

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

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

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

District Councillor – Adrian Birch.

1. ATTENDANCE

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

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

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 21st February 2024.

b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. The Chairman suggested that a group of councillors work on the report from Kim Bedford to extrapolate 5 or 6 things the Council could realistically achieve. It was agreed to arrange a group photograph at the June meeting.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public. **None present.**

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 Drew asked if the Police could increase their scheduled visits to Sedbury in view of the high levels of shoplifting at the Spar shop. Clerk to contact.

6. COMMITTEES

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

i) Planning, Development Control and Highways Committee meeting held on 28th February 2024.

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

ii) Finance and Probity Committee meeting held on 6th March 2024.

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

iii) Mopla Cottages Committee meeting held on 6th March 2024.

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

iv) Amenities Committee meeting held on 13th March 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.

Considering the projects the Council is currently involved in – upgrading of Sedbury Hall, Electric vehicle, Youth Project and open spaces etc – Councillors may like to think about the relationship between the Council and the Charities it is involved with and decide if they still wish to continue the relationships.

The Chairman and other Councillors have noticed recent inaccurate and negative FaceBook posts from an anonymous 'troll'. This is rather cowardly. The Chairman had calculated that the 7/8 or so supportive comments for regular negative posts represent only 0.001% of people in the local FaceBook Group.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Resolved to note report from County Councillor Chris McFarling.

District Councillor Adrian Birch reported that GAPTC is working on a formula to improve communication between the County and District Councils and Parishes. Also – GRCC are looking at a county wide housing association that may be interested in smaller housing needs projects. The Parish Council has been in previous talks with GRCC about local housing needs and will continue to develop this. Councillors Koning and Swambo pointed out that appropriate local housing is required for starter, social and people wishing to downsize thereby freeing up larger family homes.

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 February 2024.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for February 2024.
- c) **Resolved to receive and note** the Receipts / Payments spreadsheet to February 2024 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 6th March 2024.
- d) **Resolved to receive and note** the Budget Monitoring Spreadsheet 2023/2024 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 6th March 2024.
- e) **Resolved to receive and note** the YETI Project Spreadsheet 2023/2024 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 6th March 2024.

12. EARMARKING OF FUNDS IN RESERVES – 2022/23 BUDGET

Resolved to approve earmarking of funds for the following amounts for work that was approved during the 22/23 financial year but has not yet been invoiced:

- a) £542.00 – Dawn Cracknell – Hedge trimming.

(Total 22/23 earmarked funds = £542.00)

13. EARMARKING OF FUNDS IN RESERVES – 2023/24 BUDGET

Resolved to approve earmarking of funds for the following amounts for work that was approved during the 23/24 financial year but has not yet been carried out / invoiced:

- a) £542.00 - Dawn Cracknell - Hedge Trimming.
- b) £1320.00 - Churchyard Wall Survey.
- c) £5000.00 - SBVH play equipment replacement.

(Total 23/24 earmarked funds = £5674.00)

14. RINGFENCING OF FUNDS IN RESERVES

- a) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £13,800 from future significant projects (originally reserves for HM Queen Platinum Jubilee projects 2022) for HM King Coronation Projects.
- b) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £16,463 for the YETI project.
- c) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of previously earmarked funds of £1000 for refurbishment work on Ormerod Road roundabout.
- d) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £5050 for churchyard repairs.
- e) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £1200 pending final consideration of grant applications by the Finance and Probity Committee.
- f) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £674 remaining from the S&BVH 2023/24 budget.

(Total ringfenced funds = £38187.00).

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

Resolved to note the free 12 months Community Hub Agreement for internet in the Hall with Gigaclear has been approved for a further 12 months.

16. **ZOOM RENEWAL**

Resolved to approve renewal of Zoom licence for 1 year at cost of £129.90 plus VAT – total cost £155.88.

