

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Sam Matthews, The Green, Homberg Way, Wembdon, TA6 7BY.
Email clerk@wembdonparish.gov.uk Telephone 07359 864310

Minutes of Wembdon parish Council Meeting held Monday 14th September at 7pm

Present: Councilors P King, D Claydon, P Major, M Phillips, L Edwards, A Jarvis, R Hubbard, S Bromme and A Mills-Jones. Somerset Unitary Councillor Brian Bolt.
Parish Clerk Sam Matthews.

256/26 To receive any apologies for absence. M Caswell.

257/26 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.
M Phillips Item 264/26.

258/26 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 24th August 2026.
Approved.

259/26 To invite our Somerset Councillors to give a report either written or in person.
Councillor Brian Bolt spoke about the discussions taking place around increasing Parking charges within Bridgwater.

260/26 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 present.

261/26 Planning applications to discuss or review.

Planning application number: 51/26/00011/AGE

Proposal: Variation of Conditions 2 & 11 of Planning Permission 51/25/00024 (Retrospective variation of Condition 3 of Planning Permission 51/19/00003 (Hybrid (full and outline) application. Full application for the erection of 238 dwellings, formation of two new means of access onto A39, pedestrian/cycle link onto Wembdon Hill, public open space, parking and landscaping. Outline application with all matters reserved, for up to 437 dwellings, 500sqm (A1-A5) and/or community uses (D1)), 2.2ha site for up to 2 Form Entry Primary School and bus gate/emergency access via Inwood Road with associated infrastructure, landscaping and works.) to amend the approved plans in schedule A to allow for a change to the height of a retaining wall within Phase 1 of the development.) to amend the housetypes on plots 44-74, 106-143, 167-170 and 183-237.
Location: Land At Cokerhurst Farm South Of Wembdon Hill & North Of, Quantock Road, Bridgwater, Somerset.

As only a handful of the plots are within Wembdon with only minor changes it was agreed that the Parish Council would make No Comment.

262/26 To consider resurfacing the paved area by the Millenium bridge. Wessex Water are happy for us to resurface the area. The Clerk and Councillors are working to obtain further quotes for different surface options.

Councillor Phillips has made some progress and hopes to have a further quote soon.

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263/26 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. We have received confirmation from the Diocese Board that they are happy to indemnify the Drainage Board against damages.
The Church solicitors have requested to receive formal refusal from the drainage board before providing indemnity, this is in hand.

264/26 To consider a request from The Green Wembdon for the £2000.00 grant to put towards the new coffee machine. A letter has been circulated.

It was unanimously agreed to provide the grant requested. Cllr M Phillips abstained.

265/26 To receive The Clerk's report.

The Clerk has once again chased Highways for the installation of the double yellow lines approved last year.

The Clerk spoke with the group practicing Archery on the dog walking field and informed them it is not an acceptable activity.

The Clerk is obtaining a quote to shorten the finger on the post at Perry Green.

266/26 To receive a report regarding Highways from Councillors King and Hubbard.

Next LCN Highways meeting was due to be held on 17th September but has been cancelled.

267/26 To receive a report regarding Playing Fields and Common from Councillor Bromme.

To discuss and agree at the meeting – The proposal to change the frequency of playground and safety inspections to quarterly instead of monthly. One of these inspections will be a yearly report which looks in more details at compliance with the HSE standards.

Currently the council pays for monthly reports and one yearly one. The cost of a monthly report at present is over £100.

The quote from GB Sports who provide the service currently is a cost of £30 for the quarterly inspection, and £95 for the yearly. The clerk has checked the insurance which does not make stipulations on the frequency of inspections.

The guidance from GB Sports is:

The RPII (register of playground inspectors international) and the current en1176 playground standards recommend the following inspection types.

Routine visual inspections normally carried out on a weekly basis although in some instances for very busy areas daily maybe required. These are often carried out by councillors /volunteers on a rota basis. But I should point out records should also be kept of the inspections I can help with a template if required.

Operational inspections normally carried out on a monthly or quarterly basis. And annual inspections.

Unanimously agreed to move to the new schedule and cost.

268/26 To receive a report regarding Parklands from Councillor Edwards.

There have been some issues with vandalism of the younger trees.

There are many badgers digging and a Parish councillor witnessed their activity.

