

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 9th February 2026 at 7pm

Present: Councillors P King, D Claydon, R Hubbard, P Major, L Edwards, S Bromme, A Jarvis and A Mills Jones (see item 33/26).

Parish Clerk Sam Matthews and M Caswell Somerset Councillor.

Prior to the meeting Councillor Edwards will present the Land Management Protocol document she has prepared for the ongoing care and maintenance of the Parklands, with assistance from Councillor Claydon.

31/26 To receive any apologies for absence. M Phillips and B Bolt apologies accepted.

The process will commence to co-opt a Parish Councillor to fill a casual vacancy. The candidate will introduce themselves to the Councillors for a maximum of five minutes.

The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the items of business to be transacted. Resolved.

32/26 To consider the candidate or candidates for co-option to the Parish Council.

All members of the public including the candidate or candidates will be invited to return to the meeting room. For the candidate or candidates to proceed to the vote they must be proposed and seconded.

33/26 To vote to co-opt a new Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy.

Unanimously agreed to co-opt Amanda Mills Jones to the Parish Council with immediate effect.

34/26 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.

35/26 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th January 2026. Approved.

36/26 To invite our Somerset Councillors to give a report either written or in person.

From Cllr B Bolt: There is little to report, other than the budget setting meeting being cancelled until March to see if the Govt will allow an 11% increase without a referendum, this is after last years above 4.99% increase which the Govt allowed without a referendum.

From Cllr M Caswell: Concerns around the lack of river dredging in Somerset and road gullies not being cleaned frequently enough.

37/26 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. NONE.

38/26 Planning applications to discuss or review. None.

39/26 To consider public safety along a ditch bank on Liddall Land which has become exposed since the ditch maintenance was completed.

It is suggested that we extend the existing handrail at a cost of around £450. And place a stone gabion along the end, cost to be confirmed.

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Unanimously agreed.

40/26 To consider resurfacing the Church car park/Public Right of Way No. 34/4 & ongoing maintenance. We are awaiting documents from the Church's solicitor.

41/26 To review the village survey for suggestions to spend the anticipated Community Infrastructure Levy receipts due from upcoming planning developments.

The survey has been included in the Parish Paper. It can also be completed online. Spare paper copies and pens will be made available at the drop box locations, which are at the School, the Pub, the Green and the Parish Centre.

Responses have been coming in and will be reviewed after the deadline of February 28th. The Clerk will publish regular reminders to complete the survey on social media.

42/26 To consider secure housing for the new water supply at the Parklands.

We now have consent from Somerset Council to proceed with the new water supply. The Clerk has provided suggestions for a secure feature to house the tap and wishes to confirm the exact location.

Unanimously agreed to use the metal housing recommended by The Clerk which goes into the ground. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements for the new supply to be installed and present a further quote at the next meeting.

43/26 To receive The Clerks report.

The defibrillator at The Green need's new pads, I am in discussion with South West Ambulance Services as they are currently saying it is not theirs, even though I have the signed agreement. They are currently investigating.

The Clerk is awaiting quotes for the paved area at the Millenium Bridge.

The vandalism of the play equipment was reported to the Police but as there is no CCTV footage not much can be done.

44/26 To receive a report regarding Highways.

Potholes in Wembdon Rise have been repaired.

45/26 To receive a report regarding Footpaths and Verges.

The Clerk reported the footpath from Homberg Way to Booth Way and was informed the surface is currently satisfactory. The Clerk will now obtain quotes to improve the surface for the Council to consider.

46/26 To receive a report regarding Playing Fields and Common.

Thanks to the Village Hall committee for working hard and providing the cleaning materials, around £100 pounds worth. And to Richard, Peter and Sam for cleaning like mad.

Thankfully Richard had some tools with him, so we removed the blue swing seat, and The Clerk has taken it home to clean. We also removed the ropes on the climber as they were covered. The Clerk spoke with Colin from GB Sports this week and he confirmed the ropes were due to be replaced soon, he estimated £300 for this repair. This needs to be approved as they were too badly damaged to be cleaned.

Whilst the clean-up went well on the slide and the climber, it wasn't so successful on the rubber surface, therefore we have left it taped off. We need it to cure more so it can be cleaned. Should it need repairing, this will cost around £200 for the large patch by the climber, the rest should be ok.

47/26 To receive a report regarding Parklands from Councillor Edwards and review the LMP presented.

In line with our plans to further improve badger foraging opportunities, we have purchased some more trees. A Golden Hornet Crab Apple, Concorde Pear fruit tree, an English Walnut and four Hazelnut trees. Scott Bickers and the team will do the planting this month.

