# Wemore badge Gif

# WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly**

**Held at:** The Sports Pavilion, Wedmore Playing Fields, Wedmore **on:** Wednesday 24th May 2023 **at:** 7:30pm

**Present:** \*Councillor Farley, Councillor Beacom, Councillor Reeson, Councillor Tinney, Councillor Banwell, Councillor Loughrey,

**In Attendance:** Mrs Lindsey Baker (Clerk), 43 Members of the Public

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Councillor Smith, Councillor Rant, Councillor Thorogood, Councillor Munt (Somerset Councillor) Rev. Richard Neill.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2022**

Councillor Farley addressed the room and confirmed everyone had read the minutes from the previous assembly.

It was accepted as an accurate record and the minutes signed.

1. **Wedmore Parish Council Activities – Councillor Jacky Farley Chair of Wedmore Parish Council.**

*Below is the speech prepared and read by Councillor Farley*

Welcome to the Annual Parish Assembly and thank you for attending, (nice to see so many people here). There have been a few changes to the Council since last year’s Annual Parish Assembly, not least the fact that Barbara Lloyd-James sadly stepped down from Council duties and Chairmanship in October. This resulted in myself stepping up from Vice Chair to take on the Chairmanship of the Council with Councillor Beacom as Vice Chair. We also welcomed 2 new Councillors onto the Council by co-option being Julia Banwell and Olly Rant.

There has been a huge change in the constitution of Somerset in that Sedgemoor Council officially ceased to exist on 31st March, there are now no District Councils in Somerset following the vote for One Somerset. Local Community Networks will be put in place, Wedmore will be in a network along with Axbridge and Cheddar, it is to be seen how this will work as the mechanism has yet to be finalised. There will inevitably be a period of transition following the dissolution of Sedgemoor District Council to Somerset Council. We also have 2 new Somerset Council representatives who attend Parish meetings being Harry Munt and Matt Martin.

There was no meeting held in September due to the death of The Queen. A sad event for the Country as a whole and the Royal Family in particular.

The Council is continuing to improve and modernise both in the manner that business is conducted and Council facilities. The Council have invested in a new computer system which is enabling the Clerk to carry out her job in a more efficient and productive manner. The system certainly has been fundamental in enabling the Council to ascertain accurately all the costs incurred by the Council in running and maintaining the Parish including maintaining the Cemetery, Car Park on Cheddar Road, the Allotments, toilets in The Borough, play areas at Blackford, Theale and Wedmore as well as numerous Benches and Parish Notice Boards. The busiest Council committee is the Planning, the Council being Consultees on all planning applications in the Parish.

Councillors also sit on other committees in the Parish including Harvest Home, Wedmore Playing Fields Committee, Village Halls of Blackford, Theale and Wedmore. Isle of Wedmore News, Twinning.

The Council have been pleased to support various projects through the year by making grants available to Wedmore Men’s Shed for the purchase of equipment, Wedmore by Lamplight for insurance, St Johns Ambulance, and road closure. Legal fees in relation to the extension of the lease of Theale Parish Hall were also agreed in addition to fees relating to the gift of Bodley’s Orchard to Theale, an extremely generous donation to Theale by Anne Bodley. Green Wedmore also received funds for the Wilder Wedmore event that is taking place in June.

The Council have purchased an Infra-red Camera that can be used by parishioners to ascertain where in their home they may be losing heat from. It can also be used to assess the effectiveness of solar panels. This has been operated by Councillor Thorogood in several properties with feedback given to the homeowner.

The Council have just voted to purchase another Speed Indicator Device, these have been used around the Parish for the last year or so. They certainly seem to be effective at slowing down traffic. The SID’s also record information as to the number of vehicles passing and the speed they are going, some of this information was useful when commenting on a recent planning application. Most people here will be aware of the proposed development adjacent to Coombe Lane, it is believed this will be heard by the Development Committee for North Somerset (old Sedgemoor region) in June, but we are awaiting confirmation.

A minor but important step has been the installation of sanitary bins both in the public toilets in The Borough and at Wedmore Playing Fields. There are plans underway to modernise and refurbish the toilets in The Borough and I hope that this will be carried out in the coming months.

The Council are very grateful to Wedmore Men’s Shed for the repairs that have already been carried out to a couple of notice boards and the future repairs to Parish benches.

The Council were pleased to coordinate the hosts for the Warm Room Project that took place in the Masonic Hall, many thanks to Councillor Beacom for taking the lead and organising this very worthwhile event, and to Wedmore Community Power Co-op for funding the room hire fees. Huge thanks to the various organisations who took turns in hosting including Wedmore in Bloom, Allerton Church, Cheddar Vale Lions Club, Wedmore Tennis Club, Green Wedmore, WI Women of Wedmore, Wedmore Mens Shed, Axbridge and Wedmore Community Health Fund, Wedmore Harvest Home, Friends of St Mary’s Church and Wedmore Councillors. All of whom gave up their time to make soup and host.

The Council have also adopted an emergency plan document, being a plan for specific emergencies such as flooding and power outages.

It has been a busy and eventful year. Looking forward to the future there are plans in the pipeline relating to the Car Park on Cheddar Road and a play area at Cross Farm. We are also hopeful as a Council that progress is being made, albeit slowly, with Somerset Highways in connection with the areas of no pavement in Pilcorn Street.

It gives me pleasure to welcome tonight all the nominees for the Henry Butt Trophy. I hope that everyone read with interest the article written by Lindsey in the Isle of Wedmore News telling how this trophy came into being.

