

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7pm

Present: Councillors P King, D Claydon, R Hubbard, P Major, M Phillips, L Edwards, J Hayden-Briffett and A Jarvis. Somerset Unitary Councillor M Caswell and Parish Clerk Sam Matthews.

3 Members of the public and E Ryan from Pyrus Media.

6.45pm Presentation regarding outsourcing the printing of the Parish Paper from Edmund Ryan of Pyrus Media.

7.05pm meeting commenced.

244/25 To receive any apologies for absence. S Bromme

245/25 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.

246/25 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Approved

247/25 To invite our Somerset Councillors to give a report either written or in person.

A verbal report informed us about meetings held with the Environment Agency regarding riparian ditch maintenance. An employee of Hinkley / EDF has had his contract terminated for fly parking offences. Removal of flags around Somerset by the council costs around £4500 per day, a massive £1.2 million per annum!

248/25 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.

The applicant of the below item spoke to the council regarding his application.

249/25 Planning applications to discuss or review.

Planning application number: 51/25/00029

Proposal: Erection of annex and carport on site of existing workshop (to be demolished).

Location: 37 Church Road, Wembdon, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7RP

Unanimously agreed to object with the following comments:

Although we recognise that the existing garage has reached the end of its useful life and a suitably designed replacement would enhance the street scene, Wembdon Parish Council objects to this proposal and recommends its refusal because it fails to comply with the following planning policies, for the reasons given:

NP Policy WB3 (Parking provision): We have no information on the number of bedrooms in the main dwelling but assume two. The proposed annex has one bedroom, so the total requirement is 3.5, plus 0.4 for visitors, 3.9 in total. The proposal provides 2 spaces, which is insufficient. A possible solution would be to move the annex back into the site by 4.8m and provide a further two spaces in tandem with those proposed, in which case we would withdraw this part of our objection.

Local Plan (LP) Policy D12 (Residential annexes): The proposal fails to meet a number of criteria for an annex: There is no clear dependency or functional link between the annex and main dwelling - the proposed annex is totally self-contained; it would not be possible to incorporate the annex as an integral part of the main dwelling - it is a separate

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building, set 39m in front of the main dwelling; it fails to include adequate parking for both main dwelling and annex (see NP policy WB3 above); there is no justification why extension or adaptation of the main dwelling is not possible or desirable.

LP Policy D20 (Biodiversity): There is a protected oak tree in the neighbouring garden (number 35 Church Road) whose canopy extends over the development site. Its roots are likely to extend under the proposed building, but there is no mention of the tree in the application, and it is not shown on the plans. No consideration has been given to protecting the tree from harm.

250/25 To sign the Clerk's learner contract for her CiLCA training.

Signed by P King.

251/25 To consider resurfacing the Church car park/PROW 34/4 & ongoing maintenance.

No further efforts will be made to temporarily remedy the potholes prior to the signing of agreements. We will also write to the Church in the New Year to emphasise that the agreement needs to be in place before the end of the financial year for this project be completed.

One Councillor abstained.

252/25 To review the village survey for suggestions to spend the anticipated CIL receipts.

The Clerk has ordered the drop boxes and pens. The survey will close on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

253/25 To discuss the application for a new water supply to the Parklands.

Ongoing.

254/25 To receive The Clerk's report.

The ditches around the Parklands and the Village Hall have all been cleared successfully.

The Clerk has renegotiated our subscription with our financial software provider and saved the Parish Council around £540 per annum.

The Planning training for the whole council took place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November and was very well received by all.

Highways and SASP have promised to involve us in future discussions surrounding the parking issues at the school in light of the accident that took place a few months ago, Councillor Caswell is also linked in.

The Parklands CCTV has been checked and is fully functioning.

Sedgemoor Tree Services have been authorised to fell the dead Elms at Wares Lane, which will be laid on the banks of wares lane to decompose to improve biodiversity.

255/25 To receive a report regarding Highways.

