

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Bollen, Hartford-Beynon, Koning (Chairman), Molyneux, Russell, Swambo and Wall.
Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk), David Stevens (Assistant Clerk).

1. ATTENDANCE

- a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillors Drew, Edwards, McBride and Tullett.
- b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Drew, Edwards, McBride 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 16th November 2022.
- b) **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.
No members of the public present.

5. POLICING IN THE PARISH

- a) **To note** Police crime statistics for Tidenham and Sedbury can be accessed following this link.
<https://www.ukcrimestats.com/Neighbourhood/6107>
It was noted that the incidence of violent crime was higher and that there was a concentration of incidents reported in the area of the new Crane Pool Avenue estate.

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 23rd November 2022. Questions to Councillor Wall, Chairman of the Committee. Councillor Molyneux asked if there was any feedback regarding the dog walking area – the District Council are dealing with this.
- ii) Finance and Probity Committee meeting held on 30th November 2022. There were no questions to Councillor Bollen, Chairman of the Committee.
- iii) Mopla Cottages Committee meeting held on 30th November 2022. Questions to Councillor Bollen, Chairman of the Committee. Councillor Swambo asked if the hedge outside No. 2 Mopla Cottages could be cut back for safer access to the recreation ground. Clerk to liaise with the letting agent.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Chairman reported that GRCC have now compiled initial results from the Housing needs survey which will be discussed early next year. On this point the Assistant Clerk reported that he had received a survey regarding school place requirements. Councillor Hartford-Beynon expressed concern about the effect the posting of 1st Rifles for 2 years in 2023 would have on local facilities and school places as they will not be replaced at Beachley Barracks during the period they are away. Clerk to liaise with District Councillor Nick Evans.

Councillors Hartford-Beynon and Swambo asked if the recent Government announcement to relax housing targets will impact the Local Plan. Councillor Molyneux will make enquiries in her capacity as District Councillor. Councillor Wall had been approached regarding concerns that Two Rivers Housing are not properly screening tenants and that some requiring more supportive accommodation have been housed locally causing problems for other tenants.

8. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McFARLING

Resolved to note report from Chris McFarling who was unable to attend the meeting.

9. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Resolved to receive and approve the Parish Clerk's Report. It was suggested that all councillors should be attending regular training courses and that there was a need for local courses which will be sourced in future. Councillor Molyneux suggested that each councillor should give a subject on which they would like further training. Clerk to arrange.

10. YOUTH WORKER REPORT

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

A Carol Service organised by local mums, supported by Emily, has been arranged at the Royal British Legion. Councillor Swambo reported Facebook posts thanking Emily for her support.

11. WYEBANK ROAD FENCE

Resolved to approve payment of an extra £180 plus VAT – total £216 to WM Garden Services Ltd for unforeseen work during erection of the fence in Wyebank Rd – breaking of buried tarmac path and re-patching.

12. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERIES

Resolved to note payment of £684 for 2 x defibrillator batteries has been made following their red alert status and that the cost of these had increased by £132 inc VAT from the amount agreed by the Amenities Committee. In view of the urgency this was paid as an emergency after informing the Chairman of the payment.

13. SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL COOKER

Resolved to note on attempting to order the agreed cooker for the kitchen, it was out of stock with no date available for delivery. Following a meeting with the Chairman an alternative Rangemaster Professional cooker with similar capacity was ordered. This model was £1790.83 plus VAT – total £2148.99 which represents a saving of £611.01 and has been paid for. However, the cooker is slightly different in size and necessitated a minor alteration to the kitchen cupboards which will be reflected in the final bill from the builder.

14. FINANCE

- a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for November 2022.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement** for November 2022.
- c) **Resolved to receive and note** the Receipts / Payments spreadsheet to November 2022 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 30th November 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 30th November 2022.
- e) **Resolved to receive and note** the YETI Project Spreadsheet 2021/2022 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 30th November 2022.
- f) **Resolved to receive and note** the YETI Project Spreadsheet 2022/2023 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 30th November 2022.
- g) **Resolved to note** grant application for £5000 from the Gloucestershire Thriving Communities Fund has been approved towards the 2022/23 YETI Project.
- h) **Resolved to note** grant application for £4000 from the Gloucestershire Build Back Better Fund has been approved in principle towards the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall kitchen refurbishment.

- i) **Resolved to note** grant application for £4000 from the Mopla Cottages Committee from Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall has been approved towards the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall kitchen refurbishment and has been paid to Tidenham Parish Council which has underwritten the project pending grant funding.

15. **BUDGET / PRECEPT 2023/2024**

- a) **Resolved to approve** proposed budget - as recommended by the Finance and Probity Committee. (Finance Committee Draft Minutes Dec 22 page 4).
- b) **Resolved to approve** Precept amount of £113,354 - as recommended by the Finance and Probity Committee.

Councillor Russell suggested liaising with other local parish and town councils to see if there were any areas of common ground where costs etc. could be shared. Also, that whilst the precept amount represents an increase of around 5.6%, current cost of living predictions are for 10-11%. Councillors discussed that much of the budget is known costs but that general reserves may be drawn on if necessary.

16. **INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDIT 2022/23**

- a) **Resolved to approve** appointment of GAPTC to conduct an Internal Audit within the Terms of Reference, for the year 2022 – 2023 at a cost of £275 plus mileage @ 45p per mile from the appointed internal auditor's home.
- b) **Resolved to note** PKF Littlejohn have been appointed as external auditor for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27.

17. **TRAINING**

Resolved to note Councillor Russell has been booked to attend the Being a Better Councillor course in January, cost £50.

18. **JUBILEE STONE**

- a) **Resolved to note** Forestry England will be maintaining the area around the Stone according to best ecological practices.
- b) **Resolved to approve** signing of Forestry England letter confirming acceptance of the Parish Council's responsibility for the maintenance of the bench and sign it installed at the Stone.

19. **COMMUNITY HUB EVENT**

Resolved to approve working party of Councillors Koning, Swambo and Tullett to plan the next Community Hub event on 18th March 2023. Help from other councillors may be required nearer the time. Planning to start in January 2023.

20. **TREES SHIRLEY'S GROVE**

Resolved to approve the 21 trees in Shirley's Grove to be removed from the Tree Survey scheduled for 2023 now that the War Memorial Hall Trust is responsible for the area, and the Trust should be informed of the requirement for the survey to be carried out. Clerk to inform Trust.

21. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The Clerk had received a request that agendas should be published on local Facebook community groups- Councillors discussed this but felt that it was not appropriate to post on other groups and that members of the community with internet access could view agendas on the Parish Council website. They agreed that a post on the Parish Council Facebook page notifying people that a council meeting agenda had been published might be useful.

A quotation from the builder for the re-instatement of the disabled toilet at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall had been received. This will be an agenda item in January.

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:

Michael Swambo – the new Robin bus service is great but it doesn't go into Chepstow. Clerk to contact Chris McFarling and GCC.

Sheila Bollen – due to increased hall usage a defibrillator should be available at the Hall. Councillor Swambo to provide details of the Community Safety Partnership at FoDDC.

Clive Russell – neither of the local businesses he had approached wanted to place an advert in the newsletter at this time.

23. CLERK'S SALARY

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

To consider increase in salary for Carol Hinton from 1st January 2023 according to Contract of Employment, and to pay from that date.

24. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 21st December 2022 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 11^h January 2023 – Amenities Committee meeting.

Wednesday 18th January 2023 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 20.55 hrs