17. **SAFER STREETS FUNDING**

- a) **Resolved to note** grant funding of £16,000 from the Safer Streets Team for the 2 CCTV cameras has been agreed and that in view of the time constraints and after consulting the Chairman, the Clerk signed and returned the Agreement.
- b) **Resolved to approve** quotation from W & N Adams, Street Lighting Contractors, as recommended by the Safer Streets Team and used by Gloucestershire Police, of £200 each plus VAT for the installation of the cameras – total cost £480.
- c) **Resolved to approve** locations for the installation as the lamppost on the corner of the footpath from Tallard's Place and the Village Hall playing field, and replacement of the existing CCTV camera, that no longer works, on the lamppost in King Alfred's Road.
- d) **Resolved to note** Clerk has notified the Council's insurance company of the CCTV cameras and is awaiting confirmation of any additional premium that may be due.
- e) **Resolved to note** an invoice has been sent to the Safer Streets Team and that once the funds have been received an order can be placed. The VAT element of £3200.00 will need to be paid by the Council and which will be reclaimed in the 2023/24 VAT return in April 2024.

18. **GAPTC**

To consider submitting a resolution for debate at the GAPTC Annual General Meeting on 20th July 2024.
Nothing identified.

19. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

Resolved to approve appointment of Councillor Jan Stead to the Amenities Committee and lead Councillor for the Play Equipment Working Group.

20. **ELECTRIC VEHICLE**

Resolved to approve appointment of local resident Virginia Lyall who volunteered to become the administrator of the online booking system for the Electric Vehicle and Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall for a trial period of 6 months. Ms Lyall to invoice at minimum wage rate of £11.44 (April 2024) for hours worked. Payment to be made from Village Hall and Electric Vehicle donated funds. Arrangement to be reviewed after 6 months.

21. **SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL**

- a) **Resolved to approve** Trustees of the Hall have requested that Tidenham Parish Council becomes sole Trustee of the Hall. Clerk to seek legal advice on the operation of this.
- b) **To consider** best way forward of administering the Hall and its day to day management. Committee comprising Councillors, hall users and volunteers to be considered for the day to day management of the Hall. Councillor Drew voted against this proposal.
- c) **Resolved to note** current Trustees have requested quotes be obtained for a replacement wooden fire door at the front of the building and a keyless lock for the door.
- d) **Resolved to note** current Trustees have requested quotes to be obtained for improved outside lighting for the Hall and car park.
- e) **Resolved to approve** quotation from Dean Park Contractors Ltd for the marking of electric vehicle lines and sign on the car park of £341.04 plus VAT – total cost £409.25 and to note the Clerk had only been able to obtain one quotation which is from the company that re-surfaced the car park in 2019.

22. **CORRESPONDENCE**

To receive and consider any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.
Follow up email from GRCC regarding affordable housing – agreed to re-visit later in the year once the current projects are fully up and running.

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 Swambo – the recent community Sunday lunch was well attended.

Councillor Stead – has the Coroner's Report from the fatal accident on Beachley Road been received? Not yet.

Councillor Allan – a good job had been made of the repair at the bottom of Sedbury Lane. The other side now needs to be done - the footpath has now disappeared on the steep bank. Plus - the footpath sign is missing.

Councillor Jenkins – a further meeting of the community garden group took place on 18h March. 50% of the original volunteers have now dropped out. There is not enough interest in the original planned planted garden but possible interest in developing the whole site. Councillors may like to decide if the money set aside should be used for play areas or Parish wide community green spaces projects. Perhaps should concentrate on smaller low cost projects such as wild flower / tree planting. Jeff Wheeler (PROW) has agreed to more trees along the Offa's Dyke path. Perhaps more collaboration with the allotments who are looking for potential green mesh parking at the site. Also potentially look at digging swale sites and sponsored street herb boxes. Also perhaps look at an outdoor learning area – Marc Carlton to be contacted. The general feeling is that the skate park should be kept and perhaps introduce a bike pump track. Need to engage with young people on Emily's return.

24. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 27th March 2024 – Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Wednesday 17^h April 2024 - Full Parish Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 20.50hrs