

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Bollen, Drew, Edwards, Hartford-Beynon, Kotecha, McBride, Swambo, Tullett (Chairman of the meeting) and Wall.

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

Emily Timmins – Youth Worker.

County Councillor - Chris McFarling.

Natalie Lang – PCSO.

Marc Carlton – Wild Flower adviser.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Councillor Tullett, presided as per Standing Order 3. p.

1. ATTENDANCE

a) Resolved to receive apologies for absence from those Councillors unable to attend from Councillors Koning and Molyneux.

b) Resolved to accept those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Koning 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 20th October 2021.

b) To consider any questions arising from those minutes.

NALC Training programme - Councillor Tullett would welcome IT training.

Queen's Green Canopy – Councillor Hartford-Beynon had not heard back from Tutshill School and Councillor Swambo reported that residents of Mercian Way are awaiting an ultra-sound scan of the existing oak tree to assess its health before they can decide.

Councillor Tullett reported that the Wydean student who attended the October meeting had been active since the last meeting and arranged contact within the school. She will be attending the December meeting.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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

No members of the public present.

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>

PCSO Natalie Lang introduced herself and told councillors she is pleased to be back working in Tidenham Parish. She has been liaising with the schools in the Parish and has set up a Junior Street Wardens scheme at Offa's Mead Academy, involving litter picking and classroom sessions on community. The speed van will be situated at two new sites in the Parish and will now be using 'Trucam' which gives enforceable results. The community engagement vehicle has visited during darker evenings and has been better received. Advice on keeping safe during darker evenings is being given out and there are timer switches available if anybody needs one. The police vehicle will be visiting Beachley Barracks over Christmas and PCSO Lang has been developing links with them. She has also met with Emily Timmins and they visited a member of the public together. She has been able to speak with some of the youths involved. PCSO Lang gave an overview of the past two years crime statistics which have decreased during the past year - to send breakdown to Clerk for circulation.

County Councillor McFarling – had had reports of drug problems outside of Wyedean School – PCSO Lang is working with the School on this.

Councillor Swambo – has heard reports of a ketamine problem among girls.

PCSO Lang will be continue with night operations now that she is aware of both of the above.

PCSO Lang is willing to regularly attend Parish Council meetings and it was agreed that this would be every two months if at all possible – Clerk to liaise regarding dates.

6. WILD FLOWER PLANTING

Resolved to note short presentation and information from Marc Carlton on wild flower planting.

Mr Carlton introduced himself as having worked with Transition Chepstow for many years and been involved with community orchards and, more recently, advising on the Wye Valley Greenway. Councillors had seen his report and YouTube photographs. Mr Carlton would recommend the perennial wild flowers in mown grassland approach. This will need co-operation with grass cutting contractors and some careful managing which he detailed. Mr Carlton had visited the Parish Council owned land in Wyebank Road and suggested it as a very suitable site with poor quality soil which may need some plug planting and weeding of docks at the outset.

Councillor Edwards – will there be grants available for this? – Mr Carlton not aware.

County Councillor McFarling – this is being considered at County and District level but continual mowing has helped improve the soil quality and it will take a couple of years to establish – where wild flowers are allowed to thrive, they are not as thick as long grass where visibility is an issue.

Councillor McBride – when should plug plants be planted? – Autumn, winter or spring.

Emily Timmins – young people at the Ideas Fair had been enthusiastic about this and would likely be keen to help – County Councillor McFarling indicated that projects involving young people and the environment may be eligible for a grant through the CC Build Back Better Fund.

7. COMMITTEES

Resolved to receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees.

i) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 27th October 2021.

There were no questions to the Committee members.

ii) Amenities Committee meeting held on 10th November 2021.

There were no questions to Councillor Swambo, Chairman of the Committee.

8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

In the absence of the Council Chairman, the Vice Chairman expressed sadness on the death of former Parish and District Councillor Roy Birch. The Clerk reported that Roy's funeral on 25th November was restricted in numbers due to the Church capacity. Councillor Bollen suggested that some councillors may wish to join in lining the route to the funeral. The Vice Chairman reported that the Chairman had attended and laid a wreath at the Remembrance Service on behalf of the Council.

9. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McFARLING

To note verbal report from Chris McFarling. The motion to introduce county wide 20mph speed limits has gone to the Scrutiny Committee who have asked for data from authorities who have already introduced this. The County Council has appointed a Climate Emergency co-ordinator to bring all Districts together in a climate group. The Council is looking to reduce transport emissions in a way that is financially acceptable but this does need a willingness to do this from all members. Councillor McFarling complimented the Parish Council on its responses to planning applications and the well functioning Planning Committee. He reminded Councillors of the process for the 'calling in' of an application by a district councillor if thought appropriate. He has done this for the holiday let application in Rosemary Lane. Councillor McFarling has received complaints regarding speeding on the A48 at Sedbury Lane junction – David Stevens to send him the correspondence and actions already taken by the Parish Council.

Councillor Edwards – aware that Bristol has a lot of areas of 20mph speed limits – how have other authorities reported back on their effectiveness? – No comments yet received.

10. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

11. FINANCE

- a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for October 2021.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for October 2021.

12. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE

- a) **Resolved to note** resignation of Councillor Rob O'Toole. Clerk to send letter of thanks to Mr O'Toole for his service to the Council.
- b) **Resolved to note** period of Casual Vacancy to expire 26th November 2021.
- c) **To consider** councillor representative for SARA and Severn Estuary Lead Councillor role. **It was agreed not to consider this item as there were no volunteers, and pending the appointment of a new Councillor.**

13. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

- a) **To consider** appointment of councillor to the Planning and Highways Committee. **It was agreed not to consider this item as there were no volunteers, and pending the appointment of a new Councillor.**
- b) **Resolved to approve** appointment of Councillor Kotecha to the Finance and Probity and Mopla Cottages Committees.

14. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Resolved to adopt The General Power of Competence, the Council meeting the criteria required in that is has a CiLCA Qualified Clerk and the number of councillors elected at the last ordinary election equalled two thirds of its total number of councillors.

15. YOUTH WORKER REPORT

Resolved to note report from Emily Timmins on the progress of the YETI Project.

Emily updated councillors on the 'Ideas Fair' held on 15th November 2021 which had been attended by 14 young people. These had been very enthusiastic to be involved in the community and suggested some very community-based ideas for the future - including the introduction of a community garden, bug hotels, skate park improvements and trips outside of the Parish.

16. RISK ASSESSMENT

Resolved to review and re-adopt the amended Tidenham Parish Council Risk Assessment.

17. CROSS COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Resolved to approve appointment of Councillor Swambo to a working group comprising partners in the community. The first meeting of the Group to take place on Monday 22nd November.

18. NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL GROUP

Resolved to appoint Councillors Swambo and Tullett to work with the Clerk on the production of the Parish Council Newsletter, along with Emily Timmins, Youth Worker.

19. GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 20MPH SPEED LIMIT PROPOSAL

Resolved to approve sending letter of support to County Councillor Chris McFarling, urging the Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet to adopt the proposal for the introduction of 20mph speed limits in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix. **This was resolved by a recorded vote of 6 councillors for and three against – Councillors Drew, Edwards and Wall voted against.** Those councillors who voted against were not against the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in principle, but felt there needed to be more clarity on the specific types of area for which it is being proposed.

20. LAPTOP MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

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

21. BEACHLEY ROAD BUS SHELTER – SEDBURY RAINBOWS

Councillor McBride declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion or vote.

Resolved to approve annual payment of £40 to Sedbury Rainbows for the cleaning of the Beachley Road bus shelter.

22. TWO RIVERS HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Resolved to approve arranging a meeting with Two Rivers Housing to discuss various issues including land within the Parish.

23. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Resolved to note GRCC, on behalf of the Forest of Dean District Council, will be conducting a Housing Needs Survey in the Parish in early 2022 which will be sent to every household for completion.

24. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Emails regarding the successful use of the Woodcroft defibrillator had been circulated to Councillors.

25. 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 McBride – the Sedbury Hall Committee are looking into putting signs at the entrance to the car park to stop parking in front of the gates, mainly by chip shop users, restricting access to the car park.

Councillor Kotecha – would it be possible to set up a 'no cold calling' zone in the Parish following concerns by members of the public about cold callers? Councillors discussed the possibility of providing window stickers. Clerk to look into.

Councillor Swambo – would it be possible to provide container storage on the base of the derelict building in the Sedbury Hall car park? This for the Hall and Sedbury Space use.

Councillor Edwards – Councillors need to address the poor quality and state of repair of much of the Parish Council play equipment and how dealing with this will be funded.

26. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 24th November 2021 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 1st December 2021 – Finance and Probity Committee Meeting

Wednesday 1st December 2021 - Mopla Cottages Committee meeting.

Wednesday 8th December 2021 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 21.38hrs