WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Wembdon parish Council Meeting Monday 26th October at 7pm

Present: Councillors P King, D Claydon, R Hubbard, A Mills-Jones, A Jarvis and S Bromme. Somerset Councillor M Caswell and Clerk S Matthews.

284/26To receive any apologies for absence. M Phillips, P Major and L Edwards.

285/26 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.

286/26 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th September 2026.

Approved and signed by P King.

287/26 To invite our Somerset Councillors to give a report either written or in person.

Mike Caswell reported that the road layouts along Salmon Parade and East Quay will be reverted to two-way traffic. This has not happened yet.

288/26 To invite public speaking – None Present.

289/26 Planning applications to discuss or review.

Planning application number: 51/26/00013/ROR
Proposal: Removal of large lowest limb of 1No. Cedar of Lebanon (Cedars Libani) (T1) (TPO Ref T1) extending towards the highway (as shown on submitted photo) back to main stem with an approx. diameter of 25–35cm at the removal point. Crown raise lower crown to match the resulting height following removal of the highway-side limb, in order to maintain an even and balanced crown shape overall (as shown on submitted photo).
Location: 54 Wembdon Hill, Wembdon, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7PX

Unanimously agreed No Comment.

290/26 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. ONGOING.

291/26 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. ONGOING.

292/26 To resolve to adopt the National Association of Local Clerks pay rise of 3.3% for the Clerk, which will be backdated to April 2026, and approve the Government increased mileage rate to 55p per mile.

Unanimously agreed.

293/26 To receive The Clerk's report.
The Clerk has once again chased Highways for the installation of the double yellow lines which were approved last year, and they are investigating why they have not yet been completed.
The Clerk has obtained two quotes to shorten the finger on the post at Perry Green. This will be considered at our next meeting.

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The Clerk has authorised urgent repairs to the gate on the children's play area at a cost of £337.50 + vat, which has now been completed.
The Clerk authorised urgent removal of 3 trees fallen on footpaths by the storm this weekend.
The Clerk is still looking into the uneven surface on BW 34/8.

294/26 To receive a report regarding Highways from Councillors King and Hubbard.

The traffic travelling along Perry Green Road, Hollow Lane and Moores Lane has risen to a high level this last period, and it's not obvious why. It may be because of an increase in people at Hinckley, it maybe because of the increase in road maintenance. It may be because of the work on the M5. This is only going to get worse as the Cokerhurst development becomes live.
The next Highways meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st December at 10am in Stogursey Village Hall.
The Clerk will make enquiries about the railings at the Traffic lights to Wembdon Rise, and the keep clear marking at the same site which is very worn.

295/26 To receive a report regarding Playing Fields and Common from Councillor Bromme.

The revision to quarterly inspections has been agreed. The reports will be done in September, December and March, with the annual one in June. Note the prices (£30 for quarterly, £95 for yearly) are likely to have a price increase in April 2027, so we'll need to ensure we factor that in when reviewing the budget for next year.
The latest report highlighted an issue with the radar key for the accessible swing. This was resolved by lubricating the lock, but this is a potential issue for the future.
There is also a problem with the gate to the toddler area, it looks as though the motor has failed. GB Sports are coming to repair shortly.

296/26 To receive a report regarding Parklands from Councillor Edwards.

Nothing to report.

297/26 To receive a report regarding the Parish Paper from The Clerk and Councillor Major.

Edition 52 has been printed and delivered. It was suggested to discourage speeding on country lanes in the next issue.

298/26 To receive a report regarding the Allotments from Councillors Claydon and Jarvis.

Three people have given up their tenancies since rents were due to be paid. There is one person on the waiting list. There is a need to advertise the vacancies. A viewing took place today.
The allotment holders meeting was well attended on 28th September. The WCA presented the allotment shields to worthy winners and a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to an allotment holder who has given up her allotment after 50 years. Various subjects were discussed by the allotment holders. The communal compost heap was a main concern. It had not been used properly and was impacting upon Plot 30. People volunteered to clear it and take the waste to the Recycling Centre. This has been happening. It was decided to take the bins away. A further suggestion was to have area with a table or storage for the sharing of seeds, seedlings and produce. A central area needs to be found where this may happen.
It was suggested that we create a communal seating area, this will be costed and discussed further.

299/26 To receive a report regarding Perry Green from Councillor King.

The resurfacing of Waldrons Lane is ongoing as the Highways meeting was cancelled.

Signed _____ Dated____/____/2026

The new owner of Barton Farm has fixed the drainage pipe from Perry Green Road and is about to jet it ready for use. This should cure the flooding problems outside Barton Farm.

300/26 To receive a report regarding the Village Hall from Councillor Phillips and The Clerk.

The Village Hall is doing well, a few things organised prior to Christmas 'Disco' '007 evening' etc
The wedding licence has been officially granted.
The Coffee shop is doing well and the new part-time Barista, Mel has settled in well.

