

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 7.00pm held as a virtual meeting through the Zoom video conferencing platform.

Present: Councillors: Drew, Hartford-Beynon, Koning (Chairman), Molyneux, Powell, Swambo, Tullett and Wall
Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk), David Stevens (Clerk's Assistant).

1 member of the public.

1. ATTENDANCE

a) Resolved to receive apologies for absence from those Councillors unable to attend from Councillors Bollen and Edwards.

b) Resolved to accept those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Bollen and Edwards.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers and in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members.

Interests may be declared at any time during the meeting should they become apparent.

b) To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.
None received.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Resolved to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2020. Councillor Powell asked that it be noted that under item 19 he asked to join the Amenities Committee. Councillor Koning explained that this had not been minuted as he had misunderstood the question and the dialogue would not have made sense, however Councillor Powell's request had been minuted at the Planning and Highways Committee of 24th June 2020 and is included on this agenda.

b) To consider any questions arising from those minutes.

Councillor Tullett asked for an update on the Ormerod Road roundabout. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted the developer but had not received any feedback.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public, which may be answered but not debated.

Mr Jeff Baldwin introduced himself as part of an informal group formed through concern about the Sedbury Lane A48 crossing point. Whilst acknowledging the crossing has been there for many years the new access from the Birch Grove site and the building of the Manor Chase estate will mean a likely increase in footfall crossing the A48. The crossing is at a point with no signage and no risk assessment that the group is aware of. The group have contacted Glos CC highways, highlighting the problem and with the intention of improving the crossing experience and making it safer. Mr Baldwin's was attending the Council meeting to ask for the support of the Parish Council. District Councillor Nick Evans has been involved and attended a meeting at the site with other interested parties a week or so ago. Councillor Koning commented that the Parish Council has made many attempts to have the speed limit along that stretch of the A48 reduced but Glos CC Highways have said that the police must be involved where such changes are to be considered. Councillors Koning, Molyneux, Swambo and Tullett expressed a wish to support the group as did Councillor Powell who suggested the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to the site for a meeting. Councillor Drew, as Parish Council A48 Meeting representative, asked to be involved in discussions. The Chairman explained that as this was not on the agenda for this evening's meeting formal support could not be considered. It will however be included on the Parish Council Planning and Highways Committee agenda for 22nd July which Mr Baldwin will also attend.

5. COMMITTEES

Resolved to receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees and to consider any questions arising from them.

i) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 24th June 2020.

There were no questions to Councillor Koning, Chair of the Committee.

ii) Amenities Committee meeting held on 8th July 2020.

There were no questions to Councillor Koning, Chair of the meeting.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive and note any announcements from the Chairman of the meeting.

There were none.

7. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Resolved to receive and note the Parish Clerk's Report.

8. TIDENHAM WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Resolved to approve payment of £1000 grant to the Trust as per the Agreement between the Council and Trust dated December 2016.

9. FINANCE

a) To approve payments according to the Financial Statement for June 2020 and noted estimated payments for August during which month there is no full council meeting scheduled.

b) Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement for June 2020 which had been checked by the Chairman prior to the meeting.

The Clerk reported that one of the £150 cashback payments for the old laptops had been received and that the other payment was being chased.

10. PARISH COUNCIL PLAY AREAS

a) Resolved to note Risk Assessment on safety of the Parish Council's play areas on re-opening under Covid 19 restrictions undertaken by the Clerk's Assistant that is displayed on the Council website.

b) Resolved to note in view of timescales, under emergency expenditure, Correx (corrugated plastic) signs that include a disclaimer have been ordered at a cost of £49.60 plus VAT total cost £59.52 so that they can be displayed as soon as possible. This is from a company in Cinderford who have kindly agreed to deliver them for free.

11. PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES (WEBSITES AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS) (NO. 2) ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS 2018.

a) Resolved to approve quotation from Distinct Graphics for a website audit to assess compliance under the above regulations to ensure website access meets the international WCAG 2.1 accessibility guidelines for £450 (no VAT).

b) Resolved not to approve quotation from Dig Inclusion for a website audit to assess compliance under the above regulations to ensure website access meets the international WCAG 2.1 accessibility guidelines for £1540 plus VAT total cost £1848.

12. GIGACLEAR WAYLEAVE AGREEMENT

To consider signing of Wayleave Agreement with Gigaclear subject to its approval by Thomas Price and Partners, land agents.

This item was not considered - The Clerk had reported that the agent had recommended that the Council not sign the Agreement at this time whilst there are aspects of it he wishes to explore further. Clerk to ask Gigaclear to deal directly with the agent from now on.

13. BARRATTS COMPOUND LICENCE

Resolved to note the Wyebank Road compound has been removed, the area levelled and appears to have been re-seeded and at the time of preparing the agenda no confirmation has been received regarding the payment of the invoice for the month of June 2020. Councillor Powell suggested invoicing for a further month as the new grass was patchy. Councillor Wall pointed out that July/August are not good months for plant growth and it may improve in September.

