

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.**

**Present:** Councillors: Bollen, Drew, Hartford-Beynon, Koning (Chairman), Molyneux, Swambo, Tullett and Wall.

Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk), David Stevens (Clerk's Assistant).

Chris McFarling – Gloucestershire County Councillor.

4 members of the public.

Liz McBride and Bethan Kotecha.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

- a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those Councillors unable to attend from Councillor O'Toole.
- b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillor O'Toole.

**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) **Resolved to note** Notice of Dispensation for members of the Mopla Cottages Committee issued by the Clerk and signed at the meeting.
- c) **Resolved to note** Notice of Dispensation for Councillor Trustees of Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust issued by the Clerk and signed at the meeting.
- d) **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 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
- b) **To consider** any questions arising from those minutes. **There were none.**  
Clerk to include Councillors' lead roles in appointments list.

**4. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS**

- a) **Unanimously resolved to co-opt** Liz McBride to the Parish Council, who duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- b) **Unanimously resolved to co-opt** Bethan Kotecha to the Parish Council, who duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

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

Chris McFarling introduced himself as the newly elected Gloucestershire County Councillor for the Sedbury Division and reminded Councillors of the functions undertaken by the County Council. Cllr McFarling is a member of the Green Party and has a particular interest in the environment and helping families. He assured Councillors he will try to help where possible and at present has a current caseload of 85. Cllr McFarling has £30,000 funding available for transport projects – the aim of which is to help to bring transport management works forward where possible. £2,000 of this will be used to convert stiles to kissing gates in the ward. The rest will be divided amongst the 6 Parishes in his ward. Details of how these funds can be applied for will be sent to the Clerk. Cllr McFarling will liaise with the Clerk on Parish Council issues. The Chairman apprised Cllr McFarling of current Parish Council initiatives and asked for any support that can be offered. Cllr McFarling will look into possible help from the Youth Activities Fund.

Chris Ricketts – BOBA. (A paper had been circulated to Councillors on the day of the meeting - sent by BOBA to the Clerk the previous evening - regarding the initial response form the Parish Council solicitor.) BOBA's request to the Parish Council should be considered as part of a commitment under the Armed Forces Covenant. Mr Ricketts assured Councillors that no member of BOBA is supporting the project for personal gain. Mr Ricketts stated that he disagreed with the advice given by the solicitor, asserting that an unqualified Clerk is not insurmountable and that BOBA have not suggested this should be approached as a Neighbourhood

Development Plan but a Neighbourhood Area. Mr Ricketts stated that this has gone on too long. Mr Ricketts stated that he will be requesting to see the letter sent to Wellers Law Group and that what BOBA have asked of the Parish Council is lawful and permissible. Mr Ricketts reported that the Kelly Holmes Trust is now on board and asked what the Parish is doing for Armed Forces Day.

Gabriella Kirkpatrick – had attended to hear Council's discussions on item 13.

Tony Taylor – attended to support Mr Ricketts.

## 6. 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>

A big increase in ASB and violent crime was noted. Clerk had contacted PCSO for comment – none received and will chase for more information.

## 7. COMMITTEES

**To receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees** already circulated, enclosed herewith or to be circulated and to consider any questions arising from them.

**No Committee meetings held since the May meeting.**

## 8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**To receive and note any announcements from the Chairman** of the meeting:

The Chairman pointed out the importance of having completed the online survey regarding future use of remote meetings for Parish Councils.

An online petition has been set up requesting legislation for sanctions against councillors for misbehaviour. Cllr. Molyneux commented that this should be extended to members of the public who cause frequent nuisance at meetings. Also that the County Council are holding some Zoom meetings.

The Chairman reported a successful litter pick on Saturday in Sedbury and hoped the Parish Council would be able to progress a Parish litter pick group.

Thanks to Mr John Powell who had carried out a lot of work on the lost PROW in the Parish using the map supplied. Hope to involve more members of the public on the project.

## 9. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

## 10. FINANCE

a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for May 2021.

b) **Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement** for May 2021.

c) **Resolved to note** the VAT return for 2020/2021 has been prepared and submitted and a refund of £9243.10 received in the Lloyds bank account.

d) **Resolved to note** the first £5000 payment of the Gloucestershire County Council grant for the Social Prescribing element of the YETI Project has been received.

## 11. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

**A short presentation to Councillors was made by Councillor Swambo on behalf of the Youth Engagement Working Group.**

a) **Resolved to adopt** Youth Engagement Working Group Terms of Reference, revised June 2021.

b) **Resolved to approve** commitment of the Community Benefit Fund from the Tump Solar Farm to the YETI Project – currently ringfenced funds of £20,865 – to August 2023 @ £5000 per annum, index linked, for all expenditure involved in the Project.

c) **Resolved to approve** breakdown of funding structure for the Project prepared by the Working Group.

d) **Resolved to approve** employment of Youth Worker for an initial term of 2 years for 22 hours (3 days) per week @ £25,000 per annum pro rata. Total annual salary cost £19,197. This includes all National Insurance, tax and employer's pension arrangements.

e) **Resolved to approve** ancillary annual costs of £1000 to cover mileage allowance, mobile phone costs etc.

- f) **Resolved to approve** initial expenditure of up to £1000 for administrative requirements including laptop, mobile phone, stationery etc.
- g) **Resolved to approve** expenditure of up to £300 for the advertising of the Youth Worker vacancy.

