

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

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

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

County Councillor – Chris McFarling.

PC Mark Evans and PCSO Lucy Smith.

Mr David Sim.

1. ATTENDANCE

a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillors Cracknell and Drew.

b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Cracknell and Drew.

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 13th December 2023.

b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. Application for grant funding through GRCC for village halls to be explored in February, Clerk to obtain more details.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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

Mr Sim thanked the Clerk for information regarding attendance at meetings. Mr Sim asked the Parish Council for support in his bid to obtain agreement for a proposed traffic diversion route to be implemented when emergency and other diversions are required during issues on the A48. Damage had been done to Mr Sim's and his neighbours' properties during the period 15th – 19th December when the old railway bridge was damaged during an accident and the A48 was closed. The lack of diversion signs caused gridlock in the narrow lanes around the area. Mr Sim had contacted the agencies involved and is hoping to hold a meeting locally as soon as possible. Councillors discussed the issue in general and giving formal support will be considered at the Planning and Highways Committee meeting on 24th January.

5. 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>

Councillor Jenkins asked about the increase shown in violent crime. The Police Officers explained that this sometimes happens at this time of year although it is difficult to assess an accurate number of crimes in this category. What is reported and recorded as a violent crime is often not found to be such on investigation. PC Evans reported that incidents of anti-social behaviour have decreased from 2022 to 2023. Such crimes are not necessarily committed by young people. Councillor Russell thanked the officers for their efforts and increased visibility in the Parish. PC Evans informed councillors that there is a big push for more foot patrols in future.

6. COMMITTEES

To receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees and consider any questions arising.

i). Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 20th December 2023.

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

ii) Amenities Committee meeting held on 10th January 2024.

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

7. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The Chairman informed councillors of a recent press release about the District Climate Change Adaptation Project which Tidenham PC is a part of. The aim of the project is for all parish councils to use an adaptation toolkit. The final report will be published next month and comments have been requested on the proposed kit which the Chairman will look at.

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

Resolved to note report from Chris McFarling and the District Councillors.

Councillor McFarling stated that he will be challenging the claim that the County's waste plant is producing green energy, as such plants have been shown to produce similar amounts of carbon dioxide as gas or coal fired power stations. Councillor Russell commented that there is no real alternative available. Councillor Tullett asked that Councillor McFarling continues to tell the truth about such matters as hiding from the problems of climate change won't help tackle them. Councillor Koning commented on the lack of recycling done by the District council where it relates to the separation of different plastic packaging materials. Only plastic bottles are allowed in the green recycle bin; all other plastic packaging needs to go in the general black bin. Some neighbouring Counties are accepting all plastic material. Councillor Jenkins commented that the UK is way behind Europe in tackling the problem of waste recycling. Councillor McFarling stated that we all need to produce less waste.

Councillor Koning had noted in the report that contractors can now be fined for leaving temporary road signs after works have finished. Is there a similar system of fines for broken temporary traffic lights? Councillor McFarling explained that street works are paid for by fees paid by utility companies. Contractors can also be fined for shoddy work and incorrect signage. Councillor McFarling has shared a map and information on the B4228 closure from 24th January to 7th February giving diversion routes and asked that people do not test the system by using narrow local lanes instead. The Clerk to share this on website and social media. Councillor Russell suggested contact telephone numbers be added to signage in case of issues during diversions. Councillor McFarling will look in to this. Councillor Koning suggested that longer term solutions for diversions should be introduced, for example a more prominent sign directing larger vehicles leaving Coleford via Bream and not St Briavels and then the narrow roads through to Tutshill.

9. **PARISH CLERK'S REPORT**

Resolved to receive and note 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 December 2023.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for December 2023.
- c) **Resolved to note** the precept requirement of £122,639 for 2024/25 has been requested from the FoDDC.

12. **BIODIVERSITY POLICY**

Resolved to approve adoption of the draft TPC Biodiversity Policy as a basis to start from and that an action plan should be developed over the coming months. It was suggested a lead councillor may be required. This may come within the remit of the Amenities Committee which has begun to build this in to decisions on amenities in the Parish, and as part of the community garden project, as well as when considering planning applications.

