

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Allan, Bollen, Cracknell, Drew, Jenkins, Koning, Russell, Strong, Swambo, Tullett and Wall.

Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk). David Stevens – Assistant Clerk.

County Councillor – Chris McFarling. District Councillor – Johnathan Lane.

1. ATTENDANCE

a) **Resolved 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. All Present.**

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.

Councillor Jenkins declared an interest in item 17 f).

b) To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a) **Resolved to approve** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2023.

b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. **There were none.** The Chairman has laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day service on behalf of the Council.

4. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Resolved to approve co-option of Janet Stead to the Parish Council, who duly signed the Acceptance of Office.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public. 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> UK Crime Stats have been contacted and this link has now been re-instated.

7. COMMITTEES

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

i). Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 25th October 2023.

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

ii) Amenities Committee meeting held on 8th November 2023.

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

8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Chairman reminded councillors, particularly those on the Planning and Highways Committee, of the meeting arranged by Nick Evans on Thursday 16th November as a follow up to the response to the fatal accident on Beachley Road earlier in the year.

SARA have issued an invitation to councillors to visit the Beachley Station. Councillor Russell expressed an interest in attending.

It had been announced that 25 families from Afghanistan are being temporarily housed at Beachley. It was disappointing that the Parish Council was not notified direct through official channels. District Councillor Lane had heard this through the District Council's communications team.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Resolved to note report from Chris McFarling.

Councillor Tullett asked for more information on the situation with Publica. Councillor McFarling reported that the situation had to be reviewed for potential cost savings and bringing some services back to the District Council for operational reasons. The proposals need to be approved by the full council and will need to take account of staff terms and conditions.

Councillor Koning reported that the Amenities Committee has recommended a budget amount of £500 for treatment of Japanese Knotweed. Also – now that new waste recycling vehicles are being acquired will the DC be looking to recycle more items as are other local authorities, regardless of the cost benefits? Councillor McFarling explained that plastic materials able to be recycled are limited and the DC has chosen not to co-mingle those that cannot be currently re-cycled. By doing this there is less chance of contamination. Any plastics not recyclable and those contaminated are sent to be incinerated which is not eco-friendly. More recycling will gradually be introduced when processes available. Councillor McFarling stated that he felt that ultimately producers of the products should be responsible for their disposal and recycling. Councillor Stead had been informed by the DC that more recycling collections were not being done due to the vehicles negotiating narrow lanes. Councillor McFarling re-iterated that restrictions on recycling were caused by the destination of the waste. The District Council do not send any waste to landfill.

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. Clerk to arrange meeting for the Youth Working Group. Councillor Stead expressed an interest in joining the Group.

12. FINANCE

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

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

13. SAFER STREETS FUNDING

Resolved to note the list in order of priority as voted by councillors has been forwarded to Damion Collins as follows:

1. CCTV cameras in King Alfred's Road, A48 steps and the A48 layby.
2. Tutshill Lollipop man – body cam required for safety.
3. Storage facility in car park of Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall for Police bicycles to enable ease of local use.
4. Lighting improvements on the old road up from the Wye Bridge which is currently poorly lit.
5. Lighting at the bottom end of Mopla Road which is dark and attracts anti-social behaviour.

Clerk to contact Damion Collins regarding obtaining costings for the items.

14. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Resolved to approve adoption of Health and Safety Policy.

15. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Resolved to approve adoption of Equality and Diversity Policy.

16. GRANT POLICY

Resolved to approve adoption of Grant Policy.

17. ELECTRIC COMMUNITY VEHICLE

a) **Resolved to note** the quotation for the electric vehicle agreed at the October meeting has been extended until 23 November 2023.

b) **Resolved to approve** quotation for insurance of Citroen E-Space Tourer XL, 100kw Business Edition (9 seat) 5dr Auto by QBE UK Ltd, through AJ Gallagher, specialist councils insurance broker, of £1267.18 for first year's premium with no no-claims bonus and including any driver over 25 years old. Drivers aged 71 to 77 to be named.

