



**Minutes of the Wembury Parish Council Meeting held at Wembury Village Hall
on the 27th of January 2025.**

Location: Down Thomas Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: Cllr Cox (Vice Chair), Cllr Drought (Chair), Cllr Edwards, Cllr Gibbard, Cllr Kenny, Cllr Stansell, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Truscott, Cllr Walrond.

Clerk: Anne Towill

Members of the Public: 7

25-01 Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened at 19:30

25-02 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Nix and Cllr Short and were accepted by the council.

25-03 Absent

None

25-04 Declarations of Interests & Dispensation Requests

None

25-05 To suspend the business of the Council to allow speaker presentations.

The meeting was suspended at 19:32

- i. *Devon County Council Report – See Annex A.* Submitted by email, read out by the Clerk.
- ii. *South Hams District Council Report – See Annex B.* Submitted by email, read out by the Clerk.
- iii. *Member of the Public* – Expressed concerns about the overdevelopment of Wembury village and lack of starter homes. They gave thanks to the councillors who visited them to let them know about the developments that were near them. They were also concerned that the planning application notices were not in easily visible areas. Additionally, they spoke about problems with road surfaces and potholes. They were encouraged to keep reporting pot holes that meet the criteria and get involved with the Road Warden Scheme that is being set up.
- iv. *National Trust* – Jess Tatton-Brown explained that over 200 people helped plant 20,000 of the 40,000 trees planned to be planted. Thanks were given to the council for letting them use the recreation ground as a bus stop which had greatly helped. Wembury Primary School will be planting at the site this week and signs that they have designed will be used to mark the trees they have planted. Accessible gates and benches have been installed at Wembury Point and the beach which were part funded by South Devon National Landscapes. Last week they hosted Plymouth

coastal observatory for the first of their winter talk series about coastal change. Expect 2 more talks to be publicised soon.

Upcoming events: Bee bank creation at Wembury point with South Devon National Landscapes on the 8th of February 2025.

Jess is giving talks at the marine centre on the 3rd and 9th of February 2025 at the Marine Centre.

- v. *Member of the Public.* A member of the public asked what the long-term plans from the National Trust were regarding Barton Farm, as they are concerned about the need to install a car park to pay for the developments, or parking on the road becoming a problem. Jess Tatton-Brown explained that there were no plans for a car park and the trees had been paid for by Plymouth Community Forest so that would not need to be recouped. The National Trust believed that primarily locals would be using the all-user path, and anyone who needed to drive to access it would park in the recreation ground car park, then walk up the soon to be installed footpath behind Langdon View to get to the new all access path. They also hoped that the new all access paths would reduce the usage of Wembury Point by locals who need to drive to it, as the views etc at the Barton Farm path would have similar views that are experienced at Wembury Point.

The meeting was resumed at 20:02

25-06 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th of November 2024

All in favour

RESOLVED: To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 25th of November 2024

25-07 To consider current planning matters and to receive monthly planning applications.

- i. *Planning applications-* See Annex C

RESOLVED: To ratify and submit the comments as per Annex C.

25-08 Committees and Working Groups

- i. *Wembury Recreation Ground*

Cllr Cox reported: The committee have not met during the month although work has continued to improve and upgrade facilities during this winter period. The zip wire has been reopened following remedial works, with new signage in place. It is disappointing that there has been further vandalism within the grounds, including further graffiti (removed promptly) and fire setting.

The Clerk explained that the toddler swing had been taken down because the shackles had seized. They have had to be sent away to be drilled out but will be reinstalled with new bearings as soon as possible.

- ii. *Neighbourhood Plan*

Cllr Cox reported: The committee reviewed NP policy coverage within SW Devon and the South Hams existing neighbourhood plans. They have now identified broad policy headings which are relevant to the parish of Wembury

and will now review how these will fully incorporate the needs and views of the community.

Next meeting 10th of February 2025.

iii. *Pavilion Creation Working Group*

Cllr Walrond reported that they have had a meeting with the quantity surveyor and subject to providing them with some additional information, the costings will be ready for the February meeting. Cllr Stewart is also looking into funding streams.

iv. *Highways*

Cllr Edwards reported that there was a meeting last week where multiple issues were raised. There have been reports that the signage at both ends of Traine road has reduced the volume of traffic. There was a conversation around the planned surface repairs to Church Road, which the Clerk believes have been cancelled due to funding issues. Cllr Gibbard reminded the council that there is a community speed watch scheme, and that data is submitted to the police. Cllr Edwards asked what was happening with the new VAS (vehicle activated system) and the Clerk explained that it would be purchased in our next financial year.