14. TUMP FARM SOLAR PARK

Resolved to note an invoice has been raised for year 4 of 25 for £5377.25 (£5000 plus RPI increase) community benefit and that the Park was sold in October 2019. Total amount now received and invoiced = £20,864.91.

15. STAFF SALARIES

Resolved to note the Salary Scales for 1st April 2020 have yet to be agreed and are unlikely to be published until later in the year.

16. CLERK ANNUAL APPRAISAL

Resolved to note the Clerk's Annual Appraisal took place as a virtual Zoom meeting on Tuesday 7th July 2020. The Chairman informed Councillors that the appraisal had been very positive and objectives for the coming year will be available if Councillors wish to see them. The Clerk explained that she had now registered for CiLCA and was awaiting assessment of the first Unit.

17. NATIONAL GUIDANCE ON ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

a) Resolved to agree that the Parish Council should adhere to national guidance and Regulations (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020) introduced for the operation of parish councils during the Covid 19 pandemic. These regulations remove the requirement to hold an Annual Council Meeting during 2020 at which appointments to committees would have been made. These Regulations were previously noted under Minute ref: May 2020 Page 1 Item 11 c).

b) To consider (subject to voting against the motion @ item 17 a) above) appointment of Councillor Powell to Amenities Committee.

This item was not considered as item a) above was voted for.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

To receive and consider any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.

The Clerk reported that locations for mobile Covid 19 test units are to be notified to Parish Councils each Monday and that any local visits will be shared with Councillors and members of the public. Testing is for those with Covid 19 symptoms.

19. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Resolved to receive and note any matters which councillors wish to raise and where appropriate add to the agenda for the following meeting or meetings of committees:

Councillor Koning – stated that over the year he has been Chairman he has tried to develop a team of Councillors working in close partnership with the Clerk's office. He wants to bring the Council fully into the 21st century and be inclusive, using Councillors' skills and interests to make the best possible decisions benefitting the community. He has been disheartened by the amount of time that is spent dealing with disruptive interventions about minor procedures and particularly over the past few weeks has spent a lot of time corresponding about minor issues. This has included a complaint to the monitoring officer about 4 councillors which has been found to have no basis. The Chairman stated that he feels it is time to put this to one side and from now on work together as a team. Councillors Swambo and Tullett commented that is hard enough to get people to volunteer as councillors and have found the constant procedural nit-picking unnecessary. Councillor Drew stated that rules are there for a reason and to be followed. Councillor Koning, being a lawyer himself, agreed with this statement but would expect that queries about procedures and regulations were raised in a constructive manner. Councillor Hartford-Beynon commented that the tone of the interruptions make it not a pleasant atmosphere at meetings. Councillor Molyneux expressed her full support for the Clerk and Clerk's Assistant and feels that Councillors should concentrate on working for the community which is what they had joined to do.

Councillor Drew – reported that Offa's Mead Academy had received a gold award for how they had worked with students during the pandemic. This will be displayed in the school. Councillor Drew to ask for photograph and article for the next newsletter. Councillor Molyneux suggested a letter of congratulations be sent from the Council which was agreed by Councillors.

Also – there is mud on the roundabout at the Barratt's Development.

Also – had been involved with the Council's response to the Chepstow Transport Survey which felt that the trend would be for people to work more from home and is concerned that this is not the message from Central Government who have been encouraging people to return to office working.

Councillor Molyneux – reported that Forest care homes continue to do well but staff had been upset by the Prime Minister's comments on how care homes had dealt with the pandemic, feeling that they have tried to

the best of their abilities. They are concerned that those issuing guidance on testing in care homes do not appreciate the difficulties encountered when trying to take nose and throat swabs from people with dementia who find the process distressing. Councillor Molyneux had taken part in a health and care seminar where the use of saliva tests instead was refused.

Councillor Tullett – as Wyedean School Council representative is keen to fulfil this role in September when hopefully schools will be returning fully. Clerk to email the school.

Councillor Wall – the Police van had been in Elm Road and he had spoken with Tracy Garcia-Cote. Clerk to follow up on why the van no longer visits Sedbury and the Clerk's Assistant explained how Councillors can join the Police alerts service as some Councillors already had.

20. FUTURE MEETINGS (Where required during the Covid 19 lockdown period)

Resolved to note the dates of future council and committee meetings:

Wednesday 22nd July 2020 – Planning and Highways Committee Meeting.

Wednesday 26th August 2020 – Planning and Highways Committee Meeting.

Wednesday 2nd September 2020 – Finance and Probity Committee Meeting.

Wednesday 2nd September 2020 – Mopla Cottages Committee.

Wednesday 9th September 2020 – Amenities Committee.

Wednesday 16th September 2020 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 20.47hrs

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

These minutes were approved by all Councillors at a virtual meeting of the Parish Council held under the above regulations during the Covid 19 lockdown period on 16th September 2020 and deemed to have been signed as of that date. **Minute 2020/2021 September 2020 page 11 item 3**