

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Sam Matthews, 9 Sloway Lane, West Huntspill, TA9 3RJ.
Email clerk@wembdonparish.gov.uk Telephone 07359 864310

Minutes of Wembdon Parish Council Meeting held Monday 10th November 2025 at 7pm

Present: Councillors P King, R Hubbard, P Major, M Phillips, S Bromme, L Edwards and
A Jarvis. Parish Clerk Sam Warren

Meeting commenced at 7pm

211/25 To receive any apologies for absence.

Cllr's D Claydon, J Hayden-Briffett, apologies accepted.

212/25 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.

None

213/25 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th October 2025.

Approved.

214/25 To invite our Somerset Councillors to give a report either written or in person.

None present.

215/25 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.

None present.

216/25 Planning applications to discuss or review.

Planning application number: 51/25/00028/FHY

Proposal: Single storey rear West extension.

Location: 9 Oak Apple Drive, Wembdon, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3UW

Unanimously agreed to support the application with the following condition requested:

Wembdon Parish Council supports this application because it complies with Policy WB1 of Wembdon's
Neighbourhood Plan: it contributes positively to the existing built form by using materials which match those
of the existing dwelling.

We note that the plans do not include any details of the proposed materials and finishes - the details are
only on the application form. So, we ask that if the application is approved there should be a condition
attached requiring the use of matching materials.

217/25 To review the remaining Parish Council policies. These have been circulated prior to the meeting.

All policies have now been reviewed and will be uploaded to the website. Cllr Jarvis kindly volunteered to
take charge of reviewing the policies with the Clerk in the future and reporting his finding to full council
going forward.

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218/25 To consider resurfacing the Church car park/PROW 34/4 & ongoing maintenance.

A meeting was held on Friday 31st October between the PC, the PCC and Wembdon Motors to finalise the wording for the deed of covenant. This will be reviewed once it has been prepared. The notes of the meeting were circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed to contact the preferred contractor for the project to request if preparation works could be started soon in order to level the area as the potholes are rapidly worsening.

219/25 To review the village survey for suggestions to spend the anticipated CIL receipts.

The Clerk has spoken with the printers of the Parish Paper, and they are happy to include the survey as in insert in the centre, and suggested it be on green paper.

220/25 To discuss the application for a new water supply to the Parklands.

Wessex Water carried out a site visit on Wednesday 8th October and we have their quotation of £2277.00 including vat. We now have a rough quotation of £400 to carry out the work on our side of the meter.

The Clerk will contact Somerset Council to confirm they are happy for us to proceed. If they agree the Clerk will instruct the work to be carried out.

221/25 To receive The Clerks report.

After a resident contacted the Clerk requesting assistance with Crowpill Rhyne being cleaned, Cllr King kindly visited the resident and contacted the Internal Drainage Board who carried out the work within a week.

The Clerk fitted a memorial plaque to a bench on The Green for a resident of Wembdon.

The Clerk assisted a house sale/purchase to complete in Wembdon as the house in question was affected by the Common which was in the process of being registered with Land registry.

The Clerk has also received concerns regarding an overhanging branch in Wares Lane. The council agreed to ask our contractors to clear this as it is a safety hazard on a public footpath.

The Clerk also arranged for GB Services to clear a fallen tree blocking the footpath at the end of the Church Car park. We intend to pass the cost for this along to the landowner.

The Clerk was reminded of the streetlight that was removed from Wembdon Rise near Inwood Road earlier this year by National Grid after it was the cause of a blackout. It was expected it would be automatically replaced, but that has not happened. The Clerk has made enquiries, and it will be reinstated hopefully soon.

222/25 To receive a report regarding Highways.

The Clerk is yet to receive a response from the policing team regarding some extra patrols around school times. A resident has taken it upon themselves to contact the traffic engineering at Highways regarding the incident and received the response below, he has also contacted Cllr Bill Revans, who suggested we ask our local Somerset Cllr's for assistance.

The school streets initiative has been led by SASP with our team supporting the schemes with the legal orders that underpin the operation.

SASP have been collating positive and negative feedback since its inception, and we have a meeting planned with them to consider the content. Please be assured your comments will be included in these discussions.

To our understanding, the barrier is not always operational, mainly due to staffing challenges. An increased PCSO and/or NSL enforcement presence around the estate may help in the short term but there is a wider issue here on driver behaviour and education and this is something I have tasked SASP taking up with the school to remind parents of their responsibilities.