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

- a) **Resolved to note** the AGAR has been submitted to the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn. The notice for the period for the Exercise of Public Rights (14<sup>th</sup> June – 23<sup>rd</sup> July) has been displayed on the noticeboards and website and the unaudited AGAR and internal audit report put on the website.

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

- a) **Resolved to note** the Trust have not accepted the proposed amended agreement that was agreed by full Council in March 2021.
- b) **To consider** options for the future relationship with the Trust.  
**This item was not considered.** A further meeting with the Trust to be arranged and the future management of Shirley's Grove to be discussed before presenting to full Council at the July meeting, particularly in view of the lapse of the previous Agreement.

14. **WELSH WATER LAND WYEBANK ROAD – GRASS CUTTING**

**Resolved to note** correspondence has been sent to Welsh Water following discussions regarding the cutting of the grass at Wyebank Road.

The Clerk reported that since preparing the agenda, Welsh Water had confirmed that they do not wish the Parish Council to continue cutting the grass on their land and that they would increase the amounts of cuts to 6 per season.

15. **SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL INSURANCE**

**Councillors Bollen, Drew and McBride declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the vote.**

- a) **Resolved to approve** suitability of insurance through Zurich Insurance Plc for Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall (S&BVH) as recommended by Community First and that the Clerk and Councillor Bollen have reviewed the cover offered in detail.
- b) **Resolved to note** Community First have confirmed that due to the late receipt of the renewal quotation and the delay of the Council meeting, cover under the old policy will remain in place until 24<sup>th</sup> June to allow renewal to be confirmed.
- c) **Resolved not to approve** annual renewal of insurance for S&BVH with Zurich Insurance Plc for one year - total cost £540.08 inc. IPT and broker fee.
- d) **Resolved not to approve** renewal of insurance for S&BVH with Zurich Insurance Plc for a new 3 year Long Term Agreement (LTA) @ £513.08 per annum inc. IPT and brokers fee.
- e) **Resolved not to approve** renewal of insurance for S&BVH with Zurich Insurance Plc for a new 4 year Long Term Agreement (LTA) @ £513.08 per annum inc. IPT and brokers fee.
- f) **Resolved to approve** renewal of insurance for S&BVH with Zurich Insurance Plc for a new 5 year Long Term Agreement (LTA) @ £486.09 per annum inc. IPT and brokers fee.
- g) **Resolved to approve** Clerk to pay Community First after the meeting once a decision on the renewal has been made.

16. **PURCHASE OF DOG BIN FOR END SEDBURY LANE**

**Resolved to approve** purchase of new dog waste bin to be positioned at the end of Sedbury Lane at Snipehill Bridge. Total cost £274.36 plus VAT - total cost £327.23 - plus approximately £5.05 plus VAT - total cost £6.06 - per collection emptying costs.

17. **JUBILEE STONE – PARSON'S ALLOTMENT**

- a) **Resolved to note** responses from the Forestry Commission regarding the Jubilee Stone and placing of a plaque to mark its position and history.
- b) **Resolved to approve** 2 volunteer Councillors as Councillors Koning and McBride to look at the area and Jubilee Stone and obtain through the Clerk, quotations for a suitable plaque or plaques for consideration at a future meeting.

**18. SARA UPDATE**

**Resolved to note** Councillors Koning and O'Toole met with Jim Hewitt, Chair of Trustees – SARA on 10<sup>th</sup> May (thanks to Councillor Edwards for arranging). Details of the equipment required by SARA were discussed and the potential grant funding available through the Parish Council and Mopla Cottages. Following the meeting the Clerk sent details of the application procedures but has not yet received a response. Councillor O'Toole to be asked to follow this up.

**19. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH INITIATIVE**

**Resolved to approve** 2 volunteer Councillors to take part in the Community Speedwatch Initiative planned for September as Councillors Hartford-Beynon and Wall with Councillor Drew as a back up. 8 members of the public have volunteered.

**20. BOBA – BEACHLEY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

a) **Resolved to note** response from Wellers Law Group regarding the requested Parish Council involvement in the proposals presented to the Parish Council in January 2021.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the advice is regarding the request from BOBA for the Parish Council to apply for the land transfer of the Beachley Barracks site and not regarding the proposed BOBA project.

b) **To consider** Council response to BOBA on the requested Council involvement in the proposals.

**This item was not considered.** It was agreed (other than Cllrs. Bollen and Wall, who both abstained) that the Clerk to obtain a quotation for further, more detailed legal advice from Wellers Law Group.

**21. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Report from BOBA received on day of meeting and circulated to Councillors.

Email requesting a defibrillator for Tidenham Village. This request to be added to the next Amenities Committee agenda.

**22. 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:

Cllr Drew – article in national press regarding Queen's Green Canopy and saplings available for planting through The Woodland Trust. Amenities Committee to look into.

Cllr Bollen – local free press article regarding the future of Chepstow hospital and that there is no guarantee it will still be there in 5 years. Concerned this is another example of the lack of interest in facilities in the south of the Forest. To be added to July agenda.

Cllr Molyneux – had attended a CC meeting regarding emergency care in the South of the Forest where it was clear that there is none – there is no public transport and the new hospital being built in Cinderford will be virtually inaccessible from Tidenham Parish.

Cllr Swambo – informed Councillors that Sedbury Space is to become a drug and alcohol advice centre. Also - that there is a newly introduced Forest wide initiative, including schools, to introduce crypto currency.

**23. FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Finance and Probity Committee meeting.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Mopla Cottages Committee meeting.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Amenities Committee meeting.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – Full Council meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 21.15hrs**