

WEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors	D Drought	Chairman
	J Bennett	
	A Cammack	
	M Doody	
	P Filby	
	M Gage	
	J Hart	County Councillor
	N Martin	
	R Newnham	
	R Rowland	Vice Chairman
	L Scoble	
	J Squire	District Councillor
Clerk	R Fairclough	

Minutes of the Wembury Parish Council meeting held at the Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas, on Monday 28 July 2008.

08-92 OPENING THE MEETING

The Chairman, Cllr Drought, formally opened the meeting at 7.32 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Six members of the public and District Councillor Cane were also present.

08-93 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Rowland and PC John Nolan.

08-94 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULT

The Chairman read out the declaration of results of the recent poll:-

J Bennett 249 votes

L Bourne 148 votes

He then welcomed John Bennett to the Council and asked him to sign the declaration of acceptance off office.

John duly signed the declaration. He then thanked everyone in Wembury for voting for him and he was looking forward to joining the Council again.

The Chairman also took this opportunity on behalf of everyone present, to congratulate District Councillor Cane on becoming the Chairman of the South Hams District Council.

08-95 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Bennett declared his general interests.

There were no other declarations of interest.

08-96 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 30 JUNE 2008.

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

08-97 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

08-83 i) First Devon & Cornwall Ltd

Members considered that the reply from Simon Newport of First Devon & Cornwall Ltd was unsatisfactory. Clarification was again sought about the viaduct being a mandatory stop for drivers. Several buses have not stopped at the viaduct and the bus company is losing customers to taxi firms.

The Clerk to again contact First Devon & Cornwall Ltd and seek a satisfactory reply.

08-83 ii) Dog Warden

Cllr Squire is still discussing with South Hams DC to see if they can agree to provide one full-time Dog Warden and be more robust with prosecutions, but without success.

08-83 iii) Road Crossing

Cllr Hart will again speak with Devon Highways about how dangerous it is to cross the road near the War Memorial Hall, Wembury at the end of the railings.

08-83 iv) Binding of Council Minutes

The Clerk reported that previous minutes were at the binders

08-83 v) Wembury Tennis Courts

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had contacted Jon Parkinson of South Hams DC but that he had declined to attend the Parish Council meeting because the leisure capital proposals had only been considered by the South Hams DC Council the previous Thursday and so he was not in a position to explain it to the Parish Council yet.

However, he had agreed to meet parish councillors during August.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that Councillors would meet Jon Parkinson on 13 August 2008. Cllrs Bennett, Gage, Filby, Martin and Squire would attend if possible.

Representatives from other organisations were also encouraged to attend the meeting.

The Clerk to arrange a suitable meeting.

08-83 vi) Church Rooms, Ford Road, Wembury

Notes of the meeting held with the Rev T Freeman, Vicar of St Werburgh's Church, about the Church Rooms, Ford Road, Wembury, had been circulated to all councillors.

Cllr Squire had given the Rev Freeman a suitable contact within South Hams DC and the Church Council would be contacting them about demolition of the Church Rooms. They would also be investigating whether the lease of the land can be transferred over to the Church. However, this would not be possible before 2014, until after the lease runs out.

08-71 Environment Grant from Cllr Hart, Devon County Council

Cllr Hart said that the £1000 would be available in September 2008 for a suitable programme of environmental improvements approved by the Parish Council.

08-72 Wembury Beach – Rubbish Collection

Cllr Squire informed members that he had chaired a meeting with the National Trust about rubbish collection from Wembury beach and was pleased to report that an agreement had been reached.

South Hams DC would collect rubbish from the beach every day, except Sunday, and so

far, the agreement seems to be working well.

Cllr Squire thanked all those involved for their efforts in reaching a satisfactory agreement.

08-91 Cutting of Hedges

Cllr Hart reported that the hedges between Down Thomas and Heybrook Bay would be inspected, but there would be no cutting of hedges between March and July inclusive during the bird-nesting season.

08-91 Footpath Surfacing

South Areas Highways had reported that Southland Park Road would be slurry sealed in the near future. The footway in Mewstone Avenue would be inspected shortly.

08-98 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 7.50 pm

i) Crime Report July 2008

The Chairman explained that PC Nolan could not attend the meeting as he had to attend the Crown Court, the date of which had been changed suddenly. He also reported that there was insufficient time to arrange for Sid Lawrence to attend.

PC John Nolan's report for July comprised of one crime shown below:-

Theft from Motor vehicle.

