

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.**

**Present:** Councillors: Bollen, Drew, Hartford-Beynon, Koning (Chairman), Russell, Strong, Swambo, Tullett and Wall.  
Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk).

Chris McFarling – Glos. County Councillor.

Adrian Birch – Forest of Dean District Councillor.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

a) **To receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend. **All Present.**

b) **To consider for acceptance** those apologies received with reasons for absence.

Apologies had been received from David Stevens (Assistant Clerk) and Emily Timmins (Youth Worker).

**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.**

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

a) **Resolved to approve** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023.

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

**4. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS**

a) **Resolved to approve** co-option of Joseph Jenkins to the Parish Council, who duly signed the Acceptance of Office.

b) **Resolved to approve** co-option of Thomas Allan to the Parish Council, who was unable to attend the meeting and will be invited to sign the Acceptance of Office at a later date.

c) **Resolved to approve** co-option of Elliot Cracknell to the Parish Council, who was unable to attend the meeting and will be invited to sign the Acceptance of Office at a later date.

**5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

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

**None Present.**

**6. 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>

**7. COMMITTEES**

**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 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

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

ii) Amenities Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The Draft minutes for the meeting were not available.

**8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The Chairman and the Clerk had met with Alethea Blunstead of FVAF regarding the Youth Worker role and potential future funding for the Youth Project (YETI).

**9. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

a) **To note** report from County Councillor Chris McFarling.

Cllr McFarling reported on the recent County Council meeting at which a roads emergency was declared and agreement made to request more money from the Government for pothole repairs. Also, under the National Planning Policy Framework a carbon footprint for quarry plans will now be required. There were several other motions that were not considered including the urgent need for foster parents within the County. At Thursday's Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee, a case will be presented for the introduction of 8 pothole 'identify and fix' teams to work across the County. Within Tidenham Parish – the speed awareness camera on the Beachley Road corner is now working and chevrons are to be added to the road. The Wyebank estate is due to be spray injected patched, with Denmark Drive later in the year. The vegetation will be cut back on the A48 steps and a feasibility study has been requested for the A48 crossing point. There will be a meeting at Castleford Hill regarding pavement and cycling improvements on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Japanese Knotweed has been identified in Alvington and is being treated.

**b) To note** report from a District Councillor Adrian Birch.

Cllr Birch introduced himself as one of the new District Councillors for Tidenham Ward with the Communities Portfolio. Cllr Birch gave an overview of the recent District Cabinet meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July which covered, amongst other things, treasury management and activity reporting and procurement of community alarms available for fitting, if eligible, through funding to deal with the autumn switchover from analogue to digital phone systems. Cllr Koning asked if the new waste contract with Ubico will mean that all plastic waste such as punnets will be taken for recycling as in other areas? The new Cabinet member for waste is Andy Moore who is looking into the whole issue. Currently uncontaminated bottles have a recycling value but contaminated and other waste plastic does not and therefore commercial recycling contractors will not take them.

**10. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT**

**Resolved to receive and note** the Parish Clerk's Report.

**11. YOUTH PROJECT**

**Resolved to note** no report from Emily Timmins, Youth Worker this month.

**12. FINANCE**

**a) Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for June 2023.

**b) Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for June 2023.

**13. SICKNESS ABSENCE POLICY**

**Resolved to adopt** draft Sickness Absence Policy as presented.

**14. FATAL ACCIDENT – BEACHLEY ROAD – 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023**

**Resolved to note** the Parish Council has been in regular contact with the Police and Gloucestershire Highways for several years regarding the issue of traffic behaviour on Beachley Road, them being the only organisations that can recommend and implement any changes. The Parish Council has now been able to arrange a meeting with all relevant stakeholders to discuss potential traffic measures. Nick Evans, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, has agreed to hold a public meeting – the date of which is to be announced.

**15. CLIMATE RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PROJECT**

**Resolved to approve** invitation from Forest of Dean District Council (Climate Emergency Office) to joining the Climate Resilience Implementation Plan Project, leading to a Toolkit for the preparation of adaptation plans for Tidenham Parish Council.

**16. SAFER STREETS 5 FUNDING**

**Resolved to approve** suggestions for practical solutions in the Parish to make areas safer, particularly regarding the safety of women and girls, pending the launch of the Safer Streets 5 funding as presented by Damion Collins (FoDDC Community Safety Lead) at the June meeting, as follows:

Lighting improvements on the old road up from the Wye Bridge which is currently poorly lit. Also lighting at the bottom end of Mopla Road which is dark and attracts anti-social behaviour.

CCTV cameras in King Alfred's Road, A48 steps and the A48 layby.

Tutshill Lollipop man – body cam required for safety.

Storage facility in car park of Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall for Police bicycles to enable ease of local use.

**17. BY-ELECTION COSTS**

**Resolved to note** email from Becky Powell, Forest of Dean District Council Electoral Services, regarding future by-election costs.

**18. FoDDC LOCAL PLAN**

**Resolved to note** response from Sid Phelps, Cabinet member for Planning Policy & Local Plan 2041, Forest of Dean District Council, to the Council's request for information on how the Local Plan will be approached under the new cabinet. Clerk to approach Barbara Pond regarding next steps following the Housing Needs Survey.

**19. SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**Resolved to approve** (in principle) request from the Centre for Sustainable Energy to carry out an energy assessment of the Hall as a testbed for the tool they are developing for carrying out such assessments. This would be free of charge.

**20. GAZEBOS**

**Resolved to approve** the two newly purchase gazebos be stored at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall and be available for use by hall hirers and members of the community. The hire for community groups will be free of charge. Private hire will be at the discretion of the Hall Committee. The terms and conditions of hire/loan to be agreed with hirers by the Hall in advance. Sample terms agreed subject to adding a damage deposit payable of £20 for all hire and that the gazebos should not be used in high winds or where high winds are forecast.

**21. LONG / COMMITTED SERVICE AWARD**

**Resolved to approve** introduction of a discretionary award for councillors leaving after a period of long service of 10 or 12 years and/or leaving having 'gone the extra mile' for the community, and how such an award might be administered. Clerk to prepare guidance document for consideration at the September meeting.

**22. CORRESPONDENCE**

**To receive and consider** any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.  
Clerk to forward email regarding Social Media training on 10<sup>th</sup> August, offered by the Monitoring Officer.

**23. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND FEEDBACK FROM LEAD COUNCILLOR ROLES**

**Resolved to receive and note** any matters which councillors wish to raise or feedback and where appropriate add to the agenda for the following meeting or meetings of committees:

Councillor Swambo – the NEETS Project is now up and running well and providing walking guides on the Greenway. Also, work has started on a new project introducing a unified youth service for the Forest of Dean in conjunction with FVAF.

Councillor Drew – Neighbourhood Watch alerts have been issued on preventing burglaries in hot weather, particularly whilst windows are open. Also advice not to keep car keys near the front door – there have been thefts of vehicles parked on private driveways where keys have been easily accessible.

Councillor Jenkins – informed councillors of the Friends of Offa's Mead Academy summer fete on Friday 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councillor Strong – the Chairman had asked that Wydean Academy be contacted following a Facebook post asking for scientific calculators for use in school. The Principle has been contacted but as yet no reply.

Councillor Hartford-Beynon – can the Council issue a list of things for which it is responsible to avoid future confusion as well as a list of where to go to for other common issues? Clerk to prepare.

**24. FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Finance and Probity Committee meeting.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Mopla Cottages Committee meeting.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Amenities Committee meeting.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Full Council meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 20.39hrs**