

# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Sam Matthews, 9 Sloway Lane, West Huntspill, TA9 3RJ.  
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## Minutes of Wembdon Parish Council Meeting

held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7pm

Present: Councillors P King, D Claydon, M Phillips, D Gliddon, L Edwards, R Hubbard  
And J Hayden-Briffett. Parish Clerk Sam Warren

Two members of the public and a representative from the Wembdon Community Association.

Prior to start of the meeting, a brief talk from the Wembdon Community Association.

102/25 To receive any apologies for absence. Cllrs Major & Bromme and Somerset Cllr B Bolt

103/25 To receive declarations of any pecuniary interest on items relating to this agenda, which has not been previously declared in the Councillors' register of interests.

Cllr Hayden-Briffett Item 107/25 b

104/25 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Approved

105/25 To invite our Somerset Councillors to give a report either written or in person.

None received

106/25 To invite public speaking – any parishioner of Wembdon and/or members of the press who has given prior notice of their request to speak may do so for a maximum of three minutes.

Two members of the public spoke about item 107/25 a

107/25 Planning applications to discuss or review.

a) Planning application number: 51/25/00014/FHY

Proposal: Demolition of existing porch and conservatory extension, erection of two storey extension.

Location: 53 Church Road, Wembdon, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7RR

In principle Wembdon Parish Council supports the application providing the render and fascia board tone with the red sandstone of the house and major surrounding buildings, the Church and Parish Centre in compliance with the Wembdon Neighbourhood Plan WB1. We note that the proposal includes sufficient parking space to comply with Wembdon Neighbourhood Plan Policy WB3.

b) Planning application number 51/25/00021

For information only

Request for EIA Screening Opinion for up to 300 dwellings, a care home and a health care facility with associated landscaping and public open space, with vehicular and pedestrian access provided via the approved development at Cokerhurst Farm to the East (Ref. 51/19/00003), including a new signalised junction on the A39 Quantock Road, where highway infrastructure works are currently underway.

Outcomes:

51/25/00015 – GRANTED

51/25/00001 – WITHDRAWN

51/25/00002 – GRANTED

51/25/00003 = GRANTED

51/25/00016 - GRANTED

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# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

108/25 To consider replacing the signage on The Green regarding keeping dogs on leads. Unfortunately, the PSPO needs to be amended.

109/25 To consider a grant request from Wembdon Village Hall Trust.

They would like to claim the £2000 project grant towards new outside seating.

Unanimously approved

They would like to claim the second £10,000 grant offered to help increase the growth of the hall.

Unanimously agreed

110/25 To consider resurfacing the Church car park/PROW 34/4 & ongoing maintenance.

A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

111/25 To consider increasing the rent for the allotments.

Proposed to maintain the rent at the current rate but increase new tenant deposits to £100.

Unanimously agreed

112/25 To review the Tree Survey and schedule the recommended works.

The survey recommendations have been broken down for us into categories of urgency and ability to enable us to allocate the works to the most appropriate contractor. Proposed to instruct Sedgemoor Tree Services to carry out all works that need to be completed this summer. Unanimously agreed.

113/25 To consider a village survey for suggestions to spend the anticipated CIL receipts. Carried forward.

114/25 To consider a portable water station for Parklands.

The bowser holds 1000 litres which is sufficient to water the parklands for 5 to 10 days dependent on the weather. The Clerk will write to Somerset Council requesting permission to site them as we have not heard back about the permanent option request. We proposed to approve up to £1000 for the project.

Unanimously agreed.

115/25 To consider paying for assistance maintaining the Parklands, such as a gardener.

There has been a shortage of volunteers this year resulting in far too much work for the number of people available. It is proposed that we employ a contractor to assist for the rest of this year and review over the winter. It is suggested to use RB Gardening for 12 hours per week for now at £25 per hour.

Unanimously agreed.

116/25 To discuss the gateway created onto the Liddall land from Greenacre.

Councillors King and Claydon kindly visited the homeowner to explain that they were effectively trespassing by creating an entrance onto the Liddall field from their garden. After some discussion they agreed to reinstate the hedge. This will be monitored by the Parklands Councillor and will be put in writing to the homeowner.

117/25 To receive The Clerks report.

The Clerk has reported the failed streetlights and poor pothole repairs to Highways in Wembdon Rise.

The gullies have been cleaned in Crossacre and cost half the quoted amount.

Urgent action was taken after a break-in at The Green to replace damaged fencing and locks.

The solar lights on the parklands have been repaired and replaced as required.

It has been reported that a lady tripped and hurt her leg/ankle whilst walking in The Liddall dog walking field

118/25 To receive a report regarding Highways.

119/25 To receive a report regarding Footpaths and Verges.

Issues on The Liddall Field/Greenacre with brambles and tree branches have been sorted.

Ask GWB Services to trim the brambles out the back of Greenacre/Crossacre.

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Overgrowth at the end of Booth Way is becoming an issue, The Clerk has reported it to BTC.

120/25 To receive a report regarding Playing Fields and Common.

Pop up Pilates this Saturday at 9am at the Queens Copse on the Village Green.

121/25 To receive a report regarding the Parklands from Councillor Edwards.

I noticed just before my holiday the Tarmac path on the Prairie Orchard is cracking because of the heat. The heat is causing the problem, and I would like us to ask Pete Phillips to come and take a look and check all the paths on the Parklands for damage. I am happy to contact him unless Sam would prefer to. It may be too hot to repair them at present, but Pete will be able to advise us. I am happy to meet Pete on site if he can suggest a date and time that would be great.

