

# TIDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfred's Rd, Sedbury NP16 7AQ.

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Jan Koning - Chairman, Sheila Bollen, Graham Drew, Jane Edwards, Maria Hartford-Beynon, Bethan Kotecha, Liz McBride, Michael Swambo, Audrey Tullett and Chris Wall.

19 members of the public.

Also Present: Mrs Carol Hinton – Parish Clerk, Mr David Stevens – Clerk's Assistant.  
Nick Evans – District Councillor and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.  
Michelle Hayes – The Rising Sun Committee, Woodcroft.

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

The Chairman welcomed all present adding that it was good to see so many people, particularly this being the first face to face Annual Parish meeting for three years, and in the new venue for Parish Council meetings. He hoped people had enjoyed the refreshments provided by the Hall Committee. The Chairman welcomed three new Councillors (Jane Edwards, Bethan Kotecha and Liz McBride) who had joined the Council since the last meeting and Emily Timmins, Youth Worker, who had joined as a member of staff in October 2021.

**1. Apologies:** had been received from Councillor Helen Molyneux and County Councillor Chris McFarling but not recorded at the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021:**

The minutes were approved as presented and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

The Chairman explained that the requirement for public rights of way to be registered by 2026 has now been removed but the Parish Council is continuing to work on ensuring these are registered. Gethyn Davies pointed out that it is important rights of way be walked regularly in order that private landlords do not close them.

### **4. Presentation on behalf of Tidenham Parish Council by Michael Swambo:**

Michael had prepared a presentation giving more detail on items in the Chairman's Report.

PCSO Natalie Lang, who had worked in the area for 15 years, has moved to another role and was publicly thanked for her hard work and dedication to the community.

The Council committees had continued to be busy throughout the year with the number of planning applications increasing by 82%. Following years of working with Gloucestershire County Council Highways, Castleford Hill has now been resurfaced and made safe.

The remaining £1500 in the Council's grant budget has been earmarked for emergency items that may be required for Ukrainian refugees staying in the Parish.

As one of its Platinum Jubilee projects, the Parish Council, in conjunction with the War Memorial Hall Trust is installing a shelter / bandstand on the Tutshill recreation ground for the community to use.

Tidenham Parochial Church Council, with funding from the Parish Council amongst others, has employed a part time well being Chaplain, Nikki Bullivant, who provides pastoral care in the Parish. Thank you to Nikki for 'going the extra mile' in her much needed work.

In September 2021 the Parish Council resolved to recognise the climate emergency. As part of its commitment to help make a difference, the Parish Council has allocated land for a community garden and the first public meeting for this will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> June – this will be an open meeting for everybody interested. Also, using funds from a Build Back Better grant from Glos. County Council, 30 volunteers planted native wildflower plug plants on a trial area in Wyebank Road which, if introduced elsewhere, can help reduce mowing and costs, and also provides a much needed habitat for pollinators.

Another Jubilee project paid for by the Council has been to arrange for Forestry England to clear the area around the Queen Victoria Jubilee Stone on Parson's Allotment and provide a bench and information plaque that will be installed in the next week or so.

Emily Timmins was appointed as the Parish Youth Worker in October 2021. Emily has worked hard engaging with children of all ages in the Parish and it has been good to see so many being involved in activities she has arranged. The role is being supported by a social prescribing fund of £10k over two years provided through a grant from Glos. County Council which can help change lives – for example helping with a bus pass to college where otherwise it would be difficult to attend. Emily is currently undertaking a survey of pupils at Wyedean School on what young people want to see in their community in order that future events and activities can be specifically tailored. If anybody has any ideas, please contact Emily.

Sedbury Space, supported by funding from the Parish Council, organised the first community Christmas Day Lunch last year which was very successful. Thanks to community generosity enough funds remain for a monthly Sunday lunch to be provided on the first Sunday each month – thanks to all of the community volunteers.

In order to help increase community engagement, the first community hub event was held at the Hall bringing together local groups showcasing what they do in the community. These events will take place periodically throughout the Parish.

Michael Swambo finished by saying that the past year has been very busy and the Parish Council had managed to achieve a lot. Local community groups need new members to be involved.

## **5. Police Report:**

A representative from the Police had not been able to attend the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that Councillors review the latest available crime statistics at each full Council meeting and have visits from the PCSO and Police officers.

## **6. Reports:**

- **Parish Council Chairman's Report** – the Chairman was pleased to report that the Council now has a full complement of Councillors. It has been good to see new faces coming through for co-option and more people are welcome to be involved, even as associate members. The Parish Council does have limited powers but it does try to do as much as it can within those powers.

