

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th July at 7pm.

Present: Councillors P King, D Claydon, R Hubbard, A Jarvis, S Bromme, L Edwards

and A Mills Jones. Parish Clerk Sam Matthews.

Somerset Unitary Councillors M Caswell and B Bolt.

200/26 To receive any apologies for absence. P Major and M Phillips

201/26 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. None.

202/26 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th June 2026.

Approved.

203/26 To invite our Somerset Councillors to give a report either written or in person.

Councillor Caswell informed that he is working to ensure that our area of Somerset receives a significant portion of the £50 million that has been awarded to the county for flood prevention improvement works that will benefit small communities. He also mentioned that anyone can email Sir Ashley Fox to urge him to act on our behalf.

Councillor Bolt raised concerns around proposed changes to Planning Committees.

204/26 To invite public speaking – None.

205/26 Planning applications to discuss or review.

Application 51/26/00005 – The Parish Council has withdrawn its objection as the planning officer agreed to impose a condition regarding the building materials as requested, and the permission has been granted.

Application 51/26/00006 – Permission granted.

206/26 To consider resurfacing the paved area by the Millenium bridge. Wessex Water are happy for us to resurface the area. The Clerk is working to obtain further quotes for different surface options.

207/26 To receive an update on the resurfacing of the Church car park/Public Right of Way 34/4 and 34/2 to be carried out.

The Internal Drainage Board application has been submitted by The Clerk. We await their response, and we have received confirmation from the Diocese Board that they are happy to indemnify the Drainage Board against damages.

208/26 To consider adopting the Land Management Plan produced for the Parklands by Halpin Robbins.

It was unanimously resolved to adopt the Land Management Plan. This will be published on the website soon, and is available as an appendix to these minutes.

209/26 To receive The Clerk's report.

The bollards will be installed at Church Road and Homberg Way in the next couple of weeks.

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Overgrowth on the footpath from Homberg Way to Booth Way has been reported to Bridgwater Town Council.

210/26 To receive a report regarding Highways and Footpaths from Councillors King and Hubbard.

The Clerk is still awaiting approval via the Enhanced Maintenance Scheme to carry out the repairs to the footpath from Booth Way to Homberg Way.

Highways have agreed to refresh the double yellow lines on Wembdon Rise.

A road sweeper attended Wembdon Rise and some other roads in early July.

The Clerk has been asked to write to a resident of Wembdon Rise near Church Road and in Trinity Way regarding the overgrowth from their garden on to the pavement.

The Clerk is helping a resident in Wembdon Hill report blocked gullies after their home was flooded during the freak storm in June.

The Clerk has contacted Highways about the poor repair to the footpath outside 32A Wembdon Rise.

Highways Meeting.

No one seems to know who sanctioned the spend of £100k to resurface Waldrons Lane. The suggestion that pressure was brought to bear by a M.P. who does not cover Wembdon was completely refuted by the Transport and Highways portfolio holder. He did take an action to investigate.

Highways planning informed us that there would be further disruption on the A39 to uplift the electricity supply to the Cokerhurst development. This is planned to start on 14th July and last for two weeks. They added that this was all that was planned in our area for this calendar year. He stressed calendar year but did not elaborate further. It is feared that much is planned for 2027, including the new Data Centre at Horsey that will increase traffic and disruption on our roads. The Enhanced Maintenance Scheme was discussed briefly. Many of those present did not realise the impact of the document and the others seemed to suggest that it was unworkable. See LCN section

211/26 To receive a report regarding Playing Fields and Common from Councillor Bromme.

Councillor Bromme would like to review the frequency of the inspections.

Both a monthly and annual reports have been received from GB Sport and Leisure. On comparison the yearly report contained slightly different risk factors than the monthly. As the Clerk stated, I would like to discuss the frequency of these reports. We are already aware and have plans for repairs to the main issues, and apart from that, the annual report found that there were loose posts on the fencing, a trip hazard on the litter bin, and corrosion on the signage. There is a plan to discuss these when the other things are being repaired, but do these really need reporting on once a month?? The monthly report is £114.

It was agreed to consider Biannual inspections. The Clerk will speak to GB Sports.

We also have a missing sign at present which The Clerk found in the play area that needs restoring.

The Rocker will be replaced soon along with the repair to the surface under the climbing frame.

212/26 To receive a report regarding Parklands from Councillor Edwards.

Working in the Parklands has been very difficult due to the extreme heat.

I would like to give my appreciation and thanks to our contractors Gary, Scott, the team and our casual gardener. They are doing as much work as they can do sensibly in the mornings, before it

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becomes too hot, and protecting their health by wearing sun hats and not working in the afternoons.

I met up with Sedgemoor Tree Services when they were doing their tree survey. I was concerned about low branches on a Willow Tree. We agreed that he would give us a quotation to carry out this work asap, but we have yet to receive it. The willow trees we have coppiced over the last 2 years are looking amazing now and much safer.

We have an issue with teenage children climbing a young oak tree by the dragonfly seat. I have approached some and ask them to stop jumping up and down on its branches and breaking them. I have explained that they could hurt themselves badly and kill the tree.

I am watering the 9 new hazel trees, and the pear, crab apple, walnut trees we planted in the spring. We are strimming barking and watering the other young trees as per STS advice.

