

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th October 2023 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

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

Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk).

2 members of the public.

1. ATTENDANCE

a) Resolved to receive apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillors Bollen, Cracknel and Swambo.

b) Resolved to accept those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Bollen, Cracknell and Swambo.

Clerk to send card to Councillor Cracknell.

Apologies had also been received from David Stevens, Assistant Clerk.

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 September 2023.

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.

Dr Lesley Moore asked who is Chairman of Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. The Chairman stated that this is Hall business, but explained the process for appointing Parish Council representative Trustees which had taken place in May as it does every Annual Council Meeting and, at the Trust meeting on 18 July 2023, he was elected as Interim-Chairman.

Ms Jan Stead asked if there was any news on reducing the 50mph speed limit on Beachley Road. The Clerk explained the actions taken so far and that the Police and Gloucestershire Highways are awaiting the outcome of the inquest into the recent fatal accident.

5. POLICING IN THE PARISH

To note Police crime statistics for Tidenham and Sedbury can be accessed following this link.

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

Councillors had noticed that this link is no longer working for the Tidenham and Sedbury area, it showing that the stats are no longer available. Clerk to investigate and report back.

6. COMMITTEES

Resolved to receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees already circulated, enclosed herewith or to be circulated and to consider any questions arising from them.

i). Planning, Development Control and Highways Committee meeting held on 27th September 2023.

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

Councillor Russell commented that the Wyebank area seems to be due for resurfacing during the next 6 weeks.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Revd Treharne has asked for a Council representative to lay a Remembrance wreath at the church on behalf of the Council. There being nobody else available, the Chairman will attend.

A recent launch of a consultancy project with GA Consulting Ltd, funded by the District Council, will allow the development of a Toolkit for towns and parishes in the District to help develop resilience in their communities. The Chairman will feedback as the consultation progresses.

The Parish Council has managerial roles within local organisations with representative trustees for Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Trust, Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall and Poor's Allotments. Poor's Allotments land has previously been registered to individuals who are not trustees, and not the Charity. Trustees will therefore be looking to change this through a legal process.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Resolved to note report from Chris McFarling, County Councillor, who had not attended the meeting.

Clerk to ask for clarification on the District Council motion on the future relationship with Publica. Also, Clerk to ask for clarification on the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) process – its difficulties and why these processes appear to be secretive.

9. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Resolved to receive and approve the Parish Clerk's Report.

10. YOUTH PROJECT

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

11. FINANCE

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

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

c) **Resolved to note** the second part of the annual precept of £56,677.00 has been received from the District Council.

d) **Resolved to note** Lloyds Bank account will be paperless from 30 October 2023, in view of the access to online statements and the Council's commitment to the climate change emergency.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

a) **Resolved to approve** appointment of Councillor Allan to the Planning and Highways Committee.

b) **Resolved to approve** appointment of Councillor Jenkins to the Finance and Probity and Mopla Cottages Committees.

13. PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS AND PUBLIC AND CHARITABLE BODIES

a) **Resolved to approve** appointment of Councillors Cracknell and Russell to the YETI project (subject to confirmation by Councillor Cracknell).

b) **Resolved to approve** appointment of Councillor Strong to the Staffing Sub Committee.

c) **Resolved to approve** appointment of Councillor Russell to the Forest Climate Network and Councillor Swambo to the Forest Community Energy Group.

d) **Resolved to approve** appointment of Councillors Drew and Jenkins as representatives for the Police and Crime Commissioner Councillor Advocacy Scheme.

e) **Resolved to approve** appointment of Councillor Tullett as representative councillor trustee to the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Charity.

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD SCHEME – QUALITY AWARD

a) **Resolved to approve** applying for the Local Council Quality Award at a total cost of £130, including £50 registration fee and £80 assessment fee this being a reduced amount reflecting the achievement of the Foundation Award in March 2023.

b) **Resolved to note** the closing date for the application is 5th January 2024 with the assessment being undertaken March 2024.

