# Wemore badge Gif

# Wedmore Parish Council

**Minutes for the Annual Meeting of the Parish, held in the Council Rooms,**

**Grants Lane, Wedmore on Wednesday 25th May 2022 at 7.30pm.**

**Present: The meeting was attended by 7 electors of the Parish and was chaired by Mrs Barbara James-Lloyd (Chair of Wedmore Parish Council). Also, Present Mrs L Baker (Clerk of Wedmore Parish Council) Rev R. Neill and Mr Alan Benson.**

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Shaun Thorogood,

1. Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting held on 27th March 2019

Having been circulated these were taken as read by parishioners. It was proposed and agreed that the minutes be confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from these minutes.

1. Wedmore Parish Council Activities – Cllr Barbara James-Lloyd Chair of Wedmore Parish Council.

Below is the speech prepared and read by Cllr James – Lloyd

Welcome to the council assembly, thank you for coming. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Councillors who have recently left the Parish Council for all their time and expertise that they have given to the community during their time on the Council and during the Pandemic which has been a challenge for all of us. The Pandemic has caused major delays when dealing with Sedgemoor Council from Planning to Highways, which is still an ongoing issue. With new County Councillors being elected recently and people returning to the office rather than working from home we hope to see some improvement.

Talking of the Pandemic this is the first Assembly meeting for I think 3 years, which means that a lot of the Councillors who currently sit on the council have actually never been to an Assembly meeting therefore I thank Cllr Pete Tinney for his knowledge and expertise in these matters in guiding us through this new experience.

We are in a new era of Wedmore Parish Council having recently recruited a new Clerk, Mrs Lindsey Baker. We also have a new website and designated email addresses for all Councillors, updated and new Policies and procedures in place, this has been a lot of work during the last year, and I thank everyone who has contributed their time to this. All this background work will hopefully help us in the transition to One Somerset because as yet we don’t know the impact this will have on us as a Community and Parish Council.

The role of the Parish Council is varied which is what makes volunteering as a Parish Councillor so interesting and sometimes even rewarding! We have 6 sub committees covering various aspects of village life, Planning; Cemetery; Allotments, Facilities and Footpaths; Highways, Car Park, and Brook and finally Housing, all of which have terms of reference outlining all roles and responsibilities for the committees.

What some of you may not know is that we also have representatives who attend meetings of external Committees and then report back to the Parish Council these include Village Halls in Wedmore, Blackford and Theale; Play Areas; Isle of Wedmore News; Twinning Association and the Wedmore Playing Fields Management Committee. For the first time this year we are also going to be sending a representative to the Harvest Home/Lamplight Committee so we can keep up to date with all the fantastic events that the Village hosts. All these groups have their own rules and regulations to guide them and a dedicated group of volunteers that make them work to deliver what so many of us take for granted. We are your voice on these committees so if you have any questions then please do email our Clerk.

We have had a busy year, which was emphasised when I went through the minutes for the past meetings. So many worthwhile projects supported through Grants.

We supported Wedmore First School PTA in giving them money for the running costs of the Swimming Pool which is a fantastic facility which encourages all children to learn to swim. This is used by not only school pupils but also by many local families after school and during school holidays. Thanks to the PTA in Wedmore and Hugh Sexeys Middle School for all the work you do fundraising for our young people.

We have also funded some Road Signs that were designed by pupils at Hugh Sexeys. These have been placed on the back roads between Wedmore and Hugh Sexeys Middle School to encourage more Children to cycle to school and remind drivers to reduce their speed and be aware of other road users. Thank you to all landowners who let us put these signs up in your hedgerows. If you would like to support this initiative and have a sign in your hedgerow, then please let us know.

A lot of work has also been completed in the Play Areas of Blackford, Wedmore, and Theale, making them safe and replacing fencing. There is a new Play Area in the Cross Farm development which isn’t open yet due to the uneven landscape. We hope this will be open soon. The Council has purchased a new Bench to be placed in each of the play areas to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, we hope these will be in place very soon.

We have installed Village Gates at Blackford showing the 30 mile per hour speed limit in the village, so the roads are safer for all to use. We have also purchased another Speed Indicator Device which we are rotating around the Parish, some of the information that was gleaned from the SID on the Cheddar Road showed that the speed of some vehicles was in excess of 80 mph coming into the village which is unbelievable. We have finally had double yellow lines painted by the Village Hall and Providence House to try to ease the congestion in the village. This is an age-old problem especially when the M5 is closed. We are still looking at extending the Pedestrian path on Pilcorn Street so you can walk safely from the Village to Wedmore First School.

We have contributed to the funding of the 67-bus route from Burnham to Wells, this route was due to be closed without contribution funding from towns and villages which it goes through to ensure it continues providing a valuable service.

During the Pandemic the Wedmore Good Neighbour Group was started to help those who were isolating. This group is continuing its great work and the Parish Council are very happy to be able to support this initiative. We have also given money to Wedmore in Bloom which does great work to make the village look blooming marvellous throughout the year.