We are awaiting a quote from STS, to make the willow safe that had partly fallen.

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Sam's been chasing them as this is urgent. It was also agreed for Cllr Phillips to obtain a further quote for the work.

The bridge between the Parklands and the Liddal field, either side has wooden fencing. The left panel needs replacing as it is rotten and falling over. The right side was replaced a couple of years ago by Kev Flay who did an excellent job, and we are awaiting a quote from him for the left side repair.

269/26 To receive a report regarding the Parish Paper from The Clerk and Councillor Major. Time to prepare for the next edition with hope of going to print at the end of September.

270/26 To receive a report regarding the Allotments from Councillors Claydon and Jarvis.

A vacated plot has been rented to a new tenant. Three further plots will be relinquished at the end of September. One of these plots has been held for 50 years. A certificate of appreciation will be presented to that person at the Allotment Holders meeting on the 28th September. The Clerk will be sending Invoices out to allotment holders this month for next year's rent.

People on the waiting list will be contacted shortly regarding the three plots.

Over the summer I was approached by 'Blossoms', the business that runs services for people with learning and physical difficulties. They have a very small plot in the centre of the allotment site.

They asked if they could make some changes to the plot to improve access for their clients, many who have physical difficulties. I proposed they move to Plot 29, where the beacon is, which has easier access, a better path and bit more space to enable wheelchairs to access the gardening project they run. Over the winter Blossoms is going to build higher raised beds, and better seating for the next season. This is a community project which has been happening for about five years. It was agreed at a council meeting when they began their project, they have a plot rent free.

The plot they are leaving will be absorbed into the plot above as it is such a small area.

271/26 To receive a report regarding Perry Green from Councillor King.

The resurfacing of Waldrons Lane is still of concern especially as it is now breaking up in the same places that it was defective before the resurfacing took place. I am now pursuing the issue via Ashley Fox's office, as well as the Highways meeting.

The new owner of Barton Farm is in situ. I have spoken with him twice, and already he has set about rectifying the flooding issues that have affected Perry Green Road for several years. It seems that the answers will be in place in a matter of days. He has also addressed the ditches of Perry Moor Brook that borders his property: clearing vegetation etc. He appears to be very community minded, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

272/26 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall from Councillor Phillips and The Clerk.

Village Day and the Bridgwater Half Marathon were both very successful days for the Green. The wording under the clock face on the rear roof has been updated.

273/26 To receive a report regarding Speed Indicator Device and Speedwatch from Councillor Hubbard.

Full report at the end of this agenda.

274/26 To receive a report regarding Hinkley and EDF from Councillors Phillips and Hubbard.

Three Councillors attended a site visit to A & B sites and found it very informative.

Councillor Hubbard will be attending the next Stakeholder meeting.

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Hinkley C has launched a new Fly Parking reporting tool, we will add a link to it on our website and share it on our Facebook page.

275/26 To receive a report regarding the Local Community Network from Councillors King and Hubbard.

Cllr King attended a call for LCN chairs and Deputy chairs on 8th September. Councillor Claydon joined the call with me. As I have previously mentioned, the remit of Local Community Networks appears to be growing way beyond the initial scope. It is now to include Primary Care Trusts, the Fire and Police services and charities. LCN boundaries may change to mirror those of the Primary Care Trust's. Link officers and their LCN's will be changing. The update paper is still not ready. The next LCN meeting is on 22nd September.

276/26 To receive a report regarding Parish Links from Councillor Bromme.

Nothing to report.

277/26 To receive a report regarding Community Infrastructure Levy Money projects from Councillors Bromme, Edwards and Mills Jones.

Meeting held with Peter Reed to discuss a proposal from a company called Padelstars who are interested in building at least 4 padel courts in the playing fields.

Meeting held with Padelstars and 2 Trustees of the Village Hall to understand the proposal in more detail. The company would pay the costs of planning, construction and operations, in return for a fixed yearly amount. Following from this, a meeting was held with the Hall Trustees to discuss the proposal and the implications. More details will be provided at the meeting on Monday 14th September. Agreed to decline their offer.

In the meantime, there is no news from the Liddall family on their willingness to sell or allow construction of sporting facilities on their land. The Clerk will make contact again.

278/26 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.