13. **THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANT FEEDBACK**

Resolved to note feedback sent by Clerk to Glos CC. on the Thriving Communities Grant received 2022.

14. **LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME**

Resolved to note the application for the Quality Award scheme has been submitted by the deadline of 5th January 2024.

15. NALC – WINNING STRATEGIES FOR THE FUNDING GAME

Resolved to note feedback from Clerk following attendance at the NALC event – Winning Strategies for the Funding Game. Councillors agreed to investigate further the possibility of a appointing a bid manager and Clerk to contact Andy Reeves, Central Swindon North Parish Council, who spoke at the event for more information.

16. DEVELOPMENT SESSION

Resolved to note - reminder of the training and development session for councillors on 31st January 2024 at 6pm at Dean Close St John's School. Please complete and return the questionnaires to Kim Bedford.

17. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Resolved to note meeting organised by Councillor Jenkins at Sedbury Space on Saturday 17th February at 10am. This to be advertised through social media and posters. The meeting will include discussion on the preferred use for the site and setting up of a management committee.

18. PARISH COUNCIL PLAY EQUIPMENT

Resolved to approve establishing a working group of the Council to advise on a possible major investment in playground equipment. Councillors Cracknell, Stead, Strong and Swambo.

19. COMMUNITY HOSPITAL - CINDERFORD

Resolved to receive and note feedback from Councillor Stead from her visit to the new hospital site on 10th January 2024:

Visit to new community hospital in Cinderford - hopefully opening March to April 2024. Journey time - to the hospital via St Briavels took 39 mins and was 20 miles - from the hospital via Lydney took 53 mins (incl. 10 mins as holdup with faulty traffic lights by the Quarry) and was 19 miles. Parking - for 125 vehicles including 10 disabled and 10 electric charging bays. Outside - steel framed building with lightning protection included - no large buses coming onto site although Dial a Ride etc can park. There will be a bus stop on the road but I spoke to one county councillor who had raised the issue of crossing the road by a bend. Beds - 24 inpatient beds in single rooms with ensuite facilities. This is a reduction of 23 beds compared to Lydney + The Dylke. Reason they stated was that about only half of the beds were being used by F of D patients. Tour of Hospital started on 2nd floor in plant room - Air Source heat exchanger and underfloor heating. There are 2 lifts. There will be no children's inpatient beds. I asked about infection prevention issues and was informed they were happy so far and will be coming next week for a follow up visit. Other facilities include Physio, OT - much emphasis during the visit was on rehabilitation, Xray, scanning (no MRI), Endoscopy Specialist and 2 dental suites, Consultant Rooms, Minor Injuries Unit - separate Children's and Adult's with separate entrances -open 8 am to 8 pm - Lydney staff are to run this unit - OPD and plaster room, Midwifery support but no delivery suites. There will be no onsite kitchen - all food will be via regenerated food purchased outside with storage and reheat areas on the ward. There will be vending machines for visitors and staff. We were also informed that a lot of work was being undertaken with staff to allow for seamless transfer of staff from Lydney and the Dylke. Questions for Matron - Is it free parking? Staffing levels with single cubicles? What actual facilities will be available to Tidenham as GPs are Chepstow based? Any queries we can contact either estates - GHComms@ghc.nhs.uk or project management - GHCestates@ghc.nhs.uk (Kevin Adams).

20. STRENGTHENING OF GOVERNANCE AND EFFICIENCY OF TIDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL ESTATE

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

Councillors agreed that this should be treated as a confidential item.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to receive and note any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.
Email regarding diversion routes from County Councillor Chris McFarling.
Email from Mr Evans asking for information on confidential item.

22. 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 – will be stepping down as Trustee for the Tidenham War Memorial Hall Trust.

Councillor Wall – a replacement Trustee will be required for the Hall. The Chairman had noted that Councillor Drew has not yet been added as a Trustee for the Charity.

23. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 24th January 2024 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 21st February 2024 – Full Parish Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 21.05hrs