We thank the Green Wedmore group for their continued work, we try to ensure that all decisions made by the Council are as green as can be, I know for some this doesn’t go far enough. Issues highlighted by the group include the Street Lighting, this is not an easy issue to solve and having looked at previous Chairmans reports this issue is long standing with pros and cons on both sides of the argument we will not be able to please everyone. Green Wedmore is managing the land at Worthington Woods creating wildlife projects, in association with the Forest Food Project. We have paid for fencing and pay for the cost of mowing. We are also in the early stages in the process of trying to find a suitable site for a Wind Turbine to provide some green energy, however this is proving difficult due to the requirements for the siting, it is something we are still looking into. We look forward to working with Green Wedmore on more projects in the coming year.

The Playing Fields Management Committee have achieved a fantastic facility for the whole community to use. We allocated a grant of £10k to support the latest addition to the site, an all year round 3G Muga which has already been put to good use since its opening in March. We look forward to the upstairs of the Pavilion to be finished shortly so it can be used by the community as an additional venue for meetings and clubs.

The largest project ear marked to receive funding from the Parish Council this year is £100k towards the building of a new Doctors Surgery. The Doctors Surgery Working Group is in discussion with the various sites and planners. There is a public consultation event on Friday evening and Saturday morning at the Masonic Lodge where you can come and have your say and speak to members of the working group.

So, as you can see it has been a busy year with lots more ongoing projects for the coming year. As I mentioned at the beginning, there is lots of background work to be done in order to get as ready as we can for the introduction of One Somerset, no one really knows yet how this will work or what it will look like, but we are busy attending meetings in order to be as ready as we can be for any changes that are introduced. Please do look on our website and Facebook pages to keep up to date with developments.

As Covid restrictions are now behind us I look forward to the Parish getting back to enjoying the many fantastic events that we have, Beer and Cider festivals, harvest home, lamplight, street fairs and of course in a couple of weeks the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations that are taking place. I look forward to seeing you there!

If any of this has made you think, I would like to become a Councillor then please speak to one of us at the end or email Lindsey who will be happy to help.

Thank you.

1. To Receive the Parochial and Charity Accounts.

Rev. Richard Neill reported they have been audited and presented at the annual meeting a few weeks ago – Mr Dennis Johnson will be arranging for them to be delivered shortly.

1. Presentation of the Henry Butt Trophy for 2021

The Chairman announced she had the great pleasure in presenting the Henry Butt Trophy for 2021 to Margaret Tinny, for her dedication and services to Blackford Village Hall and its bookings. Margaret gave thanks to the nominators and said Blackford is an amazing place to live with the school, events and community and she is very proud to receive the award and will cherish it for the year.

1. Presentation of the Hervey Trust Awards by the Rev Richard Neill

Rev. Richard Neill gave a speech about the Hervey Trust and how it has been difficult over the past few years to find recipients. At the Annual meeting, after no applications had been submitted in 2020 – the decision was made to use the funding for projects within the Parish that directly benefit young people.

1. Parish Matters Generally – *Subjects/issues raised by the electorate of the parish.*

The Clerk reported that ahead of the ‘Have your Say’ event being held by the working group for the new doctor’s surgery, an email had been received from Mr Rupert Bullock stating his opinion about the one of the proposed sites of the new surgery, on land currently known as Worthington Woods. In reply, Mr Alan Benson asked to speak on the subject as the Chairman of the Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund Group. It was almost exactly a year ago to the day that a zoom call was made, and a presentation was given to the old Parish Council members, since then they have been working hard to get the project moving. The group are working hard to form a clear boundary between the working group (building) and the practitioners (inside service) They have received support from Axbridge and Wedmore surgery and The NHS clinical admissions group in Taunton. Sedgemoor appear to be making it more difficult than first anticipated as the land that has potentially been donated is just on the wrong side of the village plan, this donates those applications must demonstrate that the project is unable to get a similar / viable parcel of land within the boundary. The sites listed as potentially viable given the criteria are – Kelsons Lane / Heath House junction and the only site within the village as, Worthington Woods. A third has also been presented briefly although not confirmed, is outside the village –a developer is keen to donate land but there are some questions around intention. The Parish Council have strongly rejected the plan to use Worthington Woods as the site for many reasons. Mr Benson explained how professional surveys for traffic have been carried out and the conclusion was that around 12 cars per hour would be moving in to and off the site. Cllr Andy Reeson expressed his opinion that the busyness of the cars along this route during school times is due to the Sedgemoor raising the cost of bus prices and highlighting again that the need is there for a cycle path.

Mr Benson urged people to attend the event over the weekend of 27th & 28th May 2022 to hear more about the project and cast a vote. The working group are hopeful for an outline application to be ready towards the end of June – with submission later in the year, after the site has been selected.

Cllr James-Lloyd thanked Mr Benson for his reply and urged all to attend the event.

1. Conclusion- The Chairman thanked all for attending and for their continued support, Cllr Jacky Farley thanked the Chair for conducting the meeting.

**There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8:15pm**

***Wedmore Parish Council***

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