

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Koning (Chairman), McBride, Molyneux, Swambo, and Wall.

Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk).

County Councillor Chris McFarling

1 member of the public.

1. ATTENDANCE

a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillors Bollen, Drew, Edwards, Hartford-Beynon and Tullett. Apologies also received from David Stevens, Assistant Clerk and Emily Timmins, Youth Worker.

b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Bollen, Drew, Edwards, Hartford-Beynon and Tullett.

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 July 2022.

b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. **There were none.**

c) **Resolved to approve** as a correct record the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 27th July 2022.

d) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. **There were none.**

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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

The member of the public present did not wish to speak.

5. POLICING IN THE PARISH

a) **Resolved to note** Police crime statistics for Tidenham and Sedbury can be accessed following this link.

<https://www.ukcrimestats.com/Neighbourhood/6107>

6. COMMITTEES

Resolved to receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees and to consider any questions arising from them.

i) Planning, Development Control and Highways Committee meeting held on 27th July 2022.

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

ii) Planning, Development Control and Highways Committee meeting held on 24th August 2022.

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

iii) Finance and Probity Committee meeting held on 7th September 2022.

There were no questions in Councillor Bollen, Chairman of the Committee's absence.

iv) Mopla Cottages Committee meeting held on 7th September 2022.

Questions to Councillor Bollen, Chairman of the Committee. In Councillor Bollen's absence, the Clerk answered a question regarding an issue with hedges at the cottages.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Chairman expressed a wish that, following the summer break, the Council should now restart ongoing projects, in particular the Community Awards. He was also pleased that a dialogue had now been begun with Revd Treharne regarding the churchyard works required. The Chairman had seen a Forest of Dean District

Council Facebook post asking for details of people's travel in the Forest. Chris McFarling was not aware of this – Clerk to find out about it, particularly regarding any link to Wales.

8. **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McFARLING**

To note report from Chris McFarling who may attend the meeting.

In his District Council role, Councillor McFarling urged the Council to respond to the Strategic Plan, Second Preferred Option and to consider this in the bigger picture not just the effect locally. Councillor Swambo asked about the possibility of petitioning against the Plan and was informed that a large number of genuine signatures could represent a material consideration for the District Council. Councillor Swambo also expressed concern at the lack of responsibility placed on developers to provide all of the infrastructure required for a development, including investment by utility companies.

From County Council – Cllr McFarling reported that all motions on the agenda for the full council meeting 5 days before the funeral of the Queen and been postponed until the next meeting. Under the Environment Scrutiny Meeting on the County Council website, the Restoring Our Lives Report has been published which includes details from OFWAT and water companies and giving recommendations. A concerning item in the report was on the poor health of the Severn Estuary. County Council Highways have been working through the items highlighted and requested by the Parish Council and will be installing 30mph signs and rumble strips on the roads entering Woodcroft, Gloucester Road, Beachley Road, Sedbury and Castleford Hill. Funds for the Rosemary Lane / Hanley footpath will not currently be put forward due to the withdrawal of the holiday let planning application. Cllr McFarling also reported that the area beside the steps leading down to the A48 bridge has been cleared and is now on a regular maintenance schedule. Councillor Swambo asked if the bend in the Coleford Road by the War Memorial Hall could be looked at for safety issues, it being tight when large vehicles use it. Cllr McFarling will look at this but, during discussions with the Police, it was pointed out that people often over estimate the speed traffic is travelling at, although the issue at this point is the type of traffic using the road. Cllr McFarling will look at. This to be added to the Planning and Highways Committee agenda. Cllr McFarling is also looking at the possibility of segregating the cycle path on Castleford Hill and the clearing of the pavement. The Chairman informed councillors that the '20 is Plenty' signs and stickers are now available and will be rolled out as soon as possible.

9. **PARISH CLERK'S REPORT**

Resolved to receive and note the Parish Clerk's Report. Clerk to approach the management company for the Elm Road orchard to ask if one of the oak saplings can be planted there.

10. **YOUTH WORKER REPORT**

a) **Resolved to note** report from Emily Timmins on the progress of the YETI Project. The Chairman noted the good take up of summer activity places but was disappointed at the take up in the secondary school age group. Councillor Swambo reported that this situation was being experienced Forest wide and that a new project, starting 24th October 2022, will be working with youth workers from across the Forest with specialist engagement training. He reported that the Covid 19 pandemic appears to have changed the way young people interact.

b) **Resolved to note** a payment of £700.36 was made on 25th August 2022 to the Youth Worker to refund payments she had made personally for the summer activities. This amount to come from the Social Prescribing element of the Project. In view of the amount, payment was approved by the Chairman. It was suggested that a larger float be agreed prior to the next period of activities to help avoid the Youth Worker having to pay large sums out of her own money.

11. **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR KOTECHA**

Resolved to note resignation of Councillor Bethan Kotecha received 5th September 2022. Clerk to send formal letter of thanks to Bethan Kotecha.