Wembdon PACT team held a meeting recently and it was agreed to begin working on a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [LEMP] and realise this could take some time to assemble the 3-year plan and for it to be approved. The 1st year we think should align with the PC Financial year beginning for example April 2026-27, April 2027-28, April 2028-29.

However, we urgently need to establish a water station before 2026, and we think we would need two 1000 litre IBC tanks. Plants and trees are struggling in the very warm temperatures, and it has become vitally urgent to put a water station on the Parklands. The ground dries quickly due to the level of clay content. The plan is to plant 3 fruit trees and one walnut tree, and the trees will need regular watering for the first 3 years, approximately 10ltr per tree 3 times a week in the dry spells.

We also plan to replace Trees that have died to make it back up to the numbers originally planted in 2019. Ideas for the plan were very positive, and the first thing will be to structure the right framework for the plan. We need to protect the historical integrity and biodiversity of the Parklands. Be mindful to identify willow trees which can naturally fall safely and grow up again as they have over many years. Hedgerows can be lightly trimmed during summertime, to provide food and shelter for wildlife. Then cut back harder in the autumn and to manage blackthorn from taking control of the area. We must manage the land with care and the cutting and removal of trees must be carefully dealt with. Equally replenishing lost trees needs to be considered and planned diligently.

123/25 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.

The Coffee Shop is now only open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm and Emily Rossiter is now the manager. The new Hall manager Chris Godfrey is settling in well and is now having Mondays off. The two Christmas events organised by The Green have proved very popular and are nearly sold out already.

124/25 To receive a report regarding the Parish Paper from The Clerk.

The next edition will go to print in the second half of September.

125/25 To receive a report regarding the Allotments from Councillor Claydon.

Another plot has become vacant recently and will be relet once the previous tenant has removed his shed and strimmed down the weeds and grass.

Other plots have all been re-let. The new tenants are already making excellent progress.

Two more people have been added to the waiting list.

The last neglected and overgrown plot has now been cleared by RB Gardening. He has done an excellent job. The tenant has been invoiced for this work. A letter will be sent to remind the tenant of their obligation to keep the plot in good condition and advised to cover the whole plot for the present time until it is workable once again.

126/25 To receive a report regarding Perry Green from Councillor King.

No news yet on jetting of the drain adjacent to Perrycourt Farm.

The Environment Agency have confirmed there is no funding available for any maintenance carried out on Cannington Brook this year. This will be the second year running.

Some residents are addressing their own blocked ditches.

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# WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

127/25 To receive a report regarding SID results and Speedwatch from Councillor Gliddon.

The Speed Watch team met at the Inwood junction on Wembdon Rise on Wednesday 9th July.

249 vehicles passed us in 1 hour

13 vehicles above the threshold of 25 mph

7 vehicles above 30 mph

1 car at 42 mph & made no attempt to slow.

1 Motorcycle at 45 MPH who did not slow & overtook 2 cars after passing us through the zebra crossing.

All vehicles shown on DVLA database as taxed and with a valid MOT

PCSO 7317 attended at the very end of session and kindly left his contact details for next time.

128/25 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum from Councillor Phillips.

Councillor Phillips attended the HPC EDF transport forum on 10<sup>th</sup> July and reported his notes to all councillors.

129/25 To receive a report regarding the Local Community Network from Councillor King.

Nothing to report

130/25 To receive a report regarding Parish Links from Councillor Bromme.

Nothing to report

131/25 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20) and non-statutory payments. \* Denotes vat included. The bank reconciliation will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Bank fees	£10.05
Sedgemoor Tree Services - Survey & Maintenance	£2548.76*
HMRC	£434.17
Neil Harrison - Plants	£71.99
Plot 21 deposit returned	£50.00
SALC - Cllr training	£35.00
Kevin Flay - Fence repairs	£184.00
G W B Services - Grass cutting and bin emptying	£4000.39*
LLOYDS CARD - Bark for Parklands	£159.00*
Website	£15.60*
Parrett Internal Drainage Board	£22.55
Payroll service	£21.00*
Monies Received	
4 x Allotment deposits received	£325.00
CCLA Investment Management Limited	£711.57

132/25 The Clerk has arranged a community drop-in session on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July from 10am to 1pm at The Green jointly with Somerset Council and would like to offer complimentary tea or coffee to parishioners who attend.

133/25 The Clerk arranged for emergency fence repairs from Crossacres to The Green after a break in at the Green which resulted in the theft of a tractor owned by The Cricket Club. The repairs cost £184.00 and were done within two days to maintain security.

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134/25 To consider a quote of £240 to re-concrete the 19 metal posts of the fence around the under 7's play area as they are currently very loose.

Unanimously agreed

135/25 To consider a pedestrian gate in addition to the gate by Wembdon Motors to The Green. The WCA have offered to contribute £500 towards the cost of this to enable easier access on Village Day, and around 5 other pre-arranged days throughout the year. It will be kept locked at all other times. The Church have been consulted about this proposal and are happy with the arrangements suggested.

We have received a quote for this of £540 which the WCA have kindly offered to cover in full.

And to repair the gate from the Liddall field to the overflow carpark at a cost of £70.

Unanimously agreed.

136/25 To receive any matters of report.

The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration the following agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the items of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

137/25 To receive an update regarding legal matters in the parish.

138/25 Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.00 pm.

The finance team will meet next on 20<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm (*proposed*).

Meeting ended at 9pm

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