

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 28 January 2008.

08-01 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought, opened the meeting at 7.33 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr Tucker, leader of South Hams DC. Cllrs Cammack, Filby, Gage, Hart, Martin, Newnham, Scoble and Squire were present. Eight members of the public, District Cllr Cane and Sid Lawrence (PCSO) were also present.

08-02 APOLOGIES

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

08-03 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Cammack informed members that he was involved with the setting up of the Wembury Allotment Society. There were no further declarations of interest.

08-04 CLLR JOHN TUCKER, LEADER OF SOUTH HAMS DC

The Chairman introduced Cllr Tucker and thanked him for finding the time to attend the Wembury Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Tucker addressed members and explained that communication was his 'hobby horse'. As leader of South Hams DC, he felt that perhaps the District Council have not listened to the local people enough in the past and he wanted to improve the communication between the Parishes and the District Council. He wanted to know what the District Council could do to help the Parishes. Also, what the District Council was doing wrong and how it could be put right. He felt that this was a two way process. Cllr Tucker then went on to discuss specific services.

He was aware that there were still problems with the waste collection service and that they had not yet got it right. However, they were making amendments and he was confident that they would get it right in the end. In the past, they had diverted staff from

litter collection to waste collection and this had created the worst of all cases. In future, they would have more staff in the required services.

Planning and particularly planning enforcement had been overstretched and the officers couldn't cope with the recent 20% increase in applications. However, he was pleased to announce that they will be acquiring two new planning officers shortly.

He was also pleased to announce that South Hams DC would not be closing the toilets at Wembury beach during the winter months and that the Executive had recently agreed to continue putting out the safety buoys across Wembury and Bovisand beaches during the summer months.

Cllr Cammack asked what provision the District Council had for the disposal of florescent tubes and other electrical WEEE products such as batteries. Cllr Tucker did not know the procedure for the disposal of WEEE products and would investigate.

Cllr Cammack also said that the various recycling bags were all put into one collection lorry and whilst he was aware that these bags are not crushed in the lorry and could be separated at the depot for recycling, he felt that the public were not aware of this and they should be informed.

Cllr Gage was concerned that whilst the road gutters were swept, the footpaths in the rural areas were not and they could be dangerous with fallen leaves. Cllr Tucker said that South Hams DC and two other districts were speaking to Devon CC about a seamless street sweeping system, where all the sweeping will be co-ordinated and carried out in the most economical way.

Cllr Gage also remarked on the initiative between the Police and Dog Wardens to help clean up dog mess in the parish. However, he felt that there should be more dog bins to encourage dog owners to dispose of the dog mess more easily. Cllr Tucker said that both ordinary litter bins and the domestic refuse bins could be used for the disposal of dog mess. However, to provide more dog bins required a close co-operation with the Dog Wardens and waste collection service otherwise the bins would not be emptied.

The Chairman then suspended the business of the Council at 7.52 pm to allow the public to discuss matters with Cllr Tucker.

Terry Clarke also remarked on the disposal of florescent tubes. He was also concerned about the litter in the hedgerows that also needs clearing. He also highlighted the difference between private (by car) and commercial (by van) disposal of white goods ie fridges.

Terry then highlighted two drains that required cleaning in the Wembury School drive. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the school would be responsible for clearing these drains.

Brian Nichols asked Cllr Tucker about the proposed re-banding of properties for council tax purposes. Cllr Tucker was waiting for the Government guidelines and he believed that they would not be published until after the next general election.

A member of the public expressed concerned that the operations cleaning team for highways had not been in the Wembury area for some time and he asked if Cllr Tucker would chase them up to clean the Wembury area. Cllr Newnham said that the Parish lengthsman was due in the Wembury area next week and that if he was informed of any cleaning that was required he would pass it on to the lengthsman.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Tucker for his frank exchange of information and resumed Parish Council business at 8.03 pm.

08-05 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 17 DECEMBER 2007.

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

08-06 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

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

07-139 vii)

Cllr Cammack said that it was difficult to find an opportunity to speak to the transport operators, to ask them to turn round in another location.

07-153 ii) Tony Romang

He informed the Parish Council that whilst the hedge along Church Road had now been trimmed back all the debris generated still required clearing away from the footpath.

Cllr Hart agreed to look into the matter.

07-155 ii) The Chairman reported that he was not able to attend the South Hams DC, Budget meeting with Town & Parish Councils on 17 January 2008, as it clashed with another meeting.