15. PARISH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT SESSION

Resolved to approve appointment of Kim Bedford, Local Council Trainer, as facilitator for a Council development session on Wednesday 31st January 2023 at 6pm at a cost of £375 plus mileage @ 45p per mile, from the training budget.

16. NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023

Resolved to approve use of Royal Mail Door to Door Service for distribution of the Autumn/Winter Newsletter, including local handover to delivery office, cost £247.50 plus VAT – total cost £297.60 (including 60p advertising levy).

Councillors to provide short personal introduction to themselves for newsletter and Facebook.

17. COMMUNITY GARDEN

- a) **Resolved to note** draft plan for development of Community Garden Project prepared by Councillor Jenkins.
- b) **Resolved to note** funds remaining in Coronation Fund ringfenced reserves for allocation to the Community Garden of £4960 plus £300 anonymous donation already received.
- c) **To consider** possibility of using Darrell Gazebo, ordered for installation at the Tutshill recreation ground, at the community garden site. **This item was not considered.**

18. ELECTRIC COMMUNITY VEHICLE

Item c) was considered prior to item b).

- a) **Resolved to note** Forest of Dean District Council have approved expenditure through S106 monies for the addressing of air pollution, for a community 9 seater electric vehicle. These funds are not from the Precept and can only be used specifically to help address air pollution in the Parish. The District Council will require an annual report on the project.
- b) **Resolved to approve** quotation for purchase of Citroen E-Space Tourer XL, 100kw Business Edition (9 seat) 5dr Auto at £30,970 plus VAT – total price £36871.
- c) **Resolved to approve** the quotation obtained through the Crown Commercial Service (Fleet) satisfies the requirements of Tidenham Parish Council Standing Orders item 18 (c) as a procurement regulated under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- d) **To consider** quotation from Gwent Energy CIC for the installation of a wall box pulsar 7.4 kw max charging with a tethered lead at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall at a cost of £1025 plus VAT – total cost £1230.
- e) **To consider** quotation from Gwent Energy CIC for the installation of a zappi v2.2 7.4 kw charger that can be set to charge on surplus solar power should solar panels be fitted in future, at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall at cost of £1175 plus VAT – total cost £1410.

Items d) and e) were not considered. Clerk to obtain quotation for 22kw charger.

- f) **Resolved to approve** vehicle livery in the form of magnetic stickers up to an amount of £300 subject to agreement on design and size.
- g) **Resolved to note** Clerk is currently awaiting a quotation for the vehicle insurance costs.
The Chairman noted that this project was initially discussed at a meeting with local community groups from across the Parish in early 2022 where access to local amenities and venues was identified as a problem for many of their users. It has been discussed periodically at Council meetings and a final plan, including its operation, was agreed in April 2023.

19. SAFER STREETS 5 FUNDING

- a) **Resolved to note** email from Damion Collins confirming successful bid for grant funding for the measures suggested July 2023.
- b) **To consider** order of priority of the measures suggested. **Resolved** Clerk to collate Councillors' preferences.

DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL OR SENSITIVE NATURE OF ITEMS 20, 21 AND 22, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

20. DEEP – DAYHOUSE QUARRY**21. ASSISTANT CLERK SALARY**

Resolved to approve salary scale point increase for David Stevens from 1st October 2023 as per his contract of employment, and to pay from that date.

22. YOUTH WORKER ADOPTION LEAVE

Resolved to note items regarding Youth Worker Adoption Leave.

23. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Clerk reported that, in view of the current situation, a particularly disturbing hate comment on the Community FaceBook page had been reported to the Police who had subsequently instructed the Group administrator to remove it immediately. This is the second time a post has had to be reported to the Police in the past few months.

24. 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 – the SPAR shop has reported a high incidence of shoplifting among young adults. Clerk to contact PCSO. Also there have been reports of E scooters on pavements which is against the law.

Councillor Koning – will councillors please complete the perceptions of crime survey which has been circulated and shared on website and FaceBook.

25. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 25th October 2023 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 15th November 2023 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 21.07hrs