Overnight between 8pm on Wednesday 16th July and 07:30 am on Thursday 17th July, a motor vehicle parked in Mewstone Avenue had its fuel line cut, and a quantity of diesel stolen from the fuel tank. There are no witnesses to the theft, and at this time, it remains as an undetected crime.

The Chairman reported that Sid Lawrence had sent an email and had passed on some parking issues:-

The area of concern in particular is Church Rd, Wembury, which leads down to the beach. It is a single-track road marked with a single yellow line on both sides with no parking signs that are effective from 1st May to the 30th Sept.

On both days this weekend, there have been in excess of 30 vehicles at any one time that have been illegally parked causing quite a few problems. I have not been able to deal with the complaints we have received as the vehicles were not causing enough of an obstruction for me to act. On both days, our control room contacted the council and were told that there were no council resources available to deal. This problem in my opinion will only get worse as the summer moves on, the word is already out that its free game with parking in the area.

Cllr Squire confirmed the problem and had also received telephone calls of complaint from parishioners. He reported that South Hams, who now look after parking, have only 7 officers across the district, during the week with only 2 officers to cover the whole district at the weekend. Members did not consider this satisfactory and Cllr Squire agreed

to try to get one officer down to Wembury during a fine weekend to issue some parking tickets.

Cllr Martin reported that people going to the beach were now parking their cars quite a distance from the beach and in the residential areas.

Cllr Gage considered that as South Hams DC kept the parking fine money that they should sort it out.

Cllr Hart suggested that the Clerk should write to South Hams DC asking if they have a rota system to cover these 'hot spots'. As the District Council kept the fine money, he felt that it should be an incentive for them to target these 'hot spots'.

It was proposed by Cllr Cammack, seconded by Cllr Doody, that the Clerk writes a letter to South Hams DC outlining the problems car parking poses for access by emergency services in Wembury and to suggest that a local person is employed, from income generated by parking fines, with suitable powers to fine motorists. The proposal was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write a letter to South Hams DC outlining the problems car parking poses for access by emergency services in Wembury and to suggest that a local person is employed, from income generated by parking fines, with suitable powers to fine motorists.

Cllr Gage again expressed concern that recent vandalism to boats in the Wembury Boat Park was not recorded as criminal damage because it had not been formally reported. The boat people will not redo the report. Crimes need to be reported correctly in future, as apparently, reporting it to PC Nolan is not enough.

He was also concerned about fireworks from Langdon Court being let off late at night that frightened local dogs. He has formally reported this to the Police.

ii) Amenity Society

David Pinder highlighted the recent letter from the National Trust, which was seeking £77,000 to create footpaths in the newly acquired Wembury Wood. The Amenity Society is donating £300 and he would be very pleased if the Parish Council would also provide a contribution in support these works.

He informed members that Plymouth CC had recently published the Eastern Corridor Study for consultation and requested that the Parish Council respond. He felt that there were issues about Liara Bridge and the proposed road alterations on the Plymouth side of the bridge. David would like to see an integrated transport system.

Cllr Drought said that he had been to an exhibition of the proposals, which he thought were not satisfactory.

David said that he had put an article in the next Wembury review about the proposed Boundary review proposals. He urged the Parish Council to write to the Boundary Committee supporting the view that Plymouth does not extend its boundaries.

iii) Tree Warden

Tony Romang informed members that he had received a letter from South Hams DC & Transco offering to plant 400+ trees in the Wembury area. He had application forms if anyone wanted a minimum of 5 trees to plant out. It was suggested that this information

should be put on the Parish Council website and on the Notice Boards.
The Allotment Society was also looking to plant trees.
The Clerk said that the letter would be circulated to members with the next Mailings.

iv) Wembury Tennis Club

Boris Broughton said that a meeting had already been held to reform the Wembury Tennis Club and 30 people had attended. Officers will be elected and the club will look after the courts. They will make the courts available for use by the general public as well as for club members. They are arranging for a key to the courts to be held at the Londis store, which can be used for a deposit of £5.

The Chairman congratulated Mr Broughton and looked forward to assisting the Tennis Club. He said that there should be a list of names of the original club members and he understood that there was still some money in the kitty, which could be used to repair the courts.

He hoped that he would attend the meeting with Jon Parkinson on behalf of the Wembury Tennis Club.

v) Tree and Road Repairs

Bob Harvey was concerned about a tree in Westlake Road and Tony Romang agreed to look at it.