07-158 vi) Church Rooms

The Clerk reported that he had not yet received correspondence from the Church about the Church Rooms. A short discussion ensued and it seems that no-one appears to know who owns the Church Rooms, in spite of detailed research being carried out in the past.

Cllr Rowland was asked to look into this matter further.

07-159 iii) Down Thomas Post Office & Community Rooms

The Clerk reported that it was hoped that Gary Streeter MP would open the Down Thomas Post Office and Community Room on Friday 8 February at 2 pm.

07-160 The large pothole at Monkswood had not yet been repaired and **Cllr Hart undertook to chase Devon Highways for an urgent repair.**

08-07 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) Crime Report January 2008

Sid Lawrence (PCSO) gave the crime report for January 2008 and said that there had been 3 crimes of note in the Wembury Parish since the last meeting:-

1. Between 24/12/07 and 09/01/08 a house in Wembury Road had its slate house sign stolen. There were no witnesses, and at this time, no suspects have been identified for this offence.

2. On the evening of 15/01/08 a red Ford Escort was parked in Mewstone Ave, and an attempt was made to enter the vehicle by forcing the front passenger door lock. Once again, the incident was not witnessed, but a suspect for this offence is being pursued.
3. Between 24/01/08 and 26/01/08, a resident of Mewstone Ave has become the victim in an offence of fraud. An account with a catalogue company has been opened in his name, and a small amount of goods has been delivered to his address. He has not opened the account or ordered the goods. Normally with offences such as this, a large order is made on the second occasion, and delivered to a different address, leaving the victim to sort out the debt. Enquiries are on-going with the catalogue company. The offenders are believed to be living in Plymouth.

Sid also reported a suspect vehicle has been seen parked in Manor Bourne Road and he asked everyone to let the Police know if they see a suspect vehicle.

Sid reported that on the 1 April 2008, parking in Devon becomes decriminalised and the Police will not be issuing parking tickets. This may affect the area around Wembury Beach.

Cllr Squire said that parking on double yellow lines would still be an offence but that the issuing of parking tickets will be carried out by South Hams DC. However, the Police can still issue a ticket for obstruction of the highway.

Cllr Hart said that he believed the Police would continue issuing tickets until May to assist with the change over. Devon CC are working with the eight District Councils to agree a suitable system of issuing tickets across the County, otherwise the government will not approve it.

ii) Tony Romang

He reported that an old gas canister partially buried on the west side of Wembury Beach was now rusting through and becoming dangerous.

The Clerk was asked to check who was responsible for this section of the beach and to ask those responsible to remove the canister.

iii) Cllr Cane

He reported that the stile on the Hollacombe / Brixton footpath was overgrown and the vegetation required trimming back. **Clerk to contact Peter Guy about the stile.**

iv) Bob Harvey

Bob again raised the issue of a 30 mph speed limit through Staddiscombe and referred to horrific road accidents in rural areas. Cllr Hart said that this section of road does not meet the criteria for speed limit and therefore the Police would not support it. He suggested that Mr Harvey should write to the Chief Constable if he wished to pursue this matter further.

Bob also said that there were lots of little potholes through Down Thomas and Heybrook Bay and that the recent patching in the road had not been carried out well. Cllr Drought also said that a recent road repair at the bottom of Manor Bourne Road had also been damaged due to the recent wet weather. **Cllr Hart agreed to look into this matter.**

The Chairman closed the open session at 8.34 pm and resumed Parish Council business.

08-08 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.

08-09 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) Tony Romang

The Chairman went through the various items in Mr Romang's letter:-

Road Repairs - resurfacing works are due to be done in Wembury during the next financial year and **Cllr Hart undertook to ask that Church Road takes priority.**

Down Thomas to Heybrook Bay Footpath provision - a discussion ensued whether a suitable footpath could be provided alongside the high hedge. **It was agreed that the Clerk write to the landowner, Nick Giles and ask whether he would consider granting a permissive path along the inside of the hedge.**

Playground Equipment - the children's playground equipment in Wembury is the responsibility of South Hams DC. Cllr Squire said that South Hams DC are looking at all the open spaces across the district. Wembury will be looked at and we should therefore wait for a suitable report from South Hams DC.