The Council agreed that the Clerk should reach out to the same person to strengthen the concerns and ask for involvement from our Somerset Councillors.

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223/25 To receive a report regarding Footpaths and Verges. Nothing to report.

224/25 To receive a report regarding Playing Fields and Common.

The Clerk has obtained a quote from GB Sports to repair the surface edges to the slide and climber for £1550 +vat. A second quote is in progress, can The Clerk instruct GB Sports if the extra quote confirms GB's quote is reasonable. Unanimously agreed.

225/25 To receive a report regarding Parklands from Councillor Edwards.

As agreed by the Parish Council, we offered Reece the opportunity to try-out as the new Gardener for the Parklands. If he was successful to apply for the contract for the position to begin on the 1st of April.

He began at the end of August and finished at the end of October. During which time, he was very easy to work with, worked hard, and learnt very quickly with the tasks he was given to do. I have thanked him for the work he has done for us, and to keep in touch.

A volunteer and I planted 100 daffodil bulbs around the copse and sensory borders, and in front of the entrance to the NDR bridge. We have about 20 bulbs left to plant around the path to wares lane.

The ditches around the Parklands are in the process of being cleared. It was noted that there is a lot of rubbish in the undergrowth, and it was agreed to ask our maintenance contractor to collect it once the work is completed.

Councillor Edwards will be asking our contractor to trim back the black thorn and to top up the hogging in the wooden fronted steps to the bridge.

The Clerk was asked to order 2 replacement Pedestrians have Priority signs.

226/25 To receive a report regarding the Parish Paper from The Clerk.

The printers have confirmed that they can insert the survey in the Parish Paper.

227/25 To receive a report regarding the Allotments from Councillor Claydon.

The water has been turned off for the winter at the allotments. Allotment holders have been informed. A meter reading has been taken.

Three loads of wood chipping have been delivered by a tree surgeon for allotment holders use.

One more person has relinquished their double plot, this has now been taken by an existing allotment holder, leaving just one plot vacant. I have asked the Clerk to publicise this on Facebook as I have had no response from the people I contacted on the waiting lists.

The Clerk is chasing those allotment holders who have not paid their rent. An additional charge of £5 will be charged to cover the Clerk's additional administration time.

228/25 To receive a report regarding Perry Green from Councillor King.

A relatively quiet month in Perry Green. A couple of people have taken up Fibre Broadband and reports indicate that it is fast and stable. I will continue to monitor the uptake.

Now that winter approaches, I have written to the Internal Drainage Board to inquire whether there is any help that they can give us on our flooding problems. For the second year running the Environment Agency will not be carrying out any maintenance on Cannington Brook. This leaves the settlement extremely vulnerable and will have a knock-on effect to North Wembdon.

It is pointless speaking with the EA so my next escalation will be to our MP.

Perry Green Road will be closed from 26th Jan to 6th Feb 2026 for drainage works.

229/25 To receive a report regarding the Green at Wembdon from Councillor Phillips.

It was reported that The Green is still seeing strong growth and is regularly fully booked. The coffee shop is also extremely busy. They are planning to offer a comprehensive service for funeral wakes. The wedding licence has been approved pending the provision of some final documents. Wedding packages will be publicised over the next few months.

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The Green would also like to install new signs on the main road outside the premises. The Parish Council have no objection to this, so The Clerk will contact Highways to request permission.

230/25 To receive a report regarding SID results and Speedwatch from Councillor Hubbard.

There was no SID data taken this month, but I intend to retrieve the data next month and then on a 2 monthly basis. I accompanied the Speed Watch team on 28th October, at Wembdon Rise, and now have passed my training so I am now a certified member of the team. The Speed Watch lasted for 1Hr, and a total of 232 vehicles were monitored. 8 vehicles were monitored of speed over 25mph (3.4%) with a top speed of 31mph. The vehicles have been recorded on the SWAN database by Pete Prole. The moveable SID is on Wembdon Hill at present and the new batteries are extending the life. We may decide to move this SID to a different location during November.

Also, there is an issue with using the Speed Watch location at the top of Wembdon Hill (Outside No. 84) as vehicles park on the double yellow lines and therefore restricts the line of use of the speed sensor. I intend to investigate the issue.