25-09 Other Matters.

i. *Clerk's Report*

The Clerk's report was noted.

ii. *Representation to Outside Bodies*

All in favour.

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Gibbard as representative to the Yealm Estuary to Moor Steering Group and the Wembury MCA Advisory Committee.

iii. *Climate Change and Biodiversity (CCB)*

Cllr Gibbard reported:

Yealm Estuary to Moor Steering Group (YEM)

- There are terrestrial & aquatic projects they are undertaking with birds, bats, butterflies and beetles.
- They want to monitor interventions and work with other organisations in the area.

Environment Agency

- Wembury Beach bathing water has been downgraded due to 2 incidents in 2024.
- With YEM, Cllr Gibbard has agreed to monitoring 3 spots for water quality.
- They want to work with WPC regarding their push to promote the project "Only rain down the drain / Yellow fish".
- River basin management plans are under parliamentary review.
- There is £1.8 billion in Higher Level Land Management Schemes for improving water quality.

Marine Conservation Area Advisory Group

- They need the public to report illegal fishing and recreational disturbance.

- It is difficult to enforce the Spearfishing Association voluntary no-catch in Wembury.
- They want to engage with local groups, MPs and influencers.
- The International Paints pollution case is awaiting decision by Marine Management Organisation. Any fine will go to the Treasury but they have agreed to pay for remediation and they want to avoid wholesale dredging.
- Estuary management plan – not statutory but would be useful for Wembury.

Westcountry Rivers Trust

- Working with Defra to reduce slurry leaks and improve invertebrate numbers and reduce eutrophication.
- There is increasing pressure from climate change on flooding and eutrophication.

Ocean Conservation Trust

- Using yellow marker buoys to outline seagrass meadows in voluntary no-anchor zones.
- Planting seagrass to restore meadows at Jennycliff.

Building Resilience in Communities (Plymouth)

- Help communities understand surface waters and flooding risks and slow the flow.

Invasive Species Group

- Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, American Skunk Cabbage & Himalayan Balsam are all issues in the area.

Cllr Stewart said that human faeces has been found in the Meadow stream recently.

Cllr Gibbard and the Clerk explained that idea of a stakeholder group for environmental issues has been suggested to help co-ordinate the efforts in the parish. It will be on the February agenda for discussion.

iv. *Phone Handset*

All in favour.

RESOLVED: To donate the unused phone handset to The Peninsula Trust.

v. *Civicly App*

All in favour.

RESOLVED: To purchase a subscription to the Civicly app to assist with asset management.

vi. *Crisis Communication Policy and Plan*

All in favour.

RESOLVED: To adopt the Crisis Communication Policy and Plan

vii. *Recruitment of Responsible Financial Officer*

All in favour.

RESOLVED: To instruct the Clerk and HR Committee to begin the recruitment process for a new Responsible Financial Officer.

25-10 To receive Financial Reports.

- i. *Responsible Financial Officer's Report*
The Responsible Financial Officer's report was noted.
- ii. *Grant*
Eight in favour one abstention.
RESOLVED: To grant the River Yealm Water Quality group £442.00.
- iii. *Dog Signs*
All in favour
RESOLVED: To purchase 4 x dog control signs at £16.80 and have them installed by JFGS.
- iv. *Lloyds*
It was noted that there was a change initiated by Lloyds Bank to move the council from a Treasurers' Account to a Community Account, and the changes this brings including the cost.
- v. *Unity Trust Bank*
The report from the RFO on the status of opening Unity Trust Bank accounts and a savings account was noted
- vi. *Financial Statement*
All in favour.
RESOLVED: To agree the Financial Statement of payments and receipts, Reserve Balances and Bank Reconciliation and to sign the Bank Reconciliation.
- vii. *December and January Payments.*
All in favour
RESOLVED: To agree and sign the Accounts for payment December 2024 and January 2025.

25-11 Exchange of Information- No decisions may be made on items raised here.

Cllr Stewart explained that he had attended the National Trust tree planting and recommended the experience.

Cllr Drought said that he had realised recently that the narrows at the bottom of Knighton Hill was dangerous. There was a discussion around what could be done to help, and it will be put on the Highways committee agenda.

Cllr Gibbard asked if he could access the Parish Online resource to use for the environmental work. The Clerk will send him the login details. He also asked that the Environment Agency be a speaker at the next meeting. The Clerk will add it to the agenda.

