

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 12th January 2026 at 7pm

Present: Councillors P King, D Claydon, R Hubbard, P Major, M Phillips, L Edwards, S Bromme and A Jarvis. Parish Clerk Sam Matthews and 1 Member of the public.

1/26 To receive any apologies for absence. Cllr M Caswell.

2/26 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.

P King Item 6/26 b

3/26 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th December 2025. Approved.

4/26 To invite our Somerset Councillors to give a report either written or in person. None received.

5/26 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.

6/26 Planning applications to discuss or review.

a) Planning application number: 51/25/00031/FHY

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear conservatory.

Location: 55 Meadowlands Avenue, Wembdon, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3UE

Unanimous Support – The application complies with Policy WB1 of the Wembdon Neighbourhood Plan. It is noted that no materials are mentioned on the plans, only on the application form.

b) Planning application number: 51/25/00008/GNN

Proposal: Removal of Condition 3 of Planning Permission 51/90/00004 (Erection of agricultural worker's dwelling and alterations to existing access) to remove the agricultural worker occupancy condition.

Location: Moorhen Farm Equestrian Centre, Moorhen Farm, Waldrons Lane, Wembdon, Bridgwater, TA5 2BA

7.04pm Cllr King left the room.

After much discussion it was unanimously agreed to object to the application, comment below:

Wembdon Parish Council objects to this application because it fails to comply with Local Plan Policy D10 (Rural Workers Dwellings): Notwithstanding the change to the original description, the purpose of the dwelling remains unchanged - the application clearly states that the dwelling is required to support the business, and the family intend to continue to live there. The application does not meet the requirements under D10 for the removal of the condition.

7/26 To set the precept for the year 2026/2027 and approve the budget.

The proposed budget was unanimously approved.

The Precept was agreed to be set at £127,500.00 for the next financial year. This is an increase of 14.87% or £16508.00 on last year which equates to £11.00 per year for a Band D property.

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

8/26 To consider resurfacing the Church car park/PROW 34/4 & ongoing maintenance.

We are awaiting documents from the Church's solicitor.

We are also very aware that the surface at present has become hazardous and have asked The Clerk to relay our concerns to the parties responsible for repairs in the hope of some repairs being completed as it is a public right of way.

9/26 To review the village survey for suggestions to spend the anticipated CIL receipts.

Cllr's Bromme and Major have finished preparing the survey which will be included within the Parish Paper. It can also be completed online. Spare paper will be copies will be available at the drop box locations. Many thanks to them both for their work on this project and Jenny Hayden-Briffett for her efforts prior to resigning. Drop boxes will be placed at the School, the Pub, the Green and the Parish Centre, with pens available and extra paper copies. We intend to order 200 spare copies to be available at the drop boxes.

The survey will be on our Facebook page and shared to other community pages.

It will be included in the next Parish Paper which will be delivered at the end of January 2026.

10/26 To discuss the application for a new water supply to the Parklands.

Ongoing.

11/26 To receive The Clerks report.

The Clerk has collected the plaques for the two memorial benches and will install them soon.

12/26 To receive a report regarding Highways.

The large pothole at the zebra crossing has been reported and repaired but needs to be repaired again! The Clerk will report it.

13/26 To receive a report regarding Footpaths and Verges.

The Clerk has reported issues with pavements in Wembdon Rise and the bollards on the raised section along Church Road. The Clerk has also chased the missing streetlight in Wembdon Rise again!

It is also noted that the surface on and beside the Millenium Bridge needs attention. The Clerk will obtain quotes and options to be discussed at the next meeting.

14/26 To receive a report regarding Playing Fields and Common.

The rubber crumb repair under the climbing frame was missed by GB Sports when they attended site, this will be completed as and when the weather allows.

15/26 To receive a report regarding Parklands from Councillor Edwards.

The Land Management Plan [LMP] document, is coming together, and its 1st draught is being proofread by Cllr Dianne Claydon. I will present it to the PC just before the February meeting.

The maintenance team have been doing their winter jobs and cutting back invasive blackthorn.

Concerns have been raised about how the ditch between The Green and the Liddall field is now very open and could benefit from a fence. The Clerk will request permission from the landowner to erect a fence. A further section appears very exposed on The Parklands, Cllr's Edwards, Phillips and Hubbard will undertake a site visit before any action is taken.

16/26 To receive a report regarding the Parish Paper from The Clerk.