He also suggested that there were many places in the village where the road was breaking up and required repair. There was a manhole in Westlake Drive that had sunk and the repairs had not been done properly.

Cllr Hart Agreed to chase the Highways Department.

vi) Street Name Signs

Cllr Scoble reported that several street name signs were in a poor condition and required replacing. **Cllr Squire agreed to look into this matter.**

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

08-99 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.

08-100 TO RECEIVE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

i) South Hams DC – New Procedures for Dealing with Councillors Complaints

The new procedures were noted.

ii) Plymouth CC – Eastern Corridor – Transport Improvement Options

A short discussion ensued about the Eastern Corridor Transport proposals proposed by Plymouth City Council. It was agreed unanimously, that the councillors would let the Clerk have their views and that the Clerk should send a Parish Council response to Plymouth City Council.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to send a Parish Council response to Plymouth City Council.

iii) Maitland Walker – BT’s Removal of Public Call Boxes

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the telephone box in Church Road near to Wembury Beach should remain. It was essential, as there was no mobile telephone signal at the beach and the telephone box was the only way to communicate in an emergency. It was unlikely that the telephone box would be worthy of listing.

It was agreed that the removal of this telephone box should be resisted and opposed. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Scoble, that the telephone box in Church Road, Wembury should remain and the Clerk to write to BT and South Hams DC opposing its removal. The resolution was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED: The telephone box in Church Road, Wembury should remain and the Clerk to write to BT and South Hams DC opposing its removal.

iv) Letter from Joan Brownlow – Wembury Tennis Courts

The Clerk reported that he had received several similar letters and emails about the tennis courts. This matter had been dealt with under items 08-97 and 08-98 iv)

v) St Werburgh’s Church – Notes of meeting on 1 July 2008

The notes of the meeting had been circulated and discussed under item 08-97.

vi) The Boundary Committee for England Structural Review of Devon: Draft Proposal South Hams DC – Local Government Review for Devon

Devon CC – Communities in Control – Real People, Real Power

A lengthy discussion ensued about the Boundary Review proposals for Devon.

The proposal by South Hams DC, which the Parish Council had supported, had not been accepted and the Boundary Committee had recommended a single Devon Unitary Authority.

The Chairman had attended a recent meeting to discuss the Boundary Committees proposals. However, he thought that the government had already accepted the proposals of the Review Committee that there should be a unitary Devon.

Cllr Squire agreed that the decision has already been made.

Cllr Hart said that a Devon unitary authority was the only option that met the criteria. He also supported the Boundary Committees view that Plymouth stays on its existing boundary. There could be a bid by Plymouth to extend its boundaries at some later date, but this is not in the current brief of the Boundary Committee. He felt that they had enough problems of their own without mixing urban and rural areas.

A discussion showed that members are not happy with a unitary Devon but agreed to accept it as the South Hams proposal had been rejected. It was felt that the secret to a successful Devon Unitary Authority would be the devolution of power down to the Parishes, plus the money to provide local services.

Cllr Hart said that Devon County Council had set up a working party to investigate this matter.

Cllr Bennett said that he had reservations with Devon becoming a Unitary authority because the Secretary of State could consider it too unwieldy and make changes. These could include extensions to Plymouth such as Sherford and Wembury. He agreed to support a Devon Unitary Authority but was opposed to Plymouth extending its boundaries.

Cllr Newnham also agreed to support a Devon Unitary Authority provided Plymouth keeps to its existing boundaries.

The Chairman agreed that the people of Wembury Parish do not want to be part of Plymouth City Council.

Cllr Squire said that South Hams DC had serious concerns about a Devon Unitary Authority and they will be writing formally to the Boundary Committee with their concerns, some of which are:-

Low number of executives to manage a 750,000 population

Not enough details about community boards

Need more details of service provision

Cllr Martin thought that Exeter was too far away to manage Wembury, councillors will not know what is happening in other parts of the region. He also thought that there were too few executives to manage the Unitary Authority.

The Chairman thought that the Parish Council had given a lot of thought about the Boundary Committee's proposals and hoped to do what was the best for the people of Wembury and Devon.

The Chair proposed, seconded by Cllr Newnham, that Wembury Parish Council accepts a Devon Unitary Authority, on condition that Plymouth City Council does not extend its boundary.

The voting was 8 for, 2 abstentions, 1 against and so the motion was carried.

The Clerk was asked to inform the Boundary Committee accordingly.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to inform the Boundary Committee that Wembury Parish Council accepts a Devon Unitary Authority, on condition that Plymouth City Council does not extend its boundary.