12. **SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL – GATE REPAIR**

Resolved to note emergency repairs to the entrance gate at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall were authorised under Clerk's emergency payments. Total cost £88 (no VAT). Clerk to ask contractor to adjust the gate which is difficult to unlatch when left open as a result of the hinge repair.

13. PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL

- a) **Resolved to accept** suitability of cover of Insurance Policy with Hiscox and that it meets the Parish Council's requirements.
- b) **Resolved to approve** renewal of Parish Council Insurance Policy with Hiscox. Year 2 of a 3 year Long Term Agreement to 30th September 2024 @ £2205.65 per annum (including Insurance Premium Tax and administration fee).

14. FINANCE

- a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for August 2022, including payments made in August when no Full Council meeting held.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement** for August 2022.
- c) **Resolved to receive and note** the Receipts / Payments spreadsheet to August 2022 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 7th September 2022.
- d) **Resolved to receive and note** the Budget Monitoring Spreadsheet 2022/2023 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 7th September 2022.
- e) **Resolved to receive and note** the YETI Project Spreadsheet 2021/2022 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee meeting on 7th September 2022.

15. TUMP FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Resolved to note the invoice for year 6 of 25 annual payment has been raised and sent to Tump Farm for payment. The total this year (£5000 plus RPI @ May 22) is £6203.53.

16. WALES AND WEST UTILITIES

Resolved to note Wales and West Utilities have agreed to pay £1000 for the unauthorised use of Parish Council land in Wyebank Road.

17. VAT RETURN

Resolved to note the VAT return for 2021/2022 has been prepared and submitted. The VAT refund due is £7161.53.

18. EON – UNMETERED ELECTRICITY SUPPLY – BEACHLEY DEFIBRILLATOR

Resolved to note a refund cheque for £2.51 has been received from EON due to an overpayment occurring during their transfer of the account to Npower.

19. 2022/2023 PRECEPT

Resolved to note the remaining £53,635.50 of the 2022/23 precept has now been received.

20. ARNOLD BAKER ON LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Resolved to approve purchase of 13th Edition Arnold Baker manual (currently use 10th edition) at discounted cost of £137 plus postage £4.00 + VAT, total cost £141.80 - if pre-ordered through SLCC (publish date November 2022).

21. FoDDC LOCAL PLAN SECOND PREFERRED OPTION

Resolved to approve submission of responses to the Local Plan Consultation, as prepared following discussion with members of the Planning and Highways Committee. An extension to the original closing date has been agreed by the FoDDC to 7th October 2022. Clerk to forward Local Plan email from FoDDC to local schools and publish on Council website.

22. TIDENHAM WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION TRUST + GAZEBO

- a) **Resolved to note** a Lawful Development Certificate from FoDDC has been received, confirming that the proposed Gazebo does not require planning permission.
- b) **To receive** feedback from Councillors Swambo and Wall from the Trust meeting on Tuesday 20th September. Cllrs Swambo and Wall reported that the meeting had been somewhat contentious. Some Trustees had felt the Lawful Development Certificate was not relevant. The cost of the gazebo was now an objection. A non-Parish Council appointed Trustee was present at the meeting and stated that although

there was still an agreement in principle, the Trust needed to re-assess their finances in the current economic climate. The Chairman pointed out that a commitment to pay half of the cost of the gazebo was made by the Trust at a previous meeting and that, following that agreement, the Parish Council had ordered the gazebo. The Chairman also commented that the relationship between the two parties is disappointing. He requested that the Trust give some guarantee that the commitment to the gazebo will be honoured.

23. COMMUNITY HUB EVENT

Resolved to note the date of the next Community Hub event is Saturday 15th October 2022. Volunteer councillors to attend during the event required.

24. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Resolved to note a meeting for the public interested in being involved in the Community Garden Project has been arranged for Saturday 22nd October 2022. Councillor Swambo and Clerk to organise publicity for this.

25. SPEED AWARENESS

Resolved to note the Assistant Clerk has now taken delivery of '20 is plenty' wheelie bin stickers and lamppost signs and will be purchasing tie wraps costing £7.28 through his expenses. Location of the various signs will need to be agreed.

26. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to receive and consider any other correspondence:

The Police Community Engagement vehicle will be in Sedbury on Sunday 2nd October.

The Clerk had received confirmation that the external audit had been completed with no issues identified.

27. 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 Molyneux – attending meeting with District Council on upcoming difficulties for people facing financial difficulties regarding the cost of food, electricity etc. and asked for comments from other councillors. Councillor Swambo – reported that Sedbury Space are seeing an increased number of the community seeking heat and warm food and they are unable to provide for all of those in need in the limited space they have. In view of the likely demand over the winter months would it be possible to upgrade the kitchen facilities at the hall to include an oven and fridge in order to cater for this? There was some discussion on this subject and it was agreed to investigate the possibility of providing this further with the hall committee.

28. ASSISTANT CLERK'S SALARY

Due to the confidential nature of this item members of the public and press were excluded from the meeting.

Resolved to approve contracted scale point increase for the Assistant Clerk.

29. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 5th October 2022 – Amenities Committee meeting.

Wednesday 19th October 2022 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 21.05hrs