The Chairman reported that the Forest of Dean District Council is currently reviewing its Local Plan to 2041 and is trying to engage with towns and parishes throughout the District. The Parish Council is engaging with the consultation and has been considering a Neighbourhood Development Plan or other plan. Having taken advice from experts, the Council is considering conducting a Character Assessment of the Parish which is a diverse area. If this is to go ahead the community will need to engage and be involved, for example photographing the area. GRCC, on behalf of the Forest of Dean District Council, are conducting a Housing Needs Survey in the Parish. The Survey is now being sent to all residents and

the results will be used a part of the Local Plan. The Survey is specifically to identify housing needs. The Parish Council has identified the need for more starter homes within the Parish and has been in contact with the Community Land Trust, although this would be a long term project. It is important that residents complete the survey – it's the community's chance to have a say in future requirements. The Chairman reported that Tidenham Parish Council is one of the few parishes in the Forest of Dean to be part of the Forest Climate Action Group which will hopefully help the Council identify things that can be done by the Council to help with the Climate Emergency.

Sale of the National Dive Centre – local residents and the Parish Council have now had introductory letters from the new owners with some information on the proposed use of the site.

John Powell – Council should ask in a newsletter for photographs for the Character Assessment – the Chairman replied that this has not been finally agreed and that help such as photographs would be sought from the community.

Gethyn Davies – still feels that the Parish Council could have received more from the new developments S106 monies but understood that details of these have been obtained by the Council. He urged the Council to consider homes for elderly people who may wish to stay in the area and which would then free up family homes. He commented that post war council houses were of a good standard and size and that this 'Parker Morrison' standard should be re-introduced. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had raised the question of early negotiations by the Parish Council in S106 agreements at a recent District Council Town and Parish Council Meeting.

John Powell – requested that the monies in the 'Funds for Significant Future Projects' be used to complete the full length of fence in Wyebank Road.

- **Financial Statements from the Parish Council and Mopla Cottages Charity.**

There were no comments or questions on the statements.

- **Reports from:**

- **Tidenham War Memorial Hall & Recreation Ground Trust.**

- **Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Charity.**

- **Poor's Allotment Trust.** John Powell incorrectly stated that there is not a full complement of Trustees and asked who the Chairman of Poor's Allotments was. The Chairman advised Mr Powell that he is the Chairman of the Trust and that for Trust matters he should primarily contact the Honorary Secretary. There were no other comments or questions about the reports.

**7. Public Forum:**

District Councillor and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Nick Evans introduced himself. Mr Evans, as District Councillor, stated that key infrastructure should be in place prior to any further housing development in the Parish and that he will be supporting this wherever possible. His role is also helping members of the community navigate the Council services, particularly where online access is difficult. Mr Evans is also fighting for local bus services which he acknowledged are struggling at the moment. Mr Evans is also the District Armed Forces Champion. A new Community Covenant has recently been signed and he is keen to support this in Tidenham, particularly with people new to the area. As Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Evans is keen to support the Community Speedwatch initiative, which Tidenham Parish Council is already involved in and which gives an opportunity for a police presence in the area. A new initiative is being introduced – volunteer Police Community Support Officers are being introduced with a focus on community engagement.

Michelle Hayes – introduced herself as Chairman of the Save Our Sun Committee that has, for nine years, been trying to save The Rising Sun pub in Woodcroft for the community. This has at last been purchased and community shares are now for sale. Volunteer workers will be working on the restoration to provide a not-for-profit pub and community hub for the whole Tidenham community which will include Job Clubs, Mums and Tots, subsidised coffee mornings etc., and will consist of an upstairs community room with full downstairs accessibility. Profits to go back into the community. The

pub has been one of only two in the country to successfully bid for a match funded £175k levelling up grant. The pub will hopefully open in the autumn. Councillor Koning asked if there will be liaison with other community related groups in the area and co-ordination with other local competitors? Ms Hayes reported that there will be wide spread consultation throughout the Parish. Gethyn Davis asked if the Council Tax band will still be the same?

Mr John Powell – introduced himself as a member of the community and ex parish councillor. He stated that councillors should acquaint themselves with the Nolan principles of public office and the Council's Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. He had identified that two councillors had committed a criminal offence by having incorrect Registers of Interest published on the Council's website which did not show that they were Trustee representatives for the Tidenham War Memorial Hall Trust. He felt this was a damning indictment of the Council. The Chairman, Jan Koning, asked Mr Powell what his question was, adding that as a procedural matter this should have been notified via the Clerk or at a Parish Council meeting, which this is not, and it would be looked into. Councillor Swambo apologised that these two small errors had happened and that these will be dealt with as soon as possible. The councillors involved are wholly committed to serving the community in many ways and do so as volunteers as well as their jobs. Councillor Swambo added that it was a shame that Mr Powell never had anything positive to say about the work of the Parish Council. Under his authority as Chairman of the meeting, Councillor Koning instructed Mr Powell to refrain from further negative comments on the matter, re-iterating that concerns should be notified to the Clerk or at a Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting hoping that members of the community present had felt that, other than the final interaction, it had been a positive meeting and that all Parish Councillors were committed to serving on behalf of the community as best they could.

**The meeting closed at 20.08hrs**