area more and will benefit local people and visitors.

iii) Brian Nichols - Housing

Mr Nichols informed members that the County Structure Plan proposed 20,000 houses in Devon by 2016 and he queried the planning approval criteria for these houses.

Cllr Hart generally agreed with the figures for the whole of Devon but the areas to be developed were to be identified by the District Councils. Brownfield sites should be considered first but as Devon was a rural area there were limited brownfield sites.

Cllr Cane said that affordable housing was a high priority for South Hams DC but that suitable areas for affordable housing was to come from the Parish Councils. Development areas with affordable housing will have a higher priority than other developments, but it will require local support.

Cllr Gage questioned whether affordable housing was happening. Cllr Cane responded by agreeing that it was difficult to show that enough affordable housing was being built. If not, then there was always the option of compulsory purchase orders, but this was unlikely to happen.

Cllr Newnham said that Gary Streeter considers that rural villages needs affordable housing, or mixed housing, to enable them to survive.

Cllr Hart confirmed that 144 houses with a high percentage of affordable housing were being built on the Wimpey Crossroads Garage development.

The Vice Chairman closed the open session at 8.22 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

07-112 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.

07-113 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) Society of Local Council Clerks, SW Regional Conference

The Clerk explained about the conference in Plymouth on 4 October 2007 and asked whether any councillor wished to attend. It was proposed by Cllr Hart and seconded by Cllr Cammack the Clerk should attend as necessary. Approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to attend the Society of Local Council Clerks, SW Regional Conference in Plymouth on 4 October 2007, as necessary.

The Clerk also informed members that the Society of Council Clerks was forming a new Institute of Local Council Management at their National Conference in October and it may be prudent for the Clerk to become a founder member of this new institute. It was proposed by Cllr Hart and seconded by Cllr Cammack that the Clerk applies to become a founder member of the Institute of Local Council Management, if the costs are reasonable. Approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to apply to become a founder member of the Institute of Local Council Management, if the costs are reasonable.

ii) Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils - Clerks Workshop

The Clerk outlined the proposed Clerk's Workshop and lunch at Ivybridge on the 19 October 2007. It was proposed by Cllr Newnham and seconded by Cllr Filby that the Clerk attends the workshop and lunch and reports back to the Parish Council accordingly. Approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to attend the workshop and lunch on 19 October 2007 and report back to the Parish Council accordingly.

iii) Devon CC - Bus Information Strategy 2006 - 2011

Councillors noted the Devon County Council Bus Information Strategy.

iv) South West Regional Assembly - Public Consultation on Gypsies & Travellers in the South West

Cllr Hart reported that the RDA had allocated a sum of money for suitable traveller sites in Devon and this was currently being distributed around and discussed with, the district councils. Traveller sites on Devon CC land are currently not being moved on, as Devon County Council are not taking permitted action.

v) South Hams DC - Parish Cluster Meetings

The Cluster Group had requested suitable items for the next Agenda.

This was left to the Chairman, Cllr Drought, to action, as he would be attending the meeting.

vi) South Hams DC - Budget Consultation Meeting, 29 October 2007

The Chairman would be attending this meeting, as last year.

vii) The Rural Housing Trust - Affordable Village Housing Seminar

The seminar would be held on 2 November 2007 at the Newton & Noss Village Hall when HRH Princess Royal would attend. The letter requested two nominations from Wembury Parish Council to attend.

Cllr Martin volunteered to attend and it was agreed that the Chairman should be the other representative.

viii) Devon Partnership NHS - Foundation Trust Membership

Any councillor wishing to become a member should apply and go through the interview process.

ix) Gary Streeter

The Vice Chairman read out a letter from Gary Streeter regarding his visit to the last Wembury Parish Council meeting.

x) The Vice Chairman reminded councillors about the DAPC AGM on Saturday 29 September 2007. Cllr Martin confirmed that he would be attending as the Parish Council representative.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

07-114 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

None.

07-115 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Councillor Hart

Cllr Hart informed members that he had recently been discussing the budget for road surfacing and he was hopeful that some of the roads in Wembury would be resurfaced next year.

The access road to the Wimpey Crossroads Garage housing development, which is partly owned by Plymouth City Council and Devon County Council will be made the responsibility of Plymouth City Council to avoid any future disputes by motorists. The road adjacent to the development will be closed shortly for siteworks to be carried out, but Cllr Hart thinks that it is unlikely to reopen.

There is now only one developer for the Sherford development, Redtree Development, as the Co-op have not submitted an objection to the approved scheme. The scheme will now be put in for planning where the detail will be resolved. There will be one combined 3 to 16 year old school and the school proposals will soon be out to public consultation.

Cllr Hart was pleased that the Sherford development now provides a policy framework to guide planning in the area.

Exeter has to show the government how it proposes to save £4M out of the budget it will receive from Devon County Council by the end of October if it is to achieve unitary status. Devon County Council will be allowed to comment on their submission. Devon County Council is still going ahead with a request for a judicial review against Exeter becoming a unitary authority.