Cllr Hart reported that Wembury School is looking to spend a lot of money on playground equipment and it needs to avoid duplication of other play equipment in Wembury. A short discussion was held on the suitability of play equipment for different age groups.

ii) St Werburgh's Church

St Werburgh's Church had requested a grant for their Flower Festival to be held in 2008. This grant request had been provided for in the budget for next year, to be considered later in the meeting.

iii) Devon CC - 20 mph Speed Limit in Wembury

The current progress regarding the provision of a 20 mph speed limit through Wembury was noted.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

08-10 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

The Chairman reported that both councillors Filby and Tarsky had recently written to First regarding poor aspects of the bus service to Wembury.

Cllr Filby reported that a reply from First did not answer his queries and he was concerned that Wembury buses were not stopping at designated stops and that there was confusion about the terminus of the bus in Plymouth. Sometimes it was along the viaduct and other times along Royal Parade.

A short discussion ensued and it was felt that the drivers should make the Viaduct a compulsory stop for Wembury buses so that passengers could be sure of catching the bus at this stop. **The Clerk was asked to write to First accordingly.**

**08-11 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL
ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY
DEVON CC**

Councillor Hart

The Boundary Commission is now considering the Exeter Unitary proposal and Cllr Hart was unsure of their timescale to report back. However, Devon CC were trying to co-ordinate a meeting with District Council leaders to discuss this issue, but there is unlikely to be any changes until at least 2011 as Torbay have an elected Mayor until then.

The County was due to set its budget next week and Cllr Hart was unsure what the outcome would be. There are problems with the childcare budget and old people's homes will now be leased and not sold. This will have an affect on old people in Devon. He was also concerned about the highways budget and felt that the County should be working more closely with all eight district councils.

The County Council is to look at the whole question of waste and he thought that commercial waste would become a problem in the future.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire

Cllr Squire informed councillors that South Hams DC are to increase the council tax rate by about 4.5%, which means about £5.50 on a band D property.

The Sherford planning application is currently being looked at by South Hams planners. A special South Hams DC meeting has agreed to share a joint Chief Executive between West Devon DC and South Hams DC for another two years.

The District Council is also unclear about the timescale for the boundary review and Cllr Squire suggested that we should just await further details as it is not clear what is likely to happen.

He was pleased to confirm that South Hams DC would place the buoys across Wembury and Bovisand beaches again during the summer months, but asked the Parish Council to consider a financial contribution towards this service. He also confirmed that the toilets at the beach would remain open during the winter period.

Changes to the countrywide free bus pass for over 60 year olds from 1 April will increase costs of the service. Whilst South Hams will be receiving an increase from £403,000 to £750,000 from the government to provide the free bus passes, there is no way of knowing what the take up is likely to be in the South Hams area.

Cllr Squire informed members that the fastest growing sector in Devon and Cornwall is the over 100 year olds. The general population is growing at 1% mainly in the very young and very old sectors.

Cllr Cane

Cllr Cane said that businesses could get up to £1100 rate relief in certain circumstances and that only 50% of businesses had taken this up.

He wished the Parish Council good luck with the opening of the Post Office in Down Thomas next week.

**08-12 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES
AS APPROPRIATE**

i) Forward Planning Working Group

Cllr Filby reported that the next meeting of the group had been arranged for 29 January. Alan Puddicombe had co-ordinated the people's responses and was reporting at the next meeting.

**08-13 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AT ANNEX C**

i) Financial Statement for January 2008

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

ii) Finance Sub-Committee held on 7 January 2008

Each proposal of the Finance Sub-Committee meeting minutes was discussed in turn.

2.0 DAPC Subscription

The Clerk outlined the benefits of being a member of the Devon Association of Parish Councils and Cllr Martin explained the inconsistencies in the way the subscription appears to be calculated for the Town and Parish Councils. A lengthy debate ensued. It was finally proposed by Cllr Drought, seconded by Cllr Scoble, to pay the DAPC subscription for 2008 and the Clerk to formally write to DAPC asking how the Wembury fee has been calculated and to seek a more rational way of fee calculation at their next AGM. The voting was 8 votes for with one abstention.

RESOLVED: To pay the DAPC subscription for 2008 and the Clerk to formally write to DAPC asking how the Wembury fee has been calculated and to seek a more rational way of fee calculation at their next AGM.

3.0 Mileage Claims

1) PROPOSAL: In addition to the current situation, a mileage allowance of 40 pence per mile is made available for Parish Councillors to claim to offset the cost of mileage when attending a Parish Council meeting or representing the Parish Council at a meeting, when inside the Parish boundary.