213/26 To receive a report regarding the Parish Paper from The Clerk and Councillor Major. The Parish Papers have been delivered and received excellent feedback.

214/26 To receive a report regarding the Allotments from Councillors Claydon and Jarvis. There are two new Wembdon residents on the waiting list as a result of the article in the recent parish paper. I continue to chase those allotment holders who are neglecting their plots, there are two who have done little to their plots this season. Two emails have been sent to each person including a photo requesting they attend their plots and the paths either side. One person has promised to sort as quickly as possible, the other has not responded. A letter from the Clerk is now required.

215/26 To receive a report regarding Perry Green from Councillor King. The resurfacing of Waldrons Lane was raised at the Highways Group meeting. See Highways meeting section. The roadworks outside The Malt House, Perry Green Road, were completed this period. The time to complete was completely wrong and caused a lot of disruption for residence. Originally quoted and signed as a 5 working day period, it actually took 10 working days. Therefore, vehicles were travelling up to the roadworks and found turning around virtually impossible. This was raised at the Highways group. See Highways section.

216/26 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall from Councillor Phillips and The Clerk. The Trustees are investigating the installation of solar panels.

217/26 To receive a report regarding Speed Indicator Device and Speedwatch from Councillor Hubbard.
To be found at the end of this document.

218/26 To receive a report regarding Hinkley and EDF from Councillors Phillips and Hubbard. Nothing to report.

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219/26 To receive a report regarding the Local Community Network from Councillors King and Hubbard.

Suggestions have been submitted that there will be major changes concerning LCN's and their role. The easiest change is a rename to Community Forums. The major change could be that all requirements for work and changes should go to the Community Forums before any work is carried out. The obvious problem with this is that Community Forums would have to convene at least every week or nothing would get done. There were major concerns raised by the group. Further information will be coming.

220/26 To receive a report regarding Parish Links from Councillor Bromme.
Nothing to report.

221/26 To receive a report regarding Community Infrastructure Levy Money projects from Councillors Bromme, Edwards and Mills Jones.

Update from meeting to discuss the MUGA/ play equipment

Sources of funding and some quotes for MUGA's were reviewed. The first step needed however, it to understand the possible locations and following from that planning permission will be required. The suggested location is on part of the Liddall Field. The land is leased by the Council, so agreement/permission will be needed from the landowner, the Clerk will write to them.

222/26 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.

02-Jun-26	PARRETT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	-£23.04
03-Jun-26	RB Garden Services final payment	-£700.00
22-Jun-26	Website	-£15.60
30-Jun-26	Wembdon Village Hall	-£750.00
30-Jun-26	G W B Services Mowing and bins	£3,979.99
30-Jun-26	G B Sports	-£114.00
30-Jun-26	SALC training	-£45.00
30-Jun-26	A R Jay – Internal Audit	-£150.00
30-Jun-26	D Nash - Parklands	-£933.95
30-Jun-26	Halpin Robbins - LEMP	-£681.60
30-Jun-26	Breakthrough Comms - Training	-£356.40
30-Jun-26	St Andrews Press printing	-£643.00
30-Jun-26	Service Charge	-£9.85
23-Jun-26	LLOYDS BANK PLC Card	
	Monthly fee	-£3.00
	Amazon - Hose pipe etc Parklands	-£105.75
	Income	
02-Jun-26	CCLA Investment Management Limited	£548.01
04-Jun-26	Plot 21 Deposit	£100.00

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223/26 To receive a report on the Budget. We are currently on target at 24.7% of the budget.

224/26 To consider the Tree Survey report. The Clerk was asked to get some further clarification on the report. One tree was marked as urgent and the work has been completed. It will be reviewed again at our next meeting.

225/26 To resolve to transfer £10,000 from the CCLA investment account to the current account. Unanimously agreed.

226/26 To receive any matters of report. None.

227/26 Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.00 pm
Meeting ended at 8.15pm.

217/26

SID & SPEEDWATCH REPORT JULY 2026

The Speedwatch Team are due to meet during July.

The Mobile SID is still at the top of Sanford Hill at the junction of Moore's Lane and Skimmerton Lane going eastbound (Inbound). Batteries are replaced every 2 to 3 weeks.

The data from the FIXED SOLAR SIDs was downloaded on 05/07/2026 and a summary is below.

The speeds recorded remain generally constant.

The maximum speeds are still of great concern.

I have tried to contact the Police Speed Enforcement team but unfortunately there has been no response.

Sanford Hill

Average Speed (Incoming) = 25.87mph

Average Speed (Outgoing) = 29.75mph

Maximum Speed (Incoming) = 66mph

Maximum Speed (Outgoing) = 68mph

Wembdon Rise (Wares Lane)

Average Speed (Towards NDR) = 19.30mph

Average Speed (Towards Wembdon Hill) = 21.03mph

Maximum Speed (Towards NDR) = 52mph

Maximum Speed (Towards Wembdon Hill) = 47mph

Wembdon Rise

Average Speed (Incoming from NDR) = 19.66mph

Average Speed (Outgoing towards NDR) = 20.00mph

Maximum Speed (Incoming from NDR) = 58mph

Maximum Speed (Outgoing towards NDR) = 53mph

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