

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th November 2020 at 7.00pm held as a virtual meeting through the Zoom video conferencing platform.

Present: Councillors: Drew, Hartford-Beynon, Koning (Chairman), O’Toole, Swambo, Tullett, and Wall.
 Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk), David Stevens (Clerk’s Assistant).
 County Councillor Patrick Molyneux.
 Police Superintendent Jane Probert and Police Sgt. Austin Parry.
 Chris Ricketts – member of the public and BOBA representative.

1. ATTENDANCE

- a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those Councillors unable to attend from Councillors Bollen and Molyneux.
 b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Bollen and Molyneux.

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 21st October 2020.
 b) **To consider** any questions arising from those minutes. **There were none.**

4. POLICE SUPERINTENDENT – JANE PROBERT

Superintendent Probert introduced herself to Councillors as the new Superintendent for Gloucester and the Forest of Dean. She has been in the Gloucestershire Constabulary for 25 years and spent some of the time policing in the Forest. The Chief Constable has reverted back to the pre austerity model (introduced in 2015), of 3 geographic areas, each with a Superintendent lead. The aim is for more local accountability and better links/relationships with organisations on the ground so that each team is in touch with the communities in its area. For Superintendent Probert her team is a huge priority, wanting to ensure there are the right people in the right places, they are well supported, skilled and have the right equipment. Local accountability is very important and she is confident the geographical area model is the right way forward.

Councillor Koning – crime in the Parish appears to have decreased over the past few months - how much will the statistics influence the level of police cover? Supt. Probert – whilst her team are currently looking at the data, the current pandemic has skewed the figures and she assured Councillors the data will be taken in context and officers will not be taken away.

Councillor Koning – drug crime statistics appear low but the community know there is much more going on in the Parish. What preventative work is being carried out? Sgt Parry advised that members of the public do contact them and Tracy Garcia-Cote, PCSO, has been provided support for operations in the area. There have been some arrests for drug driving, but officers do need to see things at the right time.

Councillor Swambo – gave brief outline of the Council Youth project. Sgt Parry asked to be involved and will liaise on this.

County Councillor Molyneux – congratulated Supt. Probert on her appointment. How have the Forest Police dealt with the different cross border lockdowns? Supt. Probert – local newspaper headlines have incorrectly reported incidents and they have been under a huge level of scrutiny. There has been much proactive work recently, including liaising with Gwent Police. There have been difficulties with the changing messages and guidance. Forest Police have concentrated on education with fines few and far between.

Councillor Drew – expressed local appreciation for the PCSO’s and hopes they will not be taken away. What is the response time for them to receive officer support. Sgt Parry explained the tiers of support and that when officers are deployed from Coleford the response due to the local geography is set at 20 minutes.

Councillor Wall – what are the current rules for car tax and MOT’s delayed by Covid 19? Sgt Parry – the leeway for road tax ran out on Monday 16th November and discretion will be used for overdue MOT’s.

5. POLICING IN THE PARISH

Resolved to note Police crime statistics for Tidenham and Sedbury can be accessed following this link.
<https://www.ukcrimestats.com/Neighbourhood/6107>

6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public, which may be answered but not debated.
 Chris Ricketts had sent a letter and report for Councillors to consider. He stated that there is more information to share, but time to deal with the issues is of the essence due to statutory requirements.

7. COMMITTEES

Resolved to receive and note reports, minutes and recommendations from committees.

i) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 28th October 2020.

Questions to Councillor Koning, Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tullett asked if there was building work taking place at the Rising Sun. Councillor Koning reported that the owner of the site had agreed to clear the gardens when the planning inspector visited.

ii) Amenities Committee meeting held on 11th November 2020.

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

8. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resolved to receive and note announcements from the Chairman of the meeting, Councillor Koning.

- The Aneurin Bevan Health Board is changing services following the opening of The Grange hospital at Cwmbran. An electronic copy of a leaflet sent to Chepstow residents had been obtained from the Board and circulated to members and on Facebook and the website. Councillor Tullett asked about those unable to access the internet. Councillor Drew to approach the Sedbury Surgery, and Councillor Koning the Tutshill surgery, to ask for hardcopies to be available to patients.

- A link has been sent to Councillors regarding the public consultation on NHS services at the new Cinderford Hospital. It is important the Council should respond. Councillors Drew, Koning and Wall agreed to meet to discuss responses to be presented to full Council in December.

- The Council should re-visit obtaining advice from Andrea Pellegram regarding the development of an NDP. This item will be added to the December agenda.

9. PARISH CLERK’S REPORT

Resolved to receive and note the Parish Clerk’s Report. The Clerk reported that there had still been no contact from Two Rivers Housing regarding the Ormerod Road roundabout. Clerk to email Patrick Molyneux again.

10. LAPTOP MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Resolved to approve renewal of annual Hardware Maintenance and Support Contract with Tate Computer Technology for the 2 Council laptops at £300 plus VAT, total cost £360.

11. FINANCE

a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for October 2020.

b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for October 2020, copy bank statements having been checked by the Chairman prior to the meeting.

12. 2019/20 AGAR SECTION 3 EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT

Resolved to note successful audit of 2019-20 Annual Return (AGAR) – no actions required. The Clerk was thanked for her efforts in maintaining financial records.