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The LMP is excellent, and all proposals are very sensible to enhance the area for the wildlife. The Clerk proposed having the document reviewed by Halpin Robbins before adopting. This was unanimously agreed. Further update at the next meeting.

48/26 To receive a report regarding the Parish Paper from The Clerk.
Issue 50 was successfully produced and distributed at the end of January.

49/26 To receive a report regarding the Allotments from Councillor Claydon.
A tenant had vacated a plot, and it was re-let today.
It was also noted that the Allotment track will need attention soon.

50/26 To receive a report regarding Perry Green from Councillor King.
Winter arrived in Perry Green during January. Despite the various pieces of work completed over the Autumn, the roads in and out of Perry Green have flooded in the usual places.
A letter was sent to Highways, and the Environment Agency and copied to both Councillor Caswell and Sir Ashley Fox's office. A Highways officer called on me within 3 days but all he could offer me until the water subsides, were flood signs. Thankfully the flooding seems to have gone down.
Because of the flooding, the planned work that was due to start at the end of January outside The Malt House has not happened. I have no idea when it will start.
Apparently, Highways are looking at repairing Waldrons Lane. This will be very expensive, some £250k. It will not happen until Summer 2026 and even then, the money may be diverted elsewhere.
The water supply cleaning work was completed on time.

51/26 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall from Councillor Phillips.
Redecoration of the reception area has been carried out, and the new audio-visual equipment is up and running.

52/26 To receive a report regarding Speed Indicator Device results and Speedwatch from Councillor Hubbard.
See report at the end of this agenda.

53/26 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum from Councillor Phillips.
No meeting was held in this period.

54/26 To receive a report regarding the Local Community Network from Councillor King.
The next meeting will be held on 31st March 2026.
Cllr Caswell left the meeting.

55/26 To receive a report regarding Parish Links from Councillor Bromme.
Suggestion to create a page in the Parish Paper to include updates on notes to residents.

56/26 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.

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|---|------------|
| Direct Debit (NPOWER) | -£57.55* |
| Direct Debit (IONOS CLOUD LTD.) website | -£99.60* |
| LLOYDS BANK PLC service charge | -£3.00 |
| B/P to: Kevin Flay gate repair | -£90.00 |
| B/P to: Coomber Security parklands CCTV | £1,659.60* |
| B/P to: Wembdon Village Hall hire qrtly | -£750.00 |
| B/P to: G W B Services Mowing and bins | £3,853.99* |
| B/P to: Hockerill bench plaques | -£48.00* |

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| B/P to: SALC training | -£50.00 |
| Ink cartridge | -£20.00 |
| Service Charge | -£6.90 |

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|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Monies Received | |
| CCLA Investment Management Limited | £663.41 |
| Wembdon VH ditch cleaning | £1,448.00 |
| Advertising income | £460.00 |

57/26 To consider a speaker for the Annual Parish meeting, to be held on Monday 27th April.
Carried forward.

58/26 To consider a grant application from Crimestoppers Southwest Region for £200.00.
The Parish Council agreed not to contribute.

59/26 To resolve to appoint Tony Jay as the Internal Auditor for this financial year at a cost of £150.00.
Agreed.

60/26 To consider a resolution to grant the Clerk the power to respond to planning applications if it is not possible for it to be discussed at a meeting. This will only be valid for applications where no comment is to be made.

Not at this time.

61/26 Proposal to write to Somerset Council expressing our concern regarding the poor quality of the repairs to potholes in the Parish.

The Clerk will draft a letter to send to Bill Revans.

62/26 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.

63/26 To receive an update regarding legal matters in the parish.

It was resolved to plant further hedging material to infill the gaps in our boundary around the Liddall field.

64/26 Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.00 pm

52/26 Report

SID & SPEEDWATCH REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

The Speedwatch Team have not met in 2026. I intend to speak with the organisers to see when the Speedwatch Team can meet again.

The Mobile SID is still at the top of Sanford Hill at the junction of Moore's Lane and Skimmerton Lane going eastbound (Inbound). The batteries were replaced on 19/01/2026 and they are still lasting between 2 and 3 weeks.

With regards vehicles parking on the double yellow lines at the top of Wembdon Hill (Location for Speedwatch). NSL (Council Parking Enforcement Contractor) have been patrolling but unfortunately cars were moved off the double yellow lines before tickets could be administered. At least the offending people

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are aware that patrols are being carried out, and this may act as a deterrent. NSL say they will continue patrols.

The data from the FIXED SOLAR SIDs was downloaded on 19/01/2026 and a summary is below. The speeds recorded remain generally constant with the maximum speeds still of concern.

