

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.**

**Present:** Councillors: Bollen, Cracknell, Drew, Jenkins, Russell, Stead, Strong, Swambo, Tullett and Wall.  
Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk). David Stevens (Assistant Clerk).  
District Councillor – Adrian Birch. 1 member of the public.

**In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Councillor Russell, presided as per Standing Order 3. p.**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

- a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillors Allan and Koning.  
b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Allan and Koning. Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Chris McFarling.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.  
b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. **There were none.**

**4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**To receive and consider** any questions from the Public. **There were none.**

**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>

**6. COMMITTEES**

**Resolved to receive** reports, minutes and recommendations from committees and consider any questions arising.  
i). Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024.  
There were no questions to Councillor Russell, Chairman of the meeting.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**To receive and note any announcements from the Chairman** of the meeting.  
The Vice Chairman informed members of a meeting with DEEP attended by him, the Chairman and the Clerk. DEEP were impressed with the Parish Council and the work and projects it does.

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

**Resolved to note** report from Chris McFarling who had been unable to attend the meeting.  
District Councillor Birch advised councillors that the District Council finances will be discussed at its meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February which can be viewed online. Also - there may be funding available for groups that may wish to set up a local repair shop. One in Lydbrook has been very successful. Also – the DC is meeting with GRCC regarding local affordable housing if the Parish Council knows of any suitable land. The Clerk reported that the PC is already in talks with GRCC on this and will pick this up again later in the year.

**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. PARISH ONLINE**

**Resolved to approve** subscription to Parish Online (digital mapping service) of £216.00 total price (£180 ex VAT) for 21/01/24 to 21/01/25.

**12. FINANCE**

a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for January 2024.

b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for January 2024.

c) **Resolved to note** the annual wayleave payment of £20.68 from National Grid for various poles on Parish Council land has been received and paid into the bank.

**13. GIGACLEAR – SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**Resolved to note** the free 12 months Community Hub Agreement for internet in the Hall with Gigaclear expires in March. The Clerk has applied for an extension of the free service for a further 12 months.

The Clerk reported that an email confirming the second free year had been received, providing the Council displayed the Gigaclear Community Hub logo on its Hall information. The Assistant Clerk has added the Hall to the Council's website and included the logo.

**14. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME**

**Resolved to note** the application for the Quality Award has passed the triage stage of the application process with a few minor additions/amendments needing to be made. The final application has been submitted.

**15. A48 ACCIDENT – MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

**Resolved to note** feedback from meeting with Mr Sim and stakeholders involved with traffic management on A48 during emergency situations. Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.

Councillor Swambo gave an overview of the meeting. Many of the suggestions made are not permissible under highway regulations but the Glos CC Highways manager will look into alternative signage and other measures that may be possible.

**16. DEVELOPMENT SESSION**

**Resolved to note** – feedback from the development session on 31<sup>st</sup> January and report from Kim Bedford.

Councillors agreed that the session had been very useful and that another should be held to discuss the outcomes and planning for the future so that the momentum of the evening is not lost. Clerk to look into dates with Kim Bedford. Councillors were particularly keen to explore ways to minimise time spent on issues the Council cannot affect.

Councillor Birch stated that the Parish Council's role in planning enforcement is important as the local 'eyes and ears'. Councillor Wall commented that enforcement is often not undertaken even when incidents have been reported. Councillor Swambo asked if there was any point in reporting if these cannot be followed up. Councillor Birch reported that the DC is taking steps to deal with the backlog of reports.

**17. COMMUNITY GARDEN**

**Resolved to note** feedback from the meeting organised by Councillor Jenkins at Sedbury Space on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Councillor Jenkins reported that the meeting had been very positive with a good turnout. Using the area as an outdoor learning zone had been the most popular proposed use of the site, as well as a wildlife garden and undercover seating area where people could meet. The consensus over all was that the whole area should be developed for the community, with general enthusiasm for the project. There is now a small management committee. Clerk to publish the report from the meeting. Further meetings will now be arranged to take the project further. Councillor Swambo had attended the meeting and thanked Councillor Jenkins for his work so far and the excellent presentation.