13. DEFIBRILLATOR CABINETS

a) **Resolved to note** current locks on defibrillator cabinets cannot be disabled.

b) **Resolved not to** place a sticker inside the locked door giving the access code.

- c) **Resolved to approve** quotation from Defib Store Ltd for replacement cabinet doors with no locks @ £35 plus VAT each plus delivery @ £15. Total cost £186.00. The old lockable doors to be kept in case needed in the future.

14. **PARISH COUNCIL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (YETI)**

Resolved to note Councillor Swambo is preparing a business plan / proposal and has liaised with County Councillor Patrick Molyneux. The Plan and proposals will be presented at the December 2020 or January 2021 meeting. Councillor Swambo reported that Nick Penny, manager FVAF, is very interested to explore extending our idea across the Forest, perhaps employing more workers across the area. County Councillor Molyneux would like to support if possible – a grant can be applied for through the Growing Communities Fund. He would be willing to present a business plan for consideration for more direct help from the County Council.

15. **DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN ECONOMIC VIABILITY ASSESSMENT**

Resolved to note response to Local Plan Economic Viability Assessment on behalf of the Council by Councillors Koning, O'Toole and Tullett.

16. **TIDENHAM WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION TRUST**

Resolved to receive and note feedback from the Zoom meeting held on Saturday 7th November 2020 between Trustees and Parish Councillors Hartford-Beynon, O'Toole and Swambo. Councillor Swambo reported that it had been a positive meeting with agreement to work more closely together going forward. There had been some good ideas shared and the possible relocation of the Parish Council meetings to Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall discussed. The extra potential rental income for the Hall would cover the current grant from the Parish Council. Clerk to look at possibility of relocation to Sedbury Hall.

17. **FOREST ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

Resolved to approve Parish Councillor representative for the Forest Economic Partnership as Councillor Graham Drew.

18. **CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY ACTION GROUP**

Resolved to approve Parish Councillor representative for an initial preliminary meeting of local interested parties facilitated by West Dean Parish Council as Councillor Jan Koning.

19. **NEWSLETTER**

a) **To consider** draft newsletter if available at the meeting. **Not available.**

b) **To consider** final draft approval by Clerk, Chairman and Vice Chairman at later date if copy not available for the meeting.

The Clerk reported that the advertisements by local businesses had not been received and that to produce the newsletter without these would effectively increase the amount the Council had agreed to spend. As there is no time critical information included, the advertisements will be chased and if not forthcoming to be considered at the December meeting with delivery in the new year.

20. **ADULT EXERCISE EQUIPMENT**

Resolved to note under the lockdown restrictions that came into effect on 5th November 2020, outdoor gym equipment must be closed. Under emergency measures and in view of timescales, Haydn Bynon was asked to tape off the equipment in Wyebank Road and on Tutshill Recreation Ground with appropriate signage at a cost of £15. The Clerk reported that the tape and signs had been torn down and replaced and torn down again. Signs to be replaced with no tape.

21. **RAMBLERS – DON'T LOSE YOUR WAY CAMPAIGN**

Resolved to note Ramblers campaign to save miles of unmarked footpaths and possible Parish Council involvement. The majority of Councillors felt further involvement should be looked into. Councillor Koning to follow developments and inform Council if and when appropriate.

22. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Chepstow Civic Society invitation to exploratory meeting on 2nd December – Parish Councillors Molyneux and Swambo volunteered to attend.

Emails requesting information on local organisations from FoDDC Winter Wellness and the Census Agent had been circulated to Councillors – please respond to the Clerk.

Mr McKenna – Wyebank Road. Correspondence from Mr Ivin, Mr McKenna's representative, was noted. The Clerk reported that certified Land Registry documents proving Parish Council ownership of the land in Wyebank Road has now been received.

Letter and report from Chris Ricketts – BOBA – had been circulated for future consideration and will be added to the agenda for Full Council on 9th December.

Item 10 Standing Orders - a motion was moved and approved at 20.58hrs to suspend Standing Order 3x in order to allow the meeting to continue past the 2 hour limit.

23. 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 Drew – Sedbury Space has now been granted foodstuffs from Tesco and have started distributing in the Parish. Distribution will be on Wednesday mornings 9am – 11am for anyone in need. Also – following the announcement that no further petrol or diesel cars will be manufactured from 2030 there is a need for charging points within the Parish – is there money available? County Councillor Molyneux – the County Council has a strong green agenda which will include increasing the number of charging points.

Councillor Hartford-Beynon – reported the use of the green space at the bottom of Mopla Road / Castleford Hill for contractors' equipment which has caused a lot of mud on the road.

Councillor Wall - had been contacted regarding the temporary banners on the recreation ground railings and War Memorial Hall gates. Should this be allowed? Clerk to look into.

County Councillor Molyneux – reported that dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic is still a major issue and the Council is working through a number of complications. At the end of the previous week 4000 school pupils were self-isolating with only 95 having tested positive. Positive tests in teachers have resulted in a lack of teachers in the County.

24. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 25th November 2020 – Planning and Highways Committee Meeting.

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

Wednesday 2nd December 2020 – Mopla Cottages Committee Meeting.

Wednesday 9th December 2020 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 21.08hrs

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 9th December 2020 and deemed to have been signed as of that date. **Minute 2020/21 December 2020 page 23 item 3 a).**