

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 7.00pm held as a virtual meeting through the Zoom video conferencing platform.

Present: Councillors: Drew, Edwards, Hartford-Beynon, Koning (Chairman), O'Toole, Tullett, and Wall.
Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk), David Stevens (Clerk's Assistant).
Patrick Molyneux – County Councillor.

1. ATTENDANCE

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

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 March 2021.
- b) **To consider** any questions arising from those minutes.
The Chairman reported that the Save Our Sun campaign is still ongoing.
Councillor Edwards thanked Councillors for their support with the issue of the church gate expenditure.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public, which may be answered but not debated.
County Councillor Patrick Molyneux reported that during the current election campaigning business at the Council is continuing as usual with no major issues to report. All schools are now back in full and the County Council will be monitoring the Covid 19 testing procedures. The CC is also checking that pubs and other venues are opening in a Covid safe manner. He was also pleased that the grant application from the Parish Council had been successful.

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>
The Clerk had also circulated more recent figures supplied by PC Green, Neighbourhood Policing.

6. COMMITTEES

Resolved to receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees.
i) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 24th March 2021.
There were no questions to Councillor Koning, Chairman of the Committee.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive and note any announcements from the Chairman of the meeting.
FoDDC had requested initial suggestions for bids for projects under the Government's Levelling Up Scheme – at this stage Expressions of Interest - and with short notice for submission. Clerk to send suggestions for a bridge / tunnel for crossing the A48 and the requirement for electric vehicle charging points in the Parish.
Call for Evidence survey from the Government regarding the use of virtual meetings – could Councillors please complete this if possible. Clerk to re-send link to the survey.
The Great British Spring Clean – in view of the timing of the national campaign the setting up of a local litter picking group to be considered at a future meeting.

The Chairman asked the Clerk's Assistant to report on correspondence received from the Police. David Stevens reported that 5 letters of apology had been received from local youths who had caused damage to a Parish Council bench by setting a fire beneath it. The Police will not be taking further action but had wanted the young people to appreciate that there are consequences to such actions.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended a webinar encouraging Parish Councils to look at their Parishes from a point of view of design in planning and the visual impact on the local area. The webinar was interesting. Chairman / Clerk to look at arranging a similar training session for Parish Councillors.

8. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

The Clerk reported that there is still some uncertainty regarding the return to face to face meetings and that the FoDDC Monitoring Officer had suggested the recommendations were against Covid 19 lockdown regulations. Councillors will be informed of the outcome of the legal challenge being heard 21st April, at which time a final decision can be taken on the dates of the May and June meetings.

9. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – GAPTC AND SLCC

- a) **Resolved to approve** renewal of membership of GAPTC 2021/2022 of £1469.48 – numbers of electors 4397 (this includes the NALC element of 7.42 pence per electorate).
- b) **Resolved to approve** renewal of membership of SLCC 2021/2022 of £208.

10. FINANCE

- a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for March 2021.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for March 2021 and note bank and building society statements had been checked by the Chairman prior to the meeting.
- c) **Resolved to note** Bank Reconciliation at end of 2020/2021.
- d) **Resolved to note** Notes to Accounts for end of 2020/2021.

11. ASSET REGISTER

- a) **Resolved to adopt** Asset Register as shown in the 2020/2021 Annual Accounts.
- b) **Resolved to note** all assets have been visually checked during the year by the Clerk's Assistant, contractors or through playground checks.

12. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2020/21

- a) **Resolved to approve** responses to items 1-9 of section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Review (AGAR) 2020/21 and that each response should be 'YES'.
- b) **Resolved to approve** signing of the Governance Statement.
- c) **Resolved to approve** the Annual Accounts as shown in the Annual Return and that the Clerk and Chairman sign the Statement.
- d) **Resolved to note** the dates for the period for exercising of public rights have been set as from 14th June 2021 to 23rd July 2021.

13. ZOOM ACCOUNT

Resolved to note payment of £143.88 inc. VAT (£119.90 ex. VAT) for annual renewal of the Zoom Pro video conferencing account was made by the Clerk's Assistant, authorised by the Clerk under emergency provision, who will reclaim this amount through expenses.