The Clerk has chased the reinstatement of the missing streetlight in Wembdon Rise on the corner of Gypsy Lane. She will also chase the double yellow lines that have yet to be installed.

256/25 To receive a report regarding Footpaths and Verges.

The Clerk has contacted Highways about the state of many footpaths in Wembdon. Councillor Phillips reported the overgrowth from Brantwood to Inwood and this is now being maintained regularly.

257/25 To receive a report regarding Playing Fields and Common.

The rubber crumb surfaces under the slide and the climbing frame have been repaired.

258/25 To receive a report regarding Parklands from Councillor Edwards.

Nothing to report

259/25 To receive a report regarding the Parish Paper from The Clerk.

The Clerk will start to prepare Issue 50 ready for printing mid January.

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260/25 To receive a report regarding the Allotments from Councillor Claydon.  
There are no vacant plots.

261/25 To receive a report regarding Perry Green from Councillor King.  
Nothing to report.

262/25 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall from Councillor Phillips.  
The Green is now taking an increasing number of bookings for wakes. All is going well.

263/25 To receive a report regarding SID results and Speedwatch from Councillor Hubbard.  
The Speed Watch team has not met since 28/10/25. It is expected they will meet in the New Year.  
The Mobile SID is now positioned on Sandford Hill at the junction of Moores Lane and Skimmerton Lane (Inbound). The batteries have been replaced and are lasting between 2-3 weeks per charge.  
The Speed Enforcement Police Officer is happy to do some random speed checks. SID data will be forwarded to him.  
Parking on double yellow lines, the Council Parking Enforcement team should be contacted. The Police will ticket all double yellow lines parking, but will not ticket people parking on the pavement unless they think it's dangerous  
Full speed report on separate sheet at the end of this agenda.

264/25 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum from Councillor Phillips.  
Nothing to report.

265/25 To receive a report regarding the Local Community Network from Councillor King.  
The next LCN meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at The Green, Wembdon. The PCSO will be in attendance from 6pm.

266/25 To receive a report regarding Parish Links from Councillor Bromme.  
Nothing to report.

267/25 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.

03-Nov-25	PUBLIC WORKS LOANS - 6 monthly payment	£4,495.39	
20-Nov-25	Website monthly fee	-£15.60	*
24-Nov-25	Lloyds credit card - see statement below	-£339.44	
27-Nov-25	SALC - Cllr training	-£50.00	
27-Nov-25	RB Garden Services	-£300.00	
27-Nov-25	G W B Services Grass cutting and Bins	£4,236.79	*
27-Nov-25	Prolectric - Solar lights	-£384.00	*
27-Nov-25	PD and AE Reed - Bulbs	-£20.00	
27-Nov-25	Neil Harrison - Bulbs	-£33.98	
30-Nov-25	Bank fees	-£11.25	

Income		
04-Nov-25	CCLA Investment Management Limited	£680.58
07-Nov-25	Allotment income	£30.00
19-Nov-25	WCA Pedestrian gate	£540.00
24-Nov-25	Bench Plaque	£100.00
24-Nov-25	Advertising income	£500.00
	Total income	£1,850.58

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	Lloyds card statement		
23/10/2025	Microsoft annual subscription	£84.99	*
24/10/2025	Daffodil bulbs for Parklands	£27.49	*
29/10/2025	WordPress 3 years for website	£174.96	*
30/10/2025	Premier Trophies Bench plaque	£35.00	*
05/11/2025	Land registry	£14.00	
10/11/2025	Monthly fee	£3.00	
	Total	£339.44	

268/25 To review the proposed budget for the financial year 2026/27. This has been circulated prior to the meeting.

This will be approved at the next meeting.

269/25 To accept the resignation of Councillor J Hayden-Briffett.

We are all very sad to lose Jenny from the council and wish her all the best for her future. She has been an asset to the council in many ways.

270/25 To consider ideas for the recruitment of new Councillors.