FOR INFORMATION.

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

08-101 URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

i) Wembury Allotments

The Chairman informed members that the Wembury Allotment Society had now agreed on a suitable plot of land with the National Trust, next to the Wembury Playing Field.

The plot will provide about 40 allotments with room for storage sheds, fruit trees and a wildlife pond. Costs are expected to be in the region of £10,000 to set up the allotment site and planning permission may also be required. They asked whether the Parish Council had any thoughts on suitable funding for the allotments.

The members were delighted that the allotments were now going ahead.

The Clerk was asked to continue discussions with the Allotment Society.

08-102 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEMBURY DEVON CC

Councillor Hart had been to a recent exhibition about the Eastern Corridor Study.

The County Council are currently looking for a suitable site for a waste incinerator to take the County's waste.

He thought that the proposed Devon Unitary Authority would have to set the rates at the lowest District Council rate. There will be a lot of pressure on the members to look forward and set up a new unitary authority whilst managing the existing county services at the same time.

There are ongoing discussions about the Hemmerdon tungsten mine, which is one of the

largest open cast mines in Europe. Waste disposal needs to be sorted out.

SOUTH HAMS DC

Cllr Squire There are ongoing discussions about Sherford to resolve major areas of disagreement with the developers Red Tree. The Secretary of State requires a further 500 houses to be provided, possibly into Sherford and this will cause real problems for South Hams DC services.

The closure of some Post Offices in the area has been disappointing. In some villages, the residents have to travel by car as there is no public transport. More affordable housing will create more car use, which is not good for the environment. He thought that the housing proposals have not been thought through properly.

Cllr Cane was disappointed that that the Boundary Committee had rejected the South Hams proposals. He felt that the changes to a new Devon Unitary Authority would cost a lot of money and it was likely that the local rates would increase.

South Hams DC had recently been awarded an £11 m grant for housing in the district.

Belmont Villa in Ivybridge is to be converted to assist pregnant girls.

There is to be free parking in Ivybridge between 10 am and 2 pm to encourage more people to shop in Ivybridge.

At the recent Youth Games in Plymouth for all the Districts, South Hams did very well and came second.

Stokenham Parish Council will shortly be running their own affairs, such as grass cutting. Perhaps more powers will be transferred to the Parish Councils under a Devon Unitary Authority.

08-103 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES AS APPROPRIATE

i) Forward Planning Working Group

Cllr Filby informed councillors that information and comments from the public was now on the Parish Council website for all to see.

David Vassey is shortly to put about 100 businesses in the Wembury area onto the Parish Council website.

Peter Filby continues to circulate emails to all those interested in shaping the Wembury Local Plan.

The group are looking at ways to link an interactive website to the Parish Council website.

ii) Wembury Beach Liaison Group - Cllr Gage

Cllr Gage had previously circulated notes of general problems concerning Wembury, some of which had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Damage to the boats in the boat park not being recognised as criminal damage by the Police was discussed earlier in the meeting.

He recommended the use of the website www.fixmystreet.com for reporting pavement damage.

iii) Ivybridge & District Association of Parish Councils

Cllr Rowland was not able to attend the Parish Council meeting at the last minute to give his report. However, he would circulate some notes of the recent I&DAPC meeting in due course.

iv) Devon Association of Parish Councils

Cllr Martin reported that at a meeting the previous week he had raised the issue of membership subscriptions and the DAPC agreed to consider a new scheme of charging and to bring it back to their October meeting for consideration.

08-104 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT ANNEX C

i) Financial Statement for July 2008

The Chairman presented the financial report as per ANNEX C.

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

ii) Wembury Woods – National Trust

The Clerk reported the recent request by the National Trust for financial support towards the £77,000 cost of footpath works within Wembury Woods.

It was agreed that this request be considered at the next Finance Sub Committee meeting.

08-105 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr Newnham informed members that Village Greens could now be registered in Plymouth. The Parish Council did not own any Village Greens for registration.

Cllr Gage said that in future, to progress a reported crime it should be reported by telephone and an incident number obtained and not just report it to the Neighbourhood Beat Manager.

Cllr Filby reported that the telephone and text number on the bus stops were incorrect.

08-106 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Squire asked Cllr Hart to chase a response to his recent query about extending the railings near the War Memorial Hall, Wembury for safety reasons.

Cllr Bennett reported that the grass verge in Hollacombe needed cutting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.18 pm.

R Fairclough
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council