**18. ELECTRIC VEHICLE**

a) **Resolved to note** updated Standard Operating Procedures for the use of the electric vehicle.

Clerk to check insurer's view on licence penalty points and amend the information regarding age limits.

- b) **Resolved to approve** opening of a sub account to the Tidenham Parish Council Lloyds Treasurer's Account for the electric vehicle. Signatories and conditions to remain the same as the main treasurer's account.

19. **SAFER STREETS FUNDING**

- a) **Resolved to approve** Clerk to forward quotations for the 2 x CCTV cameras and the street lighting to the Safer Streets Funding Team once received. The Clerk reported that a quotation had been received just prior to the meeting which had been forwarded to the Safer Streets Team – this for 2 x CCTV camera with 5 years support and online accessibility. The quotation for extra street lighting may not be available before the end of the financial year. Councillors agreed that the CCTV cameras should take priority for the funding now available. If the funding is agreed the Council will be asked to consider installation costs of £200 per camera.
- b) **Resolved to note** the Police no longer require the shed for push bikes at the Hall.
- c) **Resolved to note** Safer Streets Team are dealing direct with Tutshill School regarding the body cam for the Lollipop person.

20. **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY - PROW**

**Resolved to note** feedback from the Glos CC PROW team on issues dealt with in the Parish.

21. **MOD - STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

**Resolved to receive** feedback from Councillors Stead and Tullett, who attended the meeting organised by the MOD on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, as did the Chairman.

The meeting had been informative and mainly concerned the Entitled Persons from Afghanistan and their families who are being housed temporarily at Beachley Barracks. These have special status for their service to British forces. The aim is for their stay to be 72 hours before being settled elsewhere but, that has been up to 4 weeks and sometimes longer. A broker company has been appointed to give welfare support. There are already local volunteers helping and anybody wishing to volunteer help will need to go through the broker company. There are varying levels of language abilities and there is teaching of English as a foreign language available on site. There is on site schooling for children. The Afghans are particularly fond of cricket and Chepstow cricket club have donated equipment.

It was confirmed that the 1<sup>st</sup> Rifles will be back at the Barracks before moving to Caerwent with a date of 2032 being given for this.

Councillor Birch – the DC had now heard that they may now not be moving from Beachley.

22. **POOR'S ALLOTMENTS**

**Resolved to approve** handing back the roles of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer to the Poor's Allotments Charity due to the hours required by the Clerk exceeding the original estimate of 10 per year.

23. **TIDENHAM YOUTH PROJECT**

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

24. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The Clerk had received an email regarding the display of Mark Harper's poster on the noticeboards as the Parish Council is apolitical. Councillors agreed that a poster giving details of the MP and all local councillors etc. should possibly be displayed instead.

25. **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 Swambo – had met with Two Rivers regarding the flats adjacent to the playing field and they had agreed some improvements. They are also looking at ways to stop bikes using the footpaths. A session had been held including Nikki Bullivant to give mentoring and support to local mums and help with broadening horizons for the future.

Councillor Strong – had attended the first part of GAPTC Being a Better Councillor online course which had not been particularly well run. She will report back once part two has been undertaken.

Councillor Wall – could a photograph of all councillors together be taken once the weather is better?

Councillor Stead – had the coroner’s report on the fatal accident on Beachley Road been received yet? The Police had not seen it when asked recently. Also – there is an app showing all defibrillators nationwide – could the Council’s local ones be included? David Stevens to look at app.

Councillor Tullett – what is happening about the Ormerod roundabout? – Clerk has still not had reply from Two Rivers and will chase again. Also – when are the double yellow lines at the top of King Alfred’s Road going to be painted. David Stevens reported that they may not have yet been fully approved.

Councillor Cracknell – following on from the development session he has been thinking about ways to progress the youth project whilst Emily is away and can look to arrange easy to organise events – please let him know any ideas.

## 26. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Finance Committee meeting followed by Mopla Cottages Committee meeting.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Amenities Committee meeting.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Full Parish Council meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 20.40hrs**