Cllr Hart raised the question of filling of potholes, particularly in Church Road. The Clerk confirmed that this was not a high priority for the Devon Highways, but that the pothole near the school was scheduled to be filled soon. The filling of the pothole on the access road to the beach would be followed up by Cllr Hart.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire

Cllr Squire was recovering from a successful hip replacement operation and everyone wished him a speedy recovery.

Cllr Cane

Cllr Cane said that concessionary fares were charged by an agreed fare with the bus company and not necessarily by what was shown on the ticket. There were now 13500 concessionary cards issued at a cost of £730,000. South Hams DC only received £600,000 and the shortfall had to be funded by South Hams DC.

The South Hams DC Scrutiny Committee met last week and had discussed the closure of Post Offices. Around 18% of all country's Post Offices are to be closed over the next 12 months, due to the huge losses being incurred by the Post Office Ltd. He hoped that the Down Thomas Post office would be successful.

The improvements due to the 106 agreement for the Wimpey Crossroads Garage development have mainly gone to Plymouth City Council. However, the houses being

built will be available for the younger people of the Wembury Parish and the allocation of the affordable housing will be controlled by South Hams DC.

07-116 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Forward Planning Working Group

Cllr Filby had produced a written progress report that had been circulated with the agenda.

He showed examples of other Parish Council Plans and said that the group could apply for a grant up to £2500, which was available to help with the printing and distribution costs of the Wembury Parish Plan. The grant was on a 75% contribution basis and if the group went ahead then the maximum cost to the Parish Council would be 25% ie £833. He asked if the Parish Council wished the group to produce such a glossy Parish Plan and to seek a grant. A short discussion followed about the overall cost of producing and distributing such a Parish Plan.

The Parish Council were generally in favour of producing a Parish Plan but it was agreed that further costings should be sought by the group and reported back to the next meeting, before committing the Parish Council to expenditure.

ii) Posters Within Wembury

The Clerk explained a recent incident where an artist had asked the Clerk if signs could be displayed for a Devon wide artist network exhibition. The Clerk had given approval and circulated the information to all the councillors. However, one councillor had taken it upon himself to ask the artist and neighbours to remove the signs. The Clerk asked that if a similar incident arose then discussions should be held with him in future and not the person concerned.

He also suggested that the removal of signs was a matter for the Devon Highways department and not the parish Council. However, he suggested that it might be useful if the Parish Council could agree a policy on the display of signs in the notice boards and on the street. This could then be agreed with Devon Highways for the Wembury area. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that a suitable policy on signing should be produced. It was proposed by Cllr Hart and seconded by Cllr Rowland that the Forward Planning Working Group be asked to produce a suitable signing policy for Wembury Parish. Approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Forward Planning Working Group be asked to produce a suitable signing policy for Wembury Parish.

iii) Wembury Beach Meeting

The Vice Chairman reported that the recent meeting to discuss issues at Wembury Beach had been a success and most of the interested parties had attended. The various issues raised over the last six months were being looked at. He felt that the Parish Council could help the National Trust and private sector when dealing with the local authorities. Simon Garner, National Trust Warden would like a working group of interested parties to meet on a regular basis to improve communications and the Vice Chairman asked for volunteers.

Cllrs Gage and Filby agreed to join the Vice Chairman in representing the Parish Council on such a working group. Cllr Gage volunteered to co-ordinate the Group.

iv) Emergency Self Help Plan

Cllr Gage explained that Robin Langdon who was responsible for the Transport and Equipment section of the plan was shortly to leave the Wembury area and needs to be replaced.

Cllr Gage asked for a suitable volunteer and it was agreed that councillors would consider the position and agree on a replacement at the next Parish Council meeting.

07-117 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for August / September 2007

The Vice Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

ii) Wembury Parish Council Annual Return for 31 March 2007

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been returned by the external auditor and there were no issues to raise with the Parish Council.

The Clerk had displayed the relevant notices on the Parish Council notice boards for 21 days as required. No-one had requested a copy of the Annual Return.

iii) Clerks Remuneration

The Clerk reported that the annual increase of Parish Clerks, backdated to April 2007, is still being negotiated nationally and to date, the Employer and Unions had not agreed a percentage increase. The Unions were now considering strike action.

It was agreed to discuss the Clerks remuneration in Part 2 of the October meeting.

iv) Wembury Short Mat Bowls Club

The Vice Chairman reported a letter received from the Wembury Short Mat Bowls Club, which was requesting a grant to pay for two Bowls Mat Trolleys. The trolleys will enable older players to set up the mats themselves. The Clerk had received the Club's full financial details and the Club are going to pay over £1000 for the alterations to the storage area to accommodate the trolleys.

Cllr Martin proposed and Cllr Cammack seconded that the Wembury Short Mat Bowls Club be given a grant of £350 to purchase one Short Mat trolley. Approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Wembury Short Mat Bowls Club be given a grant of £350 to purchase one Short Mat trolley.

07-118 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

None

07-119 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.43 pm.

R Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council