14. SPECIAL MOTION - REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTION – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – GATES AT ST LUKE'S CHURCH, TUTSHILL

Resolved to approve reversal of resolution recorded under Amenities Committee Minutes 2020/21 March 21 Page 13 item 7 b) Replacement of gates at St Luke's Church, Tutshill, as requested in writing by email from Councillors Edwards, Koning, Molyneux, O'Toole, Tullett and Wall. Amenities Committee to re-consider options.

15. GROWING OUR COMMUNITIES FUND GRANT APPLICATION

Resolved to note the application for a grant of £10,000 from the Gloucestershire County Council Growing Our Communities Fund for the social prescribing element of the proposed YETI project has been approved. The first £5k for the first year of the project will be released once the project has begun and funding for the second year sourced. The Chairman confirmed that work will now recommence towards sourcing of funding for the second year. County Councillor Patrick Molyneux was thanked for his support for the application.

16. TRAINING – HOW TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN LOCAL COUNCILS

Resolved to note Councillors Koning and Tullett, as Chairman and Vice Chairman, and the Clerk have been enrolled on a NALC training event on how to get young people involved in local councils in preparation for recruitment of new councillors. The Clerk is authorised to book training events where places may otherwise be lost. Cost £97.32 plus VAT – total £116.79. Clerk has paid by card and will claim back through expenses.

17. GAPTC AGM

To consider submitting a resolution for debate at the GAPTC AGM on 24th July 2021.

Resolved not to submit a resolution.

18. BT PHONE BOX PROPOSED REMOVAL

a) Resolved to approve proposal by BT to remove the telephone kiosk in King Alfred's Road.

b) Resolved not to adopt kiosk.

Clerk to request extension to consider the kiosk in Coleford Road at the May meeting.

19. WYE VALLEY GREENWAY - BENCH

a) Resolved to approve sponsorship of bench on the Wye Valley Greenway. Total cost £150 including carving of Parish Council name on bench. Maintenance of bench to be carried out as part of the Greenway maintenance programme and not the Parish Council.

b) Resolved Chairman and Councillors Edwards and Hartford-Beynon to negotiate and agree with Greenway a suitable position for the bench.

20. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - LGPS

a) Resolved to note the Employer's Contribution Rate for the LGPS has reduced from 1st April 2021 to 22.4% of salary from 23.6%.

b) Resolved to note The Clerk's LGPS contribution rate has increased from 1st April 2021 to 6.5% of salary from 5.8%.

21. BOBA

Resolved to note further correspondence from BOBA following March meeting.

22. LEAD COUNCILLORS FOR NOMINATED TOPICS

a) Resolved to approve nomination of lead Councillors to receive correspondence and information, research and feedback to Council on specific topics: Chepstow, The River Severn, Elderly Residents, Neighbourhood Watch, Climate Emergency and Economic Development.

b) Resolved the following Councillors with specific portfolio responsibilities:

Chepstow – Cllr Wall; The River Severn and SARA – Cllr O'Toole; Older Residents – Cllr Molyneux;

Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Drew; Climate Emergency – Cllr Hartford-Beynon; Economic Development – Cllr Drew.

23. REMOVAL OF TREE T266 FROM ST MARY AND ST PETER'S CHURCH

Resolved to note following discussion with the Chairman the Clerk approved, under emergency expenditure, the hire of further heavy equipment to complete the felling of this ash tree identified as requiring urgent attention in the Tree Report of 2020 and which was identified during the felling operation. Cost £342 no VAT.

24. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to receive and note any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report:

The Digibus is proposing to visit Sedbury on 30th and 31st August 2021 (Tutshill 1st and 2nd September). Sedbury Space trying to arrange The Village Inn as location.

Email from Mrs Civil regarding the introduction of wild flower areas within the Parish. Clerk has contacted Glos. CC Highways and Amenities Committee will investigate this further for Parish Council land.

25. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

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 – the movement of some of the Gigaclear heavy plant has damaged some road surfaces in places other than where they are working.

Councillor Koning – has the new Agreement with the War Memorial Hall Trust been signed? Clerk to chase.

26. FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved to note the dates of future Council and Committee meetings and that these may change if further guidance on holding virtual meetings is received:

Wednesday 28th April 2021 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 5th May 2021 – Annual Council Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 20.52hrs

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 5th May 2021 and deemed to have been signed as of that date. **Minute 2021/22 - May 2021 page 2 item 15 a).**