301/26 To receive a report regarding Speed Indicator Device and Speedwatch from Councillor Hubbard.

See at the end of the minutes.

302/26 To receive a report regarding Hinkley and EDF from Councillors Phillips and Hubbard.

The minutes of the recent Stakeholder meeting are available on our website.
There will be a meeting regarding the uplift of the workforce which Councillor Hubbard will attend.

303/26 To receive a report regarding the Local Community Network from Councillors King and Hubbard.

The Annual General Meeting will be at The Green, Wembdon on Tuesday 8th December at 3.30pm.
We now have a new Link Officer due to Anne Shilton leaving, Chris Booth, we look forward to working with him.

304/26 To receive a report regarding Parish Links from Councillor Bromme.

Nothing to report.

305/26 To receive a report regarding Community Infrastructure Levy Money projects from Councillors

We are still waiting for feedback from the owners of the land where the MUGA is proposed to be positioned.
In the meantime, we would like to progress with some improvements to the play area in general. We are planning to meet with GB Sports to get their suggestions and a quote following from that, and in the meantime, Sovereign Play have provided a quote for a Jungle Gym. This will enable us to work out what funds we would need to raise (assuming all the CIL money goes towards the MUGA).

306/26 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.

01-Sep-26	Scribe accounts	-£14.40	*
08-Sep-26	SOMERSET COUNCIL PRECEPT	£63,750.00	
22-Sep-26	Website Ionos	-£15.60	*
23-Sep-26	Direct Debit (LLOYDS BANK PLC)	-£3.00	
30-Sep-26	G W B Services Grass cutting and bins	-£3,898.59	*
30-Sep-26	Wembdon Village Hall qtry rental	-£750.00	
30-Sep-26	Wembdon Village Hall annual grant	-£2,000.00	
30-Sep-26	PKF Littlejohn LLP External auditor	-£504.00	*
30-Sep-26	Dave Nash Parklands	-£650.00	
30-Sep-26	Kev Flay Bollards and fence repairs	-£667.00	

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30-Sep-26	Service Charge	-£10.00
	Income	
02-Sep-26	CCLA Investment Management Limited	£714.05
	Allotment rents	£1,050.00
	Allotment deposit plot 17	£100.00

307/26 To receive a report on the Budget. This will be circulated prior to the meeting. Currently on track at 45% of annual spend.

308/26 To review the quotes obtained by The Clerk to repair the rubber crumb surfaces under the slide and the climbing frame.

Quotes were presented from GB Sports £1680.00 + vat and P Phillips £1044.00 + vat.
It unanimously agreed to award the work to P Phillips.

309/26 To consider a quote for repairs to the footpaths around The Parklands and the 'wiggly path'.

A quotation was presented from P Philips at a cost of £975.00 + vat per day for two men and all materials to fill the cracks with hot tar. It is felt it will take around 1 to 1.5 days.
It was unanimously agreed to request they fill all the cracks.

310/26 To review the External auditors report. Circulated prior to the meeting.

Reviewed and published along with the Notice of Conclusion of audit.

311/26 To discuss the renewal of the Defibrillator contracts with Southwest Ambulance Services.

Southwest Ambulance Services no longer offer a service. We opted to be gifted the two units currently installed at The Cottage Inn and The Parish Centre, allowing us time to find a new provider, which will also include the unit at The Green.

312/26 To receive any matters of report.

313/26 Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 9th November 2026 at 7.00 pm

Meeting ended at 8.07pm.

301/26 <u>SID & SPEEDWATCH REPORT OCTOBER 2026</u>
The **Speedwatch** Team have not met since 1st September.
The Mobile SID is still at the top of Sandford Hill at the junction of Moore's Lane and Skimmerton Lane going eastbound (Inbound).
The data from the **FIXED SOLAR SIDs** was downloaded on 02/10/2026 and a summary is below.
The speeds recorded remain generally constant with a slight reduction in average speeds.
Again, the maximum speeds are still of great concern.

<u>Sandford Hill</u>
Average Speed (Incoming) = 25.41mph
Average Speed (Outgoing) = 29.63mph
Maximum Speed (Incoming) = 75mph (23/09/2026 at 16.00)
Maximum Speed (Outgoing) = 69mph (22/09/2026 at 06.30)

<u>Wembdon Rise (Wares Lane)</u>

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Average Speed (Towards NDR) = 20.25mph
Average Speed (Towards Wembdon Hill) = 21.25mph
Maximum Speed (Towards NDR) = 58mph (03/09/2026 at 00.00)
Maximum Speed (Towards Wembdon Hill) = 48mph (24/09/2026 at 06.00)

Wembdon Rise
Average Speed (Incoming from NDR) = 20.39mph
Average Speed (Outgoing towards NDR) = 21.45mph
Maximum Speed (Incoming from NDR) = 57mph (29/09/2026 at 14.00)
Maximum Speed (Outgoing towards NDR) = 74mph (20/09/2026 at 17.00)

Signed _____ Dated____/____/2026