25-12 Close of Meeting

The meeting was closed at 21:20

Anne Towill

Anne Towill
Clerk to the Council

ANNEX A to Wembury Parish Council Agenda – 27th of January 2025
Devon County Council – Cllr Hart

Have given a bit of background on the new Devolution discussion with Government

The current Devo deal with Torbay Devon and the 8 District Councils is being discussed in the House of Lords today Assuming it is ratified We will work together as a team and are getting £16millions to invest in Job Creation.....

As far as the New Devolution Deal..... The Government wrote to Local Authorities by Email on the 16th December..... Asking for schemes to change the structure of Local Councils to be submitted to them by 10th January if Local authorities like Devon wanted to be considered for fast tracking Other Local Councils would be looked at later But all changes will be done in the lifetime of this Parliament

The intention is for all County authorities in England that operate in a District / County way will change into some form of Unitary system Size yet to be determined but the Government suggestion is a minimum of at least 500,000 electors unless there is good reason not to One suggestion made is that an area would need be a Growth area, with capacity to expand their population if it were to be smaller.....

Small Unitary Councils in a County area will be included in these calculations Devon has 8 District Councils, working with the County Council and 2 Unitary Councils, both substantially smaller than the current guidance The total population of the whole County area is about 1.2million.....

There is also a Government requirement to look at working with Neighbouring Authorities to create partnerships that has an Electorate of over 1.5million for an Mayor to be Elected and take more powers and money down from London on the assumption that Local knows Best..... Cornwall has a population of around 500,000.

Should the Devon area be shortlisted it would be very difficult to be able to submit draft plans for change by sometime in June and detailed plans by September unless the County Council elections are delayed.....

We do not yet know if the Election is to be deferred, but we do know that Councils and the voters in the Government second Tranche will have far less say on what will happen to them.....

I hope this helps to explain why Devon County has asked to delay the Elections..... We are waiting to see what the Government decides in the next few days..... There are 18 Authorities requesting a delay in the 2025 elections We were all promised that a list of those that Government are looking to work with will be announced before the end of January.....

I am hoping that Devon is included so that the residents of Devon have more say in the future governance of their County.....

The Draft County Council budget is predicated on an increase of 4.99%% 2.99% for general spending and another 2% for Adult Social care..... 5% triggers a referendum.....

The final local Government settlement has yet to be announced but the Budget has created a number of extra pressures on funding for next year..... For

example.....The Rural Service Delivery grant has been removed..... Value £10million Minimum wage increaseDCC do not pay minimum wage but many of the organisations working for the County doIncrease £17.7million..... Employees National Insurance changes an extra £1.7million.....

LocallyI am still hopeful that the main A379 road from the Plymouth Boundary to Brixton village will be resurfaced shortly..... The plans for the new Cycle / Pedestrian bridge for the Deep Lane junction crossing the A38 is due to be submitted in early February.....

I have asked for road surface at Knighton Hill to be inspected again as it is dangerous for cyclists and I did ask that a Bus Stop sign be painted in yellow on Mewstone Avenue to help those using the service be seen by the drivers.....I'm not sure if this has been done yet..... I have also asked for Church Road to be inspected as that is breaking up badly.....

ANNEX B to Wembury Parish Council Agenda – 27th of January 2025 **South Hams District Council – Cllr Nix and Cllr Carson**

- Cllr Nix attended a traffic management meeting and continued to push for a 1-way system during emergency road repairs in Down Thomas and Heybrook Bay.
- Still no word from South West Water, we now have our MP Rebecca Smith joining the fight.
- A lot of planning applications, some of which have objections.
- Continued discussions with DCC regarding Traine Road and cyclists/pedestrians.
- Nominations are open for South Hams District Council Community Awards. There are 4 categories open
Young Persons Award
Community Champion Award
Community Organisation Award
Climate and Biodiversity Champion
Nominate your local hero <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/south-hams-community-awards> Nominate online by 10th February.
- The A379 is being resurfaced . Roads affected Elburton Road and Chittleburn Hill, Brixton. No vehicle will be allowed to proceed on the section of affected roads From Monday 3rd February to Saturday 1st March, between the hours of 19.00 and 06.00
- SHDC were notified the week before Christmas of the Government's intentions to abolish District Councils in favour of a single Unitary. SHDC will cease to exist in 2 years' time with Alison and myself being your last District Councillors.
South Hams District Council does not support the creation of one unitary council for Devon and want more time to properly discuss and consult on the best way to reorganise local government for the benefit of our

communities. That's the message from SHDC to DCC at a Special Council meeting on 6th January.

