



DRAFT

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2024

The Annual Meeting of Wembury Parish will be held at Wembury Village Hall, on Monday 20th May 2024 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present:

Chair	Cllr Drought	Chairman of Wembury Parish Council
Clerk	Ms Anne Towill	Clerk to Wembury Parish Council
Public	Eleven electors were present including eight Wembury Parish Council councillors.	

24-01 The Chair opened the meeting at 19:01

24-02 *Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Wembury Parish held on 22nd May 2023.*
The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on the 22nd May 2023.

24-03 *Annual Report of the Wembury Parish Council Chair 2023-24.*
Cllr Drought gave his report- see Annex A.

24-04 *Other reports from Parish groups, organisations, education or charities not received before the meeting.*
Jess Tatton-Brown gave a report on the work of the National Trust over the last year – see Annex B.

24-05 *Close of meeting.*
The meeting was closed at 19:15.

Anne Towill
Clerk to Wembury Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2024
Annex A- Annual Report of the Wembury Parish Council Chair 2023-24

Ladies and Gentlemen, Councillors

A year ago this month we said goodbye to Cllr Dan Brown Chairman and Cllr John Bennett, John has been an exemplary Councillor for at least 30 years and will be much missed.

I Dermot Drought was proposed and accepted as Chairman, John Stansell was proposed and accepted as Vice Chairman.

The business of the Council then proceeded as usual with Councillors accepting responsibility for representing WPC on various internal and external committees as well as tending to the needs of the Parish. Council agreed that in future all Councillors will vote on planning applications Those not living in a ward will be guided by those who do and vice versa.

Rhino's quote for recreation ground fitness equipment and reports from our internal auditor and the AGAR annual audit were also accepted.

Following the resignation of the then Clerk, Anne Towill immediately offered to take over which we were pleased to accept. Because of her family commitments she advised me that we would need to alter her working hours to suit those commitments if we wanted her back on a permanent basis, she eventually showed us the alterations to her working hours to which we were happy to accept. She also recommended Lucy Bruckner to replace her as RFO. Following our interview with Lucy she started her probationary period. Anne then advised me that she would go through all our Policies and Procedures to ensure they were updated and amended where necessary.

Feedback from members of the public etc proved the value of the community hubs and the request was made that they should continue and possibly use them for talks designed to impart important information to help members of the public.

We have been experiencing graffiti, antisocial behaviour, misuse of e-bikes in the recreation ground, the car park and on the beach our PCSOs said more PCSOs are moving into the area and that should help the situation and they also recommended we involve the school as well.

We have signed up to 20 is plenty campaign.

In September Cllr Cox reported that many recreation ground assets were in need of repair/replacement and discussions took place on possible means of financing this work. Filling the gaps in the hedges due to dead tree felling would require planting of new trees and bushes.

Cllr Cox proposed the setting up of a Staffing & HR Committee. It was also decided to form a Pavilion Working Group.

Cllrs Stewart, Nix and Walrond were selected to join Cllr Cox on the NP committee. Lucy Bruckner was appointed RFO following a successful probationary period, and the revised Safeguarding policy was adopted.

During October the sewage treatment plant on farmer Andrew's field suffered a pipe breakage this allowed sewage to flow down the field onto the beach area SWW sent a fleet of tankers and men to clean up the mess and repair the pipework. The fleet of tankers so damaged beach road that it had to be closed until it was repaired. This treatment plant is supposed to accept another sewage feed from Fort Bovisand via a holding tank in Down Thomas, it is my belief that the plant is unfit for purpose.

I announced my intention to resign from the Yealm Harbour Authority in February 2024 and John Stansell was voted in as my replacement.

Anne Towill was retained as parish Clerk. Coral Smith resigned from the Council due to family commitments.

Friends of Wembury Recreation Ground group has been formed, volunteers being sought.

Councillors Cox, Edwards and Nix have been appointed to the HR and Staffing committee with Cllr. Cox as chair.

The Neighbourhood Plan committee now taking shape and the RFO has been asked if any finance can be sourced to help complete the Plan.

The terms of reference for the following committees have all been adopted:

Beach Liaison Group

Highways committee

Pavilion Working Group

Council also supported the principals of Civility and Respect Pledge but did not support the need of costly training.

Council agreed to set a Precept of £68,400 for 2024/2025

In January we were still waiting for the Housing Needs Survey and this is holding back progress of the NP. Our Clerk Anne Towill was appointed Safeguarding Lead and Cllr Jane Cox as Deputy Safeguarding Lead. It was agreed that the Clerk would send out a survey to discover if there was a significant need for a Thermal imaging Camera.