We have lost one advertiser and gained 3 new ones. Issue 50 will go to print on Wednesday 21st January. We have also sourced a new printing company which will allow us to stop running the paper at a loss. We intend to use them from Issue 51 in April.

17/26 To receive a report regarding the Allotments from Councillor Claydon.

Nothing to report.

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

18/26 To receive a report regarding Perry Green from Councillor King.

A relatively quiet month again in Perry Green.

Three road works are planned for early January 2026. One for Highways work and the other two for Wessex Water. Let's hope they don't all happen at the same time else Perry Green will be cut off. Flooding so far has been minimal, mainly due to the "boards" being open permanently and some effective work already completed by Highways.

19/26 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall from Councillor Phillips.

The Hall has carried out redecoration in many of its rooms over the winter period and the new sound system has been installed on the ground floor. They had a very busy Christmas and New Year's with many parties and bookings, including a visit from Santa.

20/26 To receive a report regarding SID results and Speedwatch from Councillor Hubbard.

The Speedwatch Team have not met since 28/10/2025.

The mobile device is still at the top of Sanford Hill on the junction of Moore's Lane and Skimmerton Lane going eastbound (Inbound). The batteries were replaced on 29/12/2025 and they are lasting between 2 and 3 weeks.

With regards to vehicles parking on the double yellow lines at the top of Wembdon Hill (Location for Speedwatch). I have contacted NSL (Council Parking Enforcement Contractor) and they said that they will send someone to investigate. Let's hope there is a vehicle parked on the double yellow lines when they attend.

I will download the data from the fixed solar devices during January.

I have also contacted the Police Speed Enforcement again to see if they can arrange a speed monitoring exercise.

21/26 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum from Councillor Phillips.

The next meeting is to be held this week.

22/26 To receive a report regarding the Local Community Network from Councillor King.

The next meeting will be held on 31st March 2026. The Highways working group are due to meet on Tuesday 27th January.

23/26 To receive a report regarding Parish Links from Councillor Bromme.

Nothing to report.

24/26 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.

Website	-£15.60
Lloyds card – Boxes and pens for Survey	-£56.43
Deposit charge (cheque banked)	-£0.60
Service Charge	-£8.40
Scribe	-£14.40
WATER2BUSINESS Allotments	-£363.41
SALC training	-£30.00
Sedgemoor Tree Services	-£1,291.39
R T Signs, Parklands	-£157.42
Prolectric	-£1,818.00
Polden Planning - training	-£609.60
James Porter, ditches around Parklands and Green	-£3,475.20
G W B Services, Mowing and Bins	-£3,646.39

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Total outgoings	£11,486.84
Income	
Allotments	£160.00
Advertising	£90.00
CCLA Investment Management Limited	£654.40

25/26 Review the signage on The Parklands.

Further to Councillor Hubbard installing the two replacement signs for us, he then conducted a survey of the signage around the Parklands, he recommends the following: 2 additional Cycle / Pedestrian signs and an additional CCTV sign, plus various bracketry as there are various sizes and shapes of poles. It was agreed that these additional signs are not necessary.

26/26 To consider a transfer of funds from CCLA investment account to the current account.

The Clerk would like to suggest £30,000.00, to see us through till the precept is paid in April. Unanimously approved.

27/26 To consider a request for vehicular access over the common and set a protocol for future requests.

This request has come up many times over the years. It was agreed to compile a policy for access requests which will be added to the policies on the website for all to reference.

The request in question will be denied.

28/26 To receive any matters of report.

Cllr Major noted that footpath 34/1 which leads from Homberg Way to Booth Way is in a state of disrepair. The Clerk will report this to Somerset Council.

Cllr Phillips suggested that we get a quote for cleaning the solar panels on the lights in The Parklands to increase their light absorption in the darker months. This was agreed to, and to be carried out at least bi-annually.

It was noted that one of the large wooden flower tubs by the Traffic lights may need replacing this Spring.

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.

29/26 To receive an update regarding legal matters in the parish.

The Parish Council have been corresponding with a resident regarding a boundary breach within the Parish. We have now sent two solicitor's letters at a cost of £750 +vat. We have had no choice but to pursue this as the land in question is leased by the Parish Council and we are obligated to protect and maintain the boundaries of the land. We intend to plant hedging material in the area.

30/26 Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 9th February 2026 at 7.00 pm

Meeting ended at 8.50pm.