I am still in contact with the Police Speed Enforcement team and hopefully they will be arranging a speed monitoring exercise soon.

| SANDFORD HILL - INCOMING | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|
| | Aug: 25 | Oct: 25 | Dec: 25 | Jan: 26 | | | |
| Average Speed (mph) | 27.15 | 26.74 | 26.19 | 26.20 | | | |
| 85th% SPEED (mph) | 36.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 34.00 | | | |
| < 25 mph (%) | 47.34 | 49.38 | 51.24 | 52.15 | | | |
| 31 + mph (%) | 32.79 | 30.62 | 29.94 | 27.64 | | | |
| Vehicles Per Day | 647 | 629 | 584 | 479 | | | |
| Max Speed (mph) | 77.00 | 74.00 | 65.00 | 69.00 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| SANDFORD HILL - OUTGOING | | | | | | | |
| | Aug: 25 | Oct: 25 | Dec: 25 | Jan: 26 | | | |
| Average Speed (mph) | Not Available | 30.34 | 30.20 | 29.86 | | | |
| 85th% SPEED (mph) | 37.00 | 37.00 | 37.00 | 36.00 | | | |
| < 25 mph (%) | 25.16 | 26.38 | 27.00 | 28.36 | | | |
| 31 + mph (%) | 44.19 | 43.86 | 43.8 | 40.98 | | | |
| Vehicles Per Day | 575 | 469 | 412 | 346 | | | |
| Max Speed (mph) | 84.00 | 73.00 | 75.00 | 73.00 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| WEMBDON RISE (WARES LANE) – TOWARDS NDR | | | | | | | |
| | Aug: 25 | Oct: 25 | Dec: 25 | Jan: 26 | | | |
| Average Speed (mph) | 20.85 | 19.27 | 19.06 | 20.21 | | | |
| 85th% SPEED (mph) | 24.00 | 24.00 | 23.00 | 23.00 | | | |
| < 25 mph (%) | 86.52 | 88.1 | 90.94 | 90.82 | | | |
| 31 + mph (%) | 3.76 | 2.78 | 2.01 | 1.83 | | | |
| Vehicles Per Day | 1673 | 1360 | 1291 | 955 | | | |
| Max Speed (mph) | 53.00 | 49.00 | 51.00 | 52.00 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
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| WEMBDON RISE (WARES LANE) – TOWARDS WEMBDON HILL | | | | | | | |
| | Aug: 25 | Oct: 25 | Dec: 25 | Jan: 26 | | | |

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|------------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|
| Average Speed (mph) | Not Available | 20.97 | 20.62 | 20.98 | | | |
| 85th% SPEED (mph) | 26.00 | 24.00 | 24.00 | 24.00 | | | |
| < 25 mph (%) | 82.71 | 86.34 | 88.80 | 90.43 | | | |
| 31 + mph (%) | 4.13 | 2.68 | 2.29 | 1.65 | | | |
| Vehicles Per Day | 1479 | 1148 | 1125 | 963 | | | |
| Max Speed (mph) | 53.00 | 59.00 | 52.00 | 50.00 | | | |
| WEMBDON RISE – INCOMING (From NDR) | | | | | | | |
| | Aug: 25 | Oct: 25 | Dec: 25 | Jan: 26 | | | |
| Average Speed (mph) | 20.7 | 20.43 | 19.45 | 20.39 | | | |
| 85th% SPEED (mph) | 24.00 | 24.00 | 23.00 | 24.00 | | | |
| < 25 mph (%) | 86.52 | 87.67 | 89.67 | 88.71 | | | |
| 31 + mph (%) | 3.76 | 3.30 | 2.82 | 2.80 | | | |
| Vehicles Per Day | 1674 | 1570 | 1833 | 1502 | | | |
| Max Speed (mph) | 64.00 | 58.00 | 58.00 | 64.00 | | | |
| WEMBDON RISE – OUTGOING (To NDR) | | | | | | | |
| | Aug: 25 | Oct: 25 | Dec: 25 | Jan: 26 | | | |
| Average Speed (mph) | Not Available | 21.60 | 19.96 | 21.44 | | | |
| 85th% SPEED (mph) | 26.00 | 25.00 | 24.00 | 24.00 | | | |
| < 25 mph (%) | 82.71 | 84.68 | 87.53 | 86.01 | | | |
| 31 + mph (%) | 4.13 | 3.74 | 2.79 | 2.70 | | | |
| Vehicles Per Day | 1480 | 1424 | 1759 | 1323 | | | |
| Max Speed (mph) | 62.00 | 63.00 | 63.00 | 59.00 | | | |

Cllr Richard Hubbard

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