The meeting follows the publication of the English Devolution White paper and subsequent statements by the leader of DCC as well as a joint statement from Devon District Councils, of which South Hams are a part.

Councillors agreed:

1. Mandates the leader to write to the government outlining this council's concerns.
2. Supports the joint statement issued by the leader of the eight district councils throughout Devon that includes:
 - a. Not supporting a single unitary council solution for Devon
 - b. Not supporting the postponement of the County Council elections in May 2025
 - c. Will consult with residents, businesses, community organisations and town and parish councils once a firm re-organisation proposal is ready for consideration.
- We are now in a period of significant change, and this has required the JLP Partnership board to carefully reflect on implications before committing to another JLP. This was a complex and lengthy process and following agreement with SHDC and West Devon councils, Plymouth City Council has decided that the next local plan will be a Plymouth only plan and not a joint local plan. Statements will be on the 3 council's websites next week.
- SHDC strongly opposes the decision taken by Labour ministers to cut the funding for rural authorities. The allocation of RSDG for the council was over £0.5million. In particular, the decision to abolish the Rural Services Delivery Grant without any engagement or consultation with the affected authorities has been very disappointing.
- SHDC are very concerned that the increases in Employers National Insurance contributions are not going to be fully funded by the government, as originally indicated. The additional costs faced by the council are estimated to be £410,000. The forecasted share of government compensation grant is £143,000 approx. one third of the council's costs.
- The Government cap on council tax is 4.99% which includes the district council, police and fire service. The council remains opposed to the setting of referendum principles for all councils and believes democratically elected councillors should be accountable to the electorate for their decisions on council tax. SHDC welcomes that the government is not proposing referendum principles for town and parish councils.

ANNEX C to Wembury Parish Council Agenda – 27th of January 2025
Planning Applications

To Ratify

- i. **3601/24/FUL**
Proposal: Erection of self-build detached dwelling
Site Address: Wembury Cottage, Bovisand Lane, Down Thomas. PL9 0AE
Comment: Objection due to very restricted access on a narrow beach access road; the land acts as a soakaway/runoff and so development of this site would cause widespread problems to the other properties in the area. It is in the Undeveloped Coast area and the South Devon National Landscape. It does not meet the coastal directive criteria or the JLP. It would also be overlooking due to the amount of glazing, create light pollution and does not meet a local need.
- ii. **3559/24/FUL**
Proposal: Proposed single storey farm dwelling
Site Address: Land At Sx 528 490, South Barton Farm, Veasy Park, Wembury.
Comment: No objection but strongly recommend an agricultural tie.
- iii. **3867/24/TPO**
Proposal: T1-T4: Beech/fagus sylvatica – Lateral reduction of overhanging branches onto the main entrance of the business park to a height of 6m from ground level, to allow access for large lorries. These branches have caused damage to delivery vehicles. **Site Address: Knighton Hill Business Centre, Knighton Road, Wembury.**
Comment: No objection subject to the work being carried out by professional arborists and to the standards set out by Tree Warden Adam King.
- iv. **3895/24/HHO**
Proposal: Householder application for removal of rear conservatory and side garage, construction of two storey side extension & single storey rear extension (resubmission of 3196/24/HHO)
Site Address: 34 Mewstone Avenue, Wembury. PL9 0JZ.
Comment: No objection.

To Discuss

- i. **3331/24/HHO**
Proposal: Householder application for replacement of garden wall (retrospective)
Site Address: 11 Eddystone Road, Down Thomas. PL9 0AR.
Three abstentions, six in favour.
Comment: No objection but suggest planting to soften the appearance
- ii. **3804/24/HHO**

Proposal: Householder application for first storey extension with hipped gable roof & associated alterations

Site Address: 26 Mewstone Avenue, Wembury. PL9 0JZ.

Two abstentions, seven in favour.

Comment: Objection due to community concerns regarding loss of light to neighbours and terracing effect on that street.

iii. 4077/24/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for proposed two storey rear (Northwest) extension with first floor balcony, installation of new flue & external alterations to include new decking, steps with glass balustrade systems.

One abstention, eight in favour.

Site Address: 39 Hawthorn Park Road, Wembury. PL9 0DA.

Comment: Objection due to overlooking aspects and loss of amenity for neighbours.