20-Aug-26	Direct Debit (IONOS CLOUD LTD.)	-£56.40*
28-Aug-26	B/P to: Coffee Shop Grant	-£2,000.00
	B/P to: Nigel's Windows cleaning solar light	
28-Aug-26	panels	-£80.00
	B/P to: P. Phillips Booth Way path and Allotment	-
28-Aug-26	track	£3,720.00*
	B/P to: James Porter Lego block at gate to	
28-Aug-26	Parklands	-£216.00*
28-Aug-26	B/P to: Dave Nash	-£1,012.50
		-
28-Aug-26	B/P to: G W B Services grass cutting and bins	£3,879.19*
31-Aug-26	Service Charge	-£8.05
24-Aug-26	LLOYDS BANK PLC CARD	
	Amazon tree protectors	£17.94*
	CRS bark for Parklands	£156.00*
	Monthly fee	£3.00

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Income		
04-Aug-26	CCLA Investment Management Limited	£715.95
11-Aug-26	Advertiser	£25.00
27-Aug-26	CCLA transfer to Current account	£10,000.00

279/26 To receive a report on the Budget. Currently at 40%.

Suggestions were made to the clerk for some minor amendments as some amounts were in the wrong category.

280/26 To initial amendments to Box 9 of section 1 and Boxes 1 and 11 of section 2 the AGAR return due to a clerical error.

Unanimously resolved to make the required amendments.

281/26 To resolve to renew our membership with Somerset Playing Field Association at £15 per annum.

Unanimously agreed.

282/26 To receive any matters of report.

An underground cable has become exposed on The Parklands due to the dry weather; Councillor Edwards will kindly arrange for this to be filled in with topsoil.

Many pavements on The Parklands remain cracked along the edges, especially in The Prairie. The Clerk will ask P Phillips to quote for repairs along with damaged edging on some of the rubber crumb surfaces on the play area.

The pavement outside 32A Wembdon Rise has still not been repaired, The Clerk will chase.

There are many problems with overgrown vegetation in the village, we will include an article in the next Parish Paper and start reporting households to Highways.

283/26 Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 12th October 2026 at 7.00 pm

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

273/26 SID & SPEEDWATCH REPORT SEPTEMBER 2026

The Speedwatch Team met on 1st September at the top of Wembdon Hill, outside of No. 84, between 4 and 5pm. Two Avon & Somerset Police Officers from HPC also attended and monitored vehicles with a certified Speed Monitoring Gun. The summary is below.

Total Vehicles monitored = 135.

Total Vehicles recorded above 26mph = 8 (This included 2 recorded by the Police).

Highest Speed = 31mph (Recorded by the Police).

Note: -

The 2 vehicles recorded by the Police travelling over 26mph will receive a fine and points on their licence. Both drivers are workers at HPC.

The Mobile SID is still at the top of Sandford Hill on the junction of Moore's Lane and Skimmerton Lane going eastbound (Inbound).

The data from the FIXED SOLAR SIDs was downloaded on 01/09/2026 and a summary is below.

The speeds recorded remain generally constant.

The maximum speeds are still of great concern.

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I am still in contact with the Police Roads Policing Unit and the Police at HPC. It was very encouraging to have the Police present with the Speed Monitoring Gun. Hopefully this can be continued.

Sandford Hill

Average Speed (Incoming) = 26.27mph

Average Speed (Outgoing) = 29.65mph

Maximum Speed (Incoming) = 65mph (1 vehicle at 03.00)

Maximum Speed (Outgoing) = 68mph (3 vehicles at 07.00, 15.30 and 20.00)

Wembdon Rise (Wares Lane)

Average Speed (Towards NDR) = 20.46mph

Average Speed (Towards Wembdon Hill) = 21.40mph

Maximum Speed (Towards NDR) = 58mph (1 vehicle at 17.30)

Maximum Speed (Towards Wembdon Hill) = 52mph (1 vehicle at 18.30)

Wembdon Rise

Average Speed (Incoming from NDR) = 20.68mph

Average Speed (Outgoing towards NDR) = 21.71mph

Maximum Speed (Incoming from NDR) = 59mph (2 vehicles at 05.30 and 21.00)

Maximum Speed (Outgoing towards NDR) = 67mph (1 vehicle at 05.00)

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