231/25 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum from Councillor Phillips.

The next EDF Transport meeting is on Thursday 13th November.

Councillor Hubbard will be attending a meeting regarding the HPC workforce uplift on 17th November at The Green, Wembdon.

232/25 To receive a report regarding the Local Community Network from Councillor King.

233/25 To receive a report regarding Parish Links from Councillor Bromme. Nothing to report.

234/25 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.

Ionos website	-£15.60
Lloyds card - see list of payments below	-£502.45
N Power electricity	-£58.18
Parish Magazine Printing	-£960.75
Wembdon Village Hall - CCTV, Toilet, Hire Qtrly charge	-£750.00
G W B Services mowing and bins	-£3,745.39
G B Sports Playground inspection	-£216.00
D. Claydon printing expenses	-£24.56
G and A Liddall Field lease	-£160.00
SALC Cllr training	-£70.00
RB Gardening Parklands	£1,487.50
SALC - CILCA course	-£300.00
Wellers Hedley land registry fees	-£47.40
Lloyds card spending	
Speed Indicator Batteries x 2	£102.93
Photo competition prizes	£105.00
Bark for Parklands	£152.32
Compost for Parklands	£66.45
Recorded delivery	£2.77
Amazon Prime	-£8.00
McAfee Antivirus renewal	£49.99
Leaving gift for Cllr Gliddon (being repaid by Cllr's)	£27.99
Monthly fee	£3.00
	£502.45

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Monies received

SOMERSET COUNCIL CIL payment	£18,697.24
HMRC VAT reclaim	£5,234.73
CCLA Investment Management Limited	£661.64
Allotment income	£770.00
Advertising income	£275.00

235/25 To consider a budget of £2000.00 for the tree works flagged in the latest survey.

Unanimously approved.

The Clerk was asked to obtain two further quotes for next year's tree survey along with a quote from Somerset Tree Services.

236/25 To consider the annual gardening contract from 01 April 2026 to 31st October 2026 for work on the Parklands Project.

Councillor Edwards has invested a lot of time and effort in educating RB Services how to maintain and care for the plants on The Parklands. But it was agreed to obtain further quotes in order to compare his cost, to ensure we are getting the best value for the expenditure.

237/25 To consider the quotation from Proelectric to repair a faulty solar light of either £1515 or £2180 +vat depending on the parts needing replacement.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed with this repair, but to look for a new company we can also ask to quote for repairs in the future. It was also agreed to number the lights.

238/25 To approve the finance for the mince pies and mulled wine after the December meeting.

Approved up to £100.

239/25 To approve raising the Clerk's mobile phone allowance to £8 per month.

Approved.

240/25 To note that the newsletter plug in for the website was renewed on 29th October for 3 years at a cost of 200 euros.

Noted.

241/25 To receive any matters of report.

All councillors agreed to make efforts to recruit a further councillor.

The council thanked Cllr Major for attending a planning committee meeting on our behalf to speak about application 23/19/00002 Full Planning Permission on 11th November at 2pm.

Case Officer: Ms A Elvé

Applicant: Persimmon Homes Severn Valley

Location: Land To the South Of, Quantock Road, Bridgwater, Somerset

Proposal: Hybrid (full and outline) application. Full application for the erection of 111 dwellings, formation of signal-controlled access off Quantock Road with associated infrastructure, landscaping and open space (phase 1). Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of up to 212 residential dwellings with associated infrastructure, landscaping and open space (phase 2)

The Clerk will request the gullies in Church Road be cleaned before further rainfall.

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It was proposed that we install plaques on the two empty benches on the Green, naming them as 'Wembdon Parish Council memorial bench'. Then up to 6 plaques can be installed on each bench. As this was unanimously supported and will cost under £100 it was agreed to proceed. It was also agreed to reduce the cost for residents to have a plaque installed to £100.

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.

242/25 To receive an update regarding legal matters in the parish.

The council is pleased to report that the legal matters which have been ongoing for some time now have finally been resolved. The playing fields and The Common that were acquired by the Parish Council many years ago were not registered with the Land Registry. This entailed lengthy applications to register them both, which has now been completed successfully.

243/25 Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 8th December 2025 at 7.00 pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the bar, all parishioners are welcome to attend.

Meeting ended at 9.25pm

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