

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

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

Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk).

County Councillor – Chris McFarling District Councillor – Adrian Birch.

1. ATTENDANCE

- a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillor Strong.
 - b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillor Strong.
- Apologies had also been received from Assistant Clerk - David Stevens.

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 20th March 2024.
Councillor Drew requested that his name be taken off of item 21 b) as there was not a recorded vote.
- b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes.
Councillor Koning wished it to be minuted that Councillor Drew at the meeting voted against item 21 b).
Councillor Tullett asked about progress with working on Kim Bedford's report. Working group to be decided at the May meeting.
The current Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall councillors Trustees will put together an outline on how the running of the hall will look going forward and the setting up of an executive committee for presentation and consideration at a future meeting. Legal advice to be sought. Councillor Drew asked if the District Council's solicitors could be used free of charge – the Clerk confirmed this is not possible.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public, which may be answered but not debated.
None present

5. POLICING IN THE PARISH

- a) **Resolved to note** Police crime statistics for Tidenham and Sedbury can be accessed following this link.
<https://www.ukcrimestats.com/Neighbourhood/6107>
- b) **Resolved to note** PCSO Lucy Smith will be leaving the area on 20th April 2024. The Clerk had already wished Lucy well. Councillors asked that she be thanked from them and that Inspector Cook be contacted to thank her for her hard work in the Parish.

6. COMMITTEES

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

- i) Planning, Development Control and Highways Committee meeting held on 27th March 2024.
Questions to Councillor Wall, Chairman of the Committee.
The committee had raised concerns about the necessity for planning permission for air pumps. Cllr McFarling to look into.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resolved to note any announcements from the Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman and Councillor Stead are part of the Beachley Barracks Multi Agency Forum which works with Beachley Barracks to help support the processing of refugees from Afghanistan as they pass through the camp.

There are currently about 400 refugees at the camp, with people coming and going as they are re-housed and it will be quite some time before all are re-settled. The average stay at the camp is around 3 months. Councillor Stead had raised the issue of public transport. The bus from the camp is often full before it reaches Sedbury and Loop Road and residents have not been able to get on to go to Chepstow. Councillor Stead suggested one of the partners should organise a double decker bus for the route for now and this will be looked into. Councillor Bollen had heard that free travel for the refugees has now ceased. Councillor Swambo reported that there had also been some complaints regarding the different cultural expectations. Councillor Koning stated that events are being organised to teach cultural differences. Councillor Swambo asked if pressure could be put on MOD to perhaps short term lease a minibus for the public transport. Councillor Russell commented that friction should be avoided. Councillor Koning suggested holding community events at the Hall eg. sharing regional foods, also there is a lot of interest in cricket amongst the refugees – is there anything that can be done to include them locally? Councillor Stead wondered if there was anything that could be done to include the female refugees. Councillor McFarling suggested welcoming them into the community is a good way to progress. Suggested contacting the District Council for any help that might be available. Councillor Koning also reported that, as Chairman, he has received an invitation to a special church service to welcome the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Parish.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

To note reports from District Councillor Adrian Birch and County Councillor Chris McFarling.

Councillor Birch – the minutes from the Cabinet meeting on 11th April are now online. The DC will be extending the UBICO relationship later in the year (UBICO owned by 8 District Councils in the Glos. area). There will be 2 new electric refuse vehicles and different plastic sorting may be available. It is intended for the DC to dis-engage from the Publica Group over the next 18 months. Development management improvement plan – proposal for planning documents to be online – paper copies will be charged to the Parish Council if required. The DC will be considering signing up to the Gloucestershire devolution deal to apply for money paid direct to County.

Councillor McFarling – Glos CC met in March. The meeting was asked to write to the current Secretary for Health regarding concerns on rates of cancer. Councillor McFarling is Chair of a county wide climate group. One area of interest being the setting up of farming clusters getting farmers to discuss soil biodiversity. Following the meeting regarding the Beachley Road accident a discussion about possible speed measures had taken place with a member of the Tutshill community who is now demanding action on things not promised at the time. The tone of emails had become quite threatening and Councillor McFarling is unable to progress any of the issues further. He asked for the support of the Parish Council and will be suggesting the group contact the Parish Council. Most of the demands require Highways involvement and their responses have been forwarded on. The Parish Council may be able to apply for funding for speed cameras if any is available. Councillor Koning commented that he had been disappointed to read the tone and personal nature of the emails and the Council would support Councillor McFarling. Councillor Allan asked if any of the parties had attended a meeting to discuss the issues – they had not. Beachley Road – need to progress and ask if the Coroner’s Report is available. Councillor Koning asked about the progress of the EV charging points around the County announced in 2023 – where are the locations for the next phase – Councillor McFarling reported that 71 are expected to be located in the District, but no details yet. Two types are being installed. They tend to be located in urban areas and rural locations tend to miss out.

9. PARISH CLERK’S REPORT

Resolved to receive and note the Parish Clerk’s Report. All items requiring the council to make a decision are specified separately on this agenda.

10. YOUTH PROJECT

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

Councillor McFarling reported that there may be funding of £5k available for youth work which involves dealing with nature in some way.

11. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – GAPTC AND SLCC

a) Resolved to approve renewal of annual membership of GAPTC 2024/2025 of £1406.38 – numbers of electors 4442 which includes the NALC element (7.94 pence per elector) and the GAPTC element (27.86

- b) pence per elector) and a discount of 15% - £185.63 - on the GAPTC element for having a CiLCA qualified Clerk and for achieving the Local Council Award - Foundation).
- c) **Resolved to approve** renewal of membership of SLCC 2024/2025 of £238. The Clerk reported that the amount will be £288 because of her other role and that she will repay the additional £50 through the May salary payment.

12. FINANCE

- a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for March 2024.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for March 2024.
- c) **Resolved to note** annual interest received in the Monmouthshire Building Society account of £2265.10, 31/3/24.
- d) **Resolved to approve** re-allocation of earmarked reserves of £4960 previously allocated to the original community garden to general earmarked reserves.
- e) **Resolved to approve** charges payable for the Lloyds Bank sub account. (Councillors agreed in February 2024 to open sub / secondary Lloyds account for the Tidenham Community Transport Project.) Charges as follows: £8.50 monthly fee. First 100 electronic payments free of charge thereafter 20p per payment. Cash payments in or out £1.50 per £100 (total payments) – no charge if total payments under £100, this amount reduced to 85p if paid into branch deposit machine or via Lloyds Banking App. An additional 85p credit in charge if paid in over branch counter. Cheques - £1 per item in or out, reduced to 85p if using branch deposit machine or Lloyds Banking App.

13. ASSET REGISTER

- a) **Resolved to adopt** Asset Register as shown in the 2023/2024 Annual Accounts.
- b) **Resolved to note** all assets have been visually checked during the year by the Clerk's Assistant, contractors or through playground checks. Councillors asked for the exact location of the Woodcroft bench PT02.

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

- a) **Resolved to note** the rate of Employer Contributions to the LGPS remains at 21.1% for the year 2024/25.
- b) **Resolved to note** the employee contributions rates are unchanged for 2024/25.

15. SAFER STREETS FUNDING

- a) **Resolved to note** the grant funds of £16,000 have been received from the Safer Streets Team and the Clerk will place the order for the 2 x CCTV cameras for payment to be approved at the meeting. The Pro forma invoice has not been received prior to the meeting and will be paid by the Clerk on receipt.

16. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD SCHEME – QUALITY AWARD

Resolved to note the panel has completed its assessment and were very happy with the overall standard of the application submitted. There are three areas for which further evidence is required and this will be submitted as soon as possible.

17. AUTOSPEEDWATCH CAMERA

Councillor Russell declared an interest in item 17 b) and did not take part in the discussion or vote.

- a) **Resolved to approve** renewal of the Autospeedwatch camera data connectivity licence at a cost of £148 plus VAT – total cost £177.60.
- b) **Resolved to approve** payment of £150 to BW Rees for the adjustment of the camera on site.

18. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Resolved to approve similar format for Annual Parish Meeting on 29th May as last year. DEEP to be giving a presentation. To be advertised locally.

19. ELECTRIC VEHICLE

- a) **Resolved to note** the vehicle will be collected from the dealer on Saturday 13th April. The Clerk has made the payment for the vehicle. The Clerk will invoice the District Council for the full amount of the vehicle, first year's insurance premium, installation of charger and livery costs once these have all been made.

The vehicle had been used for a test run on the previous Sunday. It was identified that a small step out of the vehicle may be necessary – Councillor Swambo to source.

- b) **Resolved to note** the funds for the vehicle are not being paid from the Parish or District Council's Council Tax revenues as has been reported on Social Media sites. The funds are from Section 106 payments made to the Forest of Dean District Council by developers as part of their planning permissions for local housing developments. The funds can only be spent on projects that will help reduce air pollution in the Parish.
- c) **Resolved to approve** date and format of official launch of the Community Transport Scheme as Saturday 25th May at 12 noon at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. Chairman and Clerk to organise invitation list which will include all community groups in the Parish and send out.
- d) **Resolved to note** the cost of the insurance has increased by £9.62 to £1276.80 since the original quote in November 2023.
- e) **Resolved to approve** purchase of magnetic livery signs up to an amount of £160 including VAT.
- f) **Resolved to approve** purchase of customised No Parking sign to be placed at the vehicle parking space up to an amount of £40 plus VAT – total £48.

20. CLIMATE ADAPTATION TOOLKIT

To consider nomination of councillors to work on a Climate Adaptation Strategy and options, using the Climate Adaptation Toolkit provided by the District Council.

This not considered – to be looked at in September.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Clerk had received a request for a picture given to the hall to be returned if not being used. Councillor Bolen did not recall the picture and suggested contacting the History Group to see if they had used it.

22. 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 Stead – will be contacting the working group for play areas to start looking at requirements etc.

Councillor Koning – later in the year the Council needs to re-visit the local champion awards and using a grant manager.

23. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

Wednesday 8th May 2024 – Amenities Committee meeting.

Wednesday 15th May 2024 - **Annual Council Meeting**.

The meeting concluded at 21.16hrs