All councillors will look to recruit from the community.

271/25 To consider quotes for next year's tree survey.

It was agreed to continue using Sedgemoor Tree Services.

272/25 To consider using Pyrus Media for the Parish Paper.

It was resolved to continue producing our own Parish Paper, but to make every effort to reduce the overheads.

273/25 To review the Councillor roles and responsibilities.

Reviewed.

274/25 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.

275/25 To receive an update regarding legal matters in the parish.

276/25 Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.00 pm

SANDFORD HILL - INCOMING							
	Aug: 25	Oct: 25	Dec: 25				
Average Speed (mph)	27.15	26.74	26.19				
85th% SPEED (mph)	36	35	35				
< 25 mph (%)	47.34	49.38	51.24				

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<u>31 + mph (%)</u>	32.79	30.62	29.94				
<u>Vehicles Per Day</u>	647	629	584				
<u>Max Speed (mph)</u>	77	74	65				
<u>SANDFORD HILL - OUTGOING</u>							
	<u>Aug: 25</u>	<u>Oct: 25</u>	<u>Dec: 25</u>				
<u>Average Speed (mph)</u>	Not Available	30.34	30.2				
<u>85th% SPEED (mph)</u>	37	37	37				
<u>&lt; 25 mph (%)</u>	25.16	26.38	27				
<u>31 + mph (%)</u>	44.19	43.86	43.8				
<u>Vehicles Per Day</u>	575	469	412				
<u>Max Speed (mph)</u>	84	73	75				
<u>WEMBDON RISE (WARES LANE) – TOWARDS NDR</u>							
	<u>Aug: 25</u>	<u>Oct: 25</u>	<u>Dec: 25</u>				
<u>Average Speed (mph)</u>	20.85	19.27	19.06				
<u>85th% SPEED (mph)</u>	24	24	23				
<u>&lt; 25 mph (%)</u>	86.52	88.1	90.94				
<u>31 + mph (%)</u>	3.76	2.78	2.01				
<u>Vehicles Per Day</u>	1673	1360	1291				
<u>Max Speed (mph)</u>	53	49	51				
<u>WEMBDON RISE (WARES LANE) – TOWARDS WEMBDON HILL</u>							
	<u>Aug: 25</u>	<u>Oct: 25</u>	<u>Dec: 25</u>				
<u>Average Speed (mph)</u>	Not Available	20.97	20.62				
<u>85th% SPEED (mph)</u>	26	24	24				
<u>&lt; 25 mph (%)</u>	82.71	86.34	88.8				
<u>31 + mph (%)</u>	4.13	2.68	2.29				
<u>Vehicles Per Day</u>	1479	1148	1125				
<u>Max Speed (mph)</u>	53	59	52				
<u>WEMBDON RISE – INCOMING (From NDR)</u>							
	<u>Aug: 25</u>	<u>Oct: 25</u>	<u>Dec: 25</u>				
<u>Average Speed (mph)</u>	20.7	20.43	19.45				
<u>85th% SPEED (mph)</u>	24	24	23				
<u>&lt; 25 mph (%)</u>	86.52	87.67	89.67				
<u>31 + mph (%)</u>	3.76	3.3	2.82				
<u>Vehicles Per Day</u>	1674	1570	1833				
<u>Max Speed (mph)</u>	64	58	58				

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<u>WEMBDON RISE – OUTGOING (To NDR)</u>							
	<u>Aug: 25</u>	<u>Oct: 25</u>	<u>Dec: 25</u>				
<u>Average Speed (mph)</u>	Not Available	21.6	19.96				
<u>85th% SPEED (mph)</u>	26	25	24				
<u>&lt; 25 mph (%)</u>	82.71	84.68	87.53				
<u>31 + mph (%)</u>	4.13	3.74	2.79				
<u>Vehicles Per Day</u>	1480	1424	1759				
<u>Max Speed (mph)</u>	62	63	63				

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