

TIDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held as a virtual meeting through the Zoom video conferencing platform at 7pm on Thursday 6th May 2021.

Present: Parish Councillors: Jan Koning - Chairman, Graham Drew, Maria Edwards, Maria Hartford-Beynon, Helen Molyneux, Rob O'Toole, Audrey Tullett and Chris Wall.

3 members of the public.

Also Present: Mrs Carol Hinton – Parish Clerk, Mr David Stevens – Clerk's Assistant.

All documents and reports had been available through the website prior to the meeting.

1. Apologies: were received from Councillors Sheila Bollen and Michael Swambo.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 10th April 2019: The minutes were approved as presented. They were unable to be signed due to it being a virtual meeting.

3. Matters Arising: Councillor Koning explained the actions taken since the previous meeting in 2019 regarding speeding on the A48. Councillors had met with Glos. CC Highways representatives, the Police and members of the public at the Sedbury Lane crossing and various options to make the area safer were discussed - including a road island and a bridge / tunnel for pedestrians and cyclists. Due to financial constraints the only option achievable was the cutting back of the hedges and vegetation on the verge to allow better visibility. The Parish Council has put forward the provision of a bridge / tunnel to the FoDDC for addition to their capital projects portfolio of projects for future consideration. The Parish Council raises the issue as often as it can. Liz McBride stated that now the Wye Valley Greenway is open there are significantly more walkers using the lane. Councillor Koning confirmed that the opening of the Greenway was included in the bid to the FoDDC, amongst many other areas of concern. Councillor Tullett recalled that signs indicating pedestrians had been promised – being dealt with by the Planning and Highways Committee.

4. Chairman's Report: Councillor Koning welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked councillors for their hard work and support during the past year. He gave an overview of the projects outlined in the Chairman's Report:

The YETI Project – aiming to offer a positive alternative for young people in the Parish. Pleased that Johnathan Lane from Wydean School will be joining the Working Group. Also, thanks to Glos. CC for a generous grant to help enable the project to go ahead. Hopefully the project will start in September.

The Community Speedwatch Project – this to go ahead once Covid 19 lockdown restrictions are lifted. The results of the surveys will be supported and followed up by the Police. Hazel Evans commented that the one 'reduce speed' sign on the Beachley Road approach to Sedbury might be out of order/not functioning.

Community Litter Picking Initiative – hoping to introduce this later in the year and to involve volunteers in the community.

Ormerod Road Roundabout – the Clerk explained the current position regarding the refurbishment of the roundabout. Due to delays by Two Rivers Housing who, it transpired, own the roundabout, the developers have now left the building site but have agreed to return later in the year to complete the project. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council has now taken delivery of a permanent silent soldier silhouette to be placed on the roundabout with support from Beachley Barracks. Liz McBride commented that the roundabout stone is the same as that the steps going down to the big tree by

Mercian Way are constructed of. It was suggested these steps may be owned by the Resident's Association.

Lost Public Rights of Way – the Parish Council will be supporting later in the year a campaign to identify lost public rights of way before a 2026 deadline, after which they may be lost forever. Councillor Tullett asked about the request for a map at the 2019 meeting. The Clerk informed the meeting that a map had been received but was of a large scale and difficult to use. There is a link to the map on the Glos. CC website under PROW. John Powell offered to use the PROW map held by the Clerk to identify any paths not shown. Clerk to get the map to him.

Jubilee Stone, Parson's Allotment – the Parish Council has contacted the Forestry Commission to enquire about the possibility of a plaque to mark the stone and / or its position.

5. Police Report: Councillor Koning confirmed that Councillors review the latest available crime statistics at each full Council meeting and have regular visits from police officers at the monthly meetings. Hazel Evans expressed concern about recent attempts at dog thefts and the reported attempted theft of a chainsaw in Tutshill – the culprit's image had been captured on CCTV.

6. To receive Financial Statements from:

- Tidenham Parish Council.
- Mopla Cottages Charity.

There were no comments or questions on the statements.

7. To receive Reports from:

- Tidenham War Memorial Hall & Recreation Ground Trust.
- Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Charity.
- Poor's Allotment Trust.

There were no comments or questions about the reports.

8. Items Submitted by the Public: John Powell had noticed that SARA are looking for funds and wanted to propose that the Parish Council award a grant of £3000 as money had been awarded for wildflowers / bench for the WyeValley Greenway. The Clerk pointed out that a grant must be applied for. Councillor O'Toole confirmed that he has recently been in touch with SARA and discussed specific requirements with them. Councillor Edwards had also been in touch with SARA Chairman of Trustees who will be emailing her a list of requirements. Councillor Koning confirmed that the Parish Council will be tightening the relationship with SARA. He also confirmed that each grant application received by the Council is considered carefully on its own merits. Councillor Drew supported John Powell's suggestion and that the Parish Council should support SARA.

Hazel Evans thanked Councillors for keeping the Council going during the past year.

John Powell asked when recruitment for the two councillor vacancies will take place – once lockdown restrictions are eased.

The meeting closed at 20.25hrs