We agreed to adopt the statements and document created relating to the Civility and Respect Pledge and the White Ribbon Campaign Pledge.

Council also agreed to ask Bridget Knight to conduct the internal audit for 2023-24.

Amongst a number of payments made Council agreed to vire £300 of the excess funds accrued interest and book sales monies, in the Discovering Wembury book account to a Defibrillator Consumables budget line and £500.33 into general reserves until needed.

Council agreed to retrospectively to agree and sign the Accounts for payment in December 2023 and to agree and sign the Accounts for payment January 2024.

Council continues to be concerned about the sewage treatment plant and the effects of extra sewage feeds will have on the situation, Cllrs Nix, Stansell and Short will pursue their contacts and Rob Price of the Environment Agency would be helpful regarding the sewage treatment plant. The EA are also funding a feasibility report to look at measures to improve the water cleaning and filtering for the Wembury stream.

Council agreed to adopt the Friends of Wembury Recreation Ground Volunteer Agreement, Volunteer Policy and Contact Form.

The NP committee held a meeting having received the Housing Needs Survey which identified 12 affordable houses would be needed within the next 5 years, but SHDC do not have any land sites available at present other than small verges.

Council has adopted the following Policies and approved actions.

The Disciplinary Policy

Investigate the costs of moving the Wembury Parish Council website, councillor and staff to a.gov address.

The Fixed Asset and Valuation Policy

To spend up to £150 PPE equipment for the Friends of Wembury Recreation Ground group.

To install a small permanent fir tree on the Mewstone Avenue verge and whilst it is growing to rent a potted tree to be used as a village Christmas tree, the village hall committee to be asked if they will host the tree.

The Financial Statement of payments and receipts, Reserve Balances and Bank Reconciliation was received, and the Bank Reconciliation to be signed.

At the March meeting we were informed that the AONB designation is now to be National Landscapes to bring it on par with National Parks and National Trails.

The NP update included a discussion on the possibility of having a Community Land Trust or CLT but SHDC do not have any land sites within the parish, we might find a land owner willing to gift us some land, so this project is pretty fluid at present. It was decided to concentrate on getting the NP sorted out first. The committee are concentrating on Community Engagement Next Steps so hopefully their results will bring forth better engagement from members of the public.

Cllr Kenny will represent the Council on the Yealm Estuary to Moor steering group

Resolved: To ask the RFO to establish costs for an updated replacement acrylic map on the Odd Wheel pub wall.

Resolved: To ask the RFO to create Community Fund budget line for the 2024/25 budget and to use appropriate 2023/24 unspent line monies to fund it, this budget line then be used for projects such as the map.

Other issues Resolved:

The grant application from the River Yealm Water Quality Group for £595.00 was agreed.

To instruct JFGS to clear the road and ditch on the road to Wembury Point to improve drainage and reduce flooding.

To upgrade to a gov.uk website and emails using the current provider and their proposal.

To receive and agree the Financial Statement of payments and receipts, Reserve Balances and Bank Reconciliations and to sign the Bank Reconciliation.

To agree and sign the Accounts for payment March 2024.

To increase the amount paid by cheque to the village shop for Community Hub expenses to £50.

To take further measures to secure the money in the NP bank account.

At the April meeting we were delighted to welcome Carl Gibbard onto the Wembury Ward of WPC. Carl showed real enthusiasm at the prospect of becoming a Parish Councillor and I wish him well.

I was also pleased that Council agreed to purchase PDFSAM pro for the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer as it will make their lives a little easier.

Finally, I want to say a sincere thank you to Anne our Clerk and Lucy our RFO; ladies you have put WPC into a safe place and I am truly grateful. Councillors, you deserve my thanks also, you are all doing your bit to make this an effective Parish Council and I have to say it is my pleasure to work with all of you.

Dermod Michael Drought
Chairman

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2024
Annex B- Annual Report of Jess Tatton-Brown, National Trust

Planted 32,000 trees creating new woodland, wood pasture and over a mile of new hedgerow.

Brought the sssi into management through a process of cutting and grazing with our new herd of highland cows.

Created 7ha of new species rich grassland.

Welcomed 9 primary schools and 100's of volunteers to the farm.

Improved access along 1800m of footpath to the beach and the SWCP.

We have faced some challenges:

Collapse of the wall - awaiting a coastal specialist report

Broken road- now fixed by Devon County Council.