Appendix D to Wembury Parish Council Agenda – 27th of January 2025

Financial Documents

Transactions 15.11.2024 - 17.12.2024				
Details	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
Receipt - Tree Surgery	Parishioner	£ 140.00		£ 140.00
Receipt - Donation	Wembury Parish Council	£ 35.00		£ 35.00
Receipt - Interest received	Wembury Parish Council	£ 105.67		£ 105.67
Receipt - Admin costs	South Brent Parish Council	£ 25.00		£ 25.00
Receipt - Interest received	Wembury Parish Council	£ 3.15		£ 3.15
Payment - Admin costs	HelloComtec	-£ 56.30	-£11.26	-£ 67.56
Payment - Salary and Office Allowance - two staff	Two staff	-£ 2,067.19		-£2,067.19
Payment - Air Ambulance Tower - Energy Supply	EDF	-£ 18.66	-£ 0.93	-£ 19.59
Payment - Room Hire	Wembury Village Hall	-£ 30.00		-£ 30.00
Payment - Room Hire	Wembury Village Hall	-£ 75.00		-£ 75.00
Payment - Room Hire	DT Village Hall	-£ 20.00		-£ 20.00
Payment - Subscriptions and memberships	Parish Online	-£ 67.50	-£13.50	-£ 81.00
Payment - Advertising costs and signs	DW Signs	-£ 100.80	-£20.16	-£ 120.96
Payment - Subscriptions and memberships	SLCC	-£ 190.00		-£ 190.00
Payment - LGPS contributions (pension, employer and employees)	Peninsula Pensions	-£ 569.00		-£ 569.00
Payment - Community Hub Expenses	Wembury Stores	-£ 50.00		-£ 50.00
		-£ 2,935.63	-£45.85	-£2,981.48

Wembury Parish Council

Prepared by: _____

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Date: _____

A	Bank Reconciliation at 17/12/2024		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		105,655.73
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 17/12/2024		77,220.01
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 17/12/2024		182,875.74
	Cash in Hand 17/12/2024 (per Cash Book)		37,883.31
B			144,992.43
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 23/06/2023	0.00	
	Discovering Wembury Book (Bus E 17/12/2024	4,130.03	
	General savings (Bus Bank Instant 13/12/2024	135,010.49	
	Current (Treasurers) Account 0157 13/12/2024	5,851.91	
			144,992.43
	Less unrepresented payments		
			144,992.43
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		144,992.43
	A = B Checks out OK		

Wembury Parish Council

Prepared by: _____

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Date: _____

A	Bank Reconciliation at 20/01/2025		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		105,655.73
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 20/01/2025		77,338.19
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 20/01/2025		182,993.92
	Cash in Hand 20/01/2025 (per Cash Book)		41,972.70
B			141,021.22
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 23/06/2023	0.00	
	Discovering Wembury Book (Bus E 20/01/2025	4,133.54	
	General savings (Bus Bank Instant 20/01/2025	125,125.16	
B	Current (Treasurers) Account 0157 20/01/2025	11,762.52	
			141,021.22
	Less unrepresented payments		
			141,021.22
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		141,021.22
	A = B Checks out OK		

Wembury Parish Council
Reserves Balance
2024-2025

<u>Reserve</u>	<u>OpeningBalance</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>CurrentBalance</u>
Earmarked					
Public Asset Maintenance Rese	4,662.63				4,662.63
Legal Costs Reserve	3,000.00				3,000.00
Reprint of Discovering Wembury	4,000.00				4,000.00
Elections Reserve	5,000.00				5,000.00
s.106 Funds	45,946.74	-10,000.00			35,946.74
Bus shelter s.106 money					0.00
Neighbourhood Plan		3,058.06			3,058.06
Pavilion		10,000.00			10,000.00
Total Earmarked	62,609.37	3,058.06			65,667.43
TOTAL RESERVE	62,609.37	3,058.06			65,667.43
GENERAL FUND					79,325.00
TOTAL FUNDS					144,992.43

Wembury Parish Council
Reserves Balance
2024-2025

<u>Reserve</u>	<u>OpeningBalance</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>CurrentBalance</u>
Earmarked					
Public Asset Maintenance Rese	4,662.63				4,662.63
Legal Costs Reserve	3,000.00				3,000.00
Reprint of Discovering Wembury	4,000.00				4,000.00
Elections Reserve	5,000.00				5,000.00
s.106 Funds	45,946.74	-10,000.00			35,946.74
Bus shelter s.106 money					0.00
Neighbourhood Plan		3,058.06			3,058.06
Pavilion		10,000.00			10,000.00
Total Earmarked	62,609.37	3,058.06			65,667.43
TOTAL RESERVE	62,609.37	3,058.06			65,667.43
GENERAL FUND					75,353.79
TOTAL FUNDS					141,021.22