The Council voted on the nominees at the April meeting. The award this year goes to someone who has for many years been a stalwart of Wedmore Harvest Home

1. **Report by the Rev Richard Neill for the Hervey Trust**

*Although Father Richard was unable to attend, he had prepared a final report on behalf of the Hervey Trust, this is shown below.*

There had been a continuing downturn in applications for the Hervey trust over a number of years such that the trustees had taken the hard decision to wind up the charity even before Covid. Times have changed considerably since my predecessor as vicar Revd Sydenham Hervey (after whom Hervey Close is named) set up the trust to benefit Wedmore school leavers in their ongoing education or employment. The amount of money available each year has dwindled significantly in real terms and patterns of education have changed.

After a long process the trust was wound up at the end of 2022. In keeping with the original spirit of the trust, the trustees were delighted that the capital of some £6000 is to be shared equally between the local Scout and Guide groups and will be set aside to benefit those boys or girls who need some financial help with expeditions or jamborees.

I am particularly grateful to the trustees for their input over these past couple of years - indeed some have been involved for decades. Margaret Redman in particular has kept minutes, dealt with the Charity Commissioners and banks and disbursed funds.

Other trustees over these past couple of years have been - Marion MacArthur, Louise Seymour, Sharon Rabbitts, Alan Hector and Hazel Hudson."

1. **Presentation of the Henry Butt Trophy for 2023**

Councillor Farley presented a certificate and bottle of wine to each of the nominees for the Henry Butt Award. Each nominee was given the reason for their nomination, these are listed below.

**Nominations for The Henry Butt Trophy 2022 – 2023**

* **Nomination:** The Leadership Team of the Wedmore Beavers Cubs, and Scouts – named as Mark Darley, Dave Manning, Jacquie Redman, Tony Hall, Kerry Willcox, Jeremy Burstow, Rachel Smith

**Reason:** The Leadership team comprises 7 adults who over the year collectively support the development and enjoyment of over 70 children based in the Wedmore, Blackford and Theale wards, through their involvement in the Scouting movement. Leaders are volunteers drawn from our community and give their time freely to plan and run weekly meetings, attend camps and support our children whilst they participate in team and personal challenges. This past year we have been delighted by the response from local children who have bounced back from COVID to fully embrace the fun and learning potential that comes from participating in the Scouting movement. Indeed, the demand from our community has required us to introduce an additional Cub pack and bring forward our Den development plans to ensure that we provide access for all. Over the course of the year we have facilitated the inclusion of young people by participating in big community events such as The Street Fair, Theale Flower Show, Harvest Home Parade, Litter Pick, Jubilee and Remembrance Sunday. Inclusive involvement in community events becomes habit forming over the “Scouting lifetime”; this year we will be supporting three young adults who will attend the world scouting event in Kenya. Their participation in this event is funded by a small grant from us but primarily from monies raised from community activities. None of the above happens through chance. The teamwork, collaboration and commitment shown by the individuals who make up the Wedmore Scouting Leadership Group is delivered week in and week out, all year around. I understand that nominating a group of people for this award is unusual, but I also believe that they portray the exact values that the Award was established to recognise.

* **Nomination:** Heather Hector

**Reason:** She has been a governor at Sexeys middle school for the past 7 years. She has held many posts in St Mary's church and at present acts as secretary on the Church council and Standing committee, organises the Little Lambs group, and the cleaning rota and helps with messy church. She also headed up the Open Gardens, Flower festival and this year Hidden Gardens in June as big fund raisers. She has helped organise Lamplight evening several times and was part of the team setting up the late Queen's Platinum jubilee celebrations in Wedmore. She also plays a supporting role with Wedmore Young Farmers particularly with their annual Show.

* **Nomination:** Pete Brown

**Reason:** The work he puts in regarding the sports fields.

* **Nomination:** Philip Hamlin

**Reason:** A retired dentist who lives in Manor Lane. For many years, whenever there is a royal or current event, he puts appropriate shaped lights etc outside the village hall which requires ladders and lighting. They certainly add an interest, but all must be stored and looked after.

* **Nomination:** Arthur Gadd

**Reason:** For his tireless dedication to Wedmore Harvest Home.  He was on the committee for many, many years finally retiring last August after selling the events tickets for his last time. To many, Arthur will always be the face of Wedmore Harvest home and he deserves this trophy to mark his dedication in keeping a village tradition going especially during the harder years.

* **Nomination:** Angeline Duckett

**Reason:** For her many years of service in relation to the Community Bus journeys to various shopping destinations.

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

Councillor Farley asked the Members of the Public present if there were any questions or concerns, they would like to raise.

One Member of the Public asked to address the Parish Council.

They asked about the flood relief system in Wedmore and Blackford, she is very concerned at the lack of maintenance of the brook and drains and the implications this has on potential flooding. Especially in the case of flash flooding caused by summer thunderstorms. The increase in surface water from the recent development and lack of regular maintenance could, if left unchallenged have catastrophic consequences. She urged that this issue is taken up with the Environment Agency.

Councillor Farley agreed that it does need addressing, she advised that the Parish Council are hoping to get a group of volunteers together to walk the watercourses and notify the clerk of any issues so she can report them more regularly and effectively. Councillor Farley thanked the Member of the Public for her comment and suggested the Parish Council and the Clerk will take the matter further.

**All business conducted the meeting was closed at closed 19:45 pm**