The Clerk explained the current situation regarding mileage claims ie Parish Council members may claim a mileage allowance at 40 pence per mile when carrying out Parish Council business outside the Parish boundary only. A lengthy debate then took place. Cllr Hart then proposed, seconded by Cllr Martin that the proposal of the Finance Sub-Committee be withdrawn and not ratified. The Clerk explained that all members would be allowed to vote and he would take Cllr Hart's proposal first. The voting was 5 votes for 4 votes against. The proposal was carried and therefore Parish Council member's mileage allowance remains unchanged.

RESOLVED: The current Parish Council mileage allowance remains at 40 pence per mile when carrying out Parish Council business outside the Parish boundary only.

2) PROPOSAL: The Clerk is paid a mileage allowance of 40 pence per mile for all mileage from the Parish Council office, when on Parish Council business.

The Clerk left the room whilst this item was discussed. The proposal was ratified by 8 votes for with 1 vote against.

RESOLVED: The Clerk is paid a mileage allowance of 40 pence per mile for all mileage from the Parish Council office, when on Parish Council business.

5.0 Grant Applications and Annual Expenditure

PROPOSAL: The Subscriptions and grants listed in the Finance Sub-Committee minutes are approved for the 2008 / 9 financial year.

Proposed by Cllr Newnham, seconded by Cllr Squire, the proposal was ratified unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Subscriptions and grants listed in the Finance Sub-Committee minutes are approved for the 2008 / 9 financial year.

6.0 Proposed Budget 2008 / 9

PROPOSAL: The proposed budget for 2008 / 9 to be put to the next Parish Council meeting for discussion and ratification.

Cllr Scoble proposed and Cllr Hart seconded, that the budget for 2008/9 be approved. The motion was carried by 7 votes for with 2 against. Cllr Martin recorded his vote against.

RESOLVED: The budget for 2008/9 was approved as detailed in ANNEX D.

7.0 Wembury Parish Council Precept 2008/9

PROPOSAL: The precept on South Hams DC is only increased by 1% for the 2008 / 9 financial year.

Proposed by Cllr Scoble, seconded by Cllr Hart, the proposal was ratified by 7 votes for with 2 against. Cllr Martin recorded his vote against.

RESOLVED: The Wembury Parish precept on South Hams DC only be increased by 1% for the 2008 / 9 financial year.

8.0 Any Other Business

i) Wembury Primary School

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council match the Devon CC grant and provide a £1000 grant to the Wembury Primary School for the children's play equipment.

A lengthy discussion ensued. It was eventually agreed that a presentation to the Parish Council to explain what play equipment the Wembury Primary School intend to provide and what they would spend the money on would be useful.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a suitable presentation.

Cllr Scoble proposed and Cllr Cammack seconded that the proposal be ratified with the money being spent out of this year's budget underspend. The proposal was approved by 8 votes for with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council match the Devon CC grant and provide a £1000 grant to the Wembury Primary School for the children's play equipment out of this year's budget underspend.

ii) Letter from Lucy Bourne

Lucy Bourne had requested financial support to complete a four-day trek in the Peak District on horse back for the Wembury Duke of Edinburgh open award group.

The Clerk was asked to find out how much money had already been raised and to bring the matter at the next Parish Council meeting on 25 February 2008.

08-14 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Hart asked the Clerk to circulate a recent newspaper article regarding the changeover to decriminalised parking to all councillors and the Neighbourhood Beat Manager.

Cllr Scoble said that the mobile library service was considering reducing the number of stops in the Wembury Parish and she urged the community to use the facility, or lose it.
The Clerk agreed to put an article in the Wembury Review.

Cllr Drought said that the recent heavy rain was damaging the edges of the road in Manor Bourne Road and he asked Cllr Newnham if the Parish lengthsman could clear out the edges of the road.

Cllr Filby said that the same applied to Natwest mobile bank in the Wembury area, use it or lose it.

Cllr Cammack informed members that the notice board opposite the Londis shop needs repairing. Cllr Filby also identified another board that required a repair.
The Clerk was asked to action suitable repairs.

Cllr Martin reported several dangerous incidents of youngsters skateboarding down the middle of the road at night and wearing dark clothing. He had already contacted PC Nolan the Neighbourhood Beat Manager.

08-15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 pm.

R Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council