- c) **Resolved to approve** naming the vehicle project as Tidenham Parish Council Community Transport for the purposes of livery etc.
- d) **Resolved to note** document from Forest of Dean District Council confirming funds for the project and the payment process.
- e) **Resolved to approve** payment of purchase price for the vehicle and associated costs from reserves by the Clerk as required pending re-imbursement by the District Council on presentation of invoice.
Councillor Jenkins declared an interest in the following item and did not take part in the vote.
- f) **Resolved to approve** quotation for installation of charger from Futurecell Ltd of £2377.00 plus VAT – total cost £2852.40. This to include upgrading of the fuse board at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall to the current wiring regulations requirements in order to incorporate the charge point. It had not been possible to obtain like for like quotes for this item.
- g) **Resolved to note** the charger measures the electricity used to charge the vehicle to allow re-imbursement of this cost to the Hall.
- h) **Resolved to approve** working group of councillors to produce draft Standard Operating Procedures for the Project to include user and driver requirements, training requirements, operating and charging requirements, governance etc. for consideration at the December meeting. Councillors Allan, Koning and Swambo volunteered.
- i) **Resolved to note** a suitable booking app is being researched and will be added to the December agenda for consideration of purchase.
- j) **Resolved to note** the original CIC can no longer manage the vehicle and there have been offers to do this from members of the community and a local community organisation. This to be finalised at a later date. Councillor McFarling asked about the charge for use of the vehicle – there will be no charge but users will be asked for a donation for its use.

18. SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL

Councillor Russell declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the debate or vote.

Resolved to approve Anthony Roch, handyman, to repair Fire Door at the Hall, add No Parking sign to the car park gates and remove overgrown vegetation from the car park perimeters at his hourly rate as agreed by the Amenities Committee.

19. COMMUNITY GARDEN

To consider date and venue for community meeting regarding the Community Garden. **This to be agreed at a later date, to be a Saturday in January 2024.**

Councillor Jenkins is looking at a possibility of funding through the Rural England Prosperity Fund. Councillor McFarling suggested the Build Back Better Fund.

20. GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Resolved to approve selection of Tasha Saunders, Lydney Town Council and Carol Harris, Lydney Town Council from the 3 Forest District representatives nominated for the GAPTC Executive Committee.

21. STAFF SALARIES

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

The Clerk expressed concern that information from a confidential item at the October meeting had appeared in a FaceBook post. Further breaches of confidentiality will be reported to the Monitoring Officer.

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 for local government employees.

Councillors resolved to approve increases as per the agreement for members of staff.

22. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to receive and note any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.

Two Freedom of Information requests regarding the electric vehicle had been received and responded to. Each member of the public had been invited to attend the meeting to express their concerns and hear debate by councillors, but had not attended. The Clerk reported that it had been re-iterated in the responses that the vehicle is not being funded through the precept or other public money, but by funds provided through Section

106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and which is to be used solely to help improve air quality in the Parish.

23. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND FEEDBACK FROM LEAD COUNCILLOR ROLES

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 Drew – any progress regarding the Ormerod Road roundabout? Clerk awaiting response from Two Rivers Housing.

Councillor Swambo – has discussed with Police the possibility of installing a 4k camera on Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall overlooking the field as a response to incidents in the area.

Councillor Bollen – Haydn Bynon will cut up and remove the broken goal posts in the hall car park.

Councillor Tullett – the pavement Sedbury Lane/Beachley Road (Buttington Hill) is slippery due to leaves etc.

Councillor Strong – Tump Farm, including the solar farm, is up for sale.

County Councillor Chris McFarling and District Councillor Johnathan Lane asked if they could speak at this point.

Councillor McFarling commended councillors for persevering with the exemplary electric vehicle project despite unpleasant ongoing social media comments. He will be arranging a report and communication at District level.

Councillor Lane also commended councillors, commenting that it is easier to do nothing and sit on the sidelines and snipe than it is to persevere, as councillors have done, under challenging circumstances.

24. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 22nd November 2023 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 29th November 2023 – Finance and Probity Committee meeting followed by Mopla Cottages Committee.

Wednesday 13th December 2023 – Full Parish Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 20.36hrs