

# TIDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfred's Rd, Sedbury NP16 7AQ.

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Thomas Allan, Sheila Bollen, Graham Drew, Joe Jenkins, Jan Koning - Chairman, Clive Russell, Michael Swambo, Karan Strong and Audrey Tullett.

7 members of the public.

Also Present: David Stevens – Assistant Clerk.  
PC Mark Evans and PCSO Abi Coe.

The Chairman welcomed all present. Four new councillors have joined the Parish Council since the last meeting, Thomas Allan, Joe Jenkins, Elliott Cracknell and Jan Stead – all were welcomed. The Parish Council currently has one vacancy which has been advertised and, hopefully, will be filled by co-option as soon as possible. The Police were welcomed to the meeting. Members of the public were also welcomed to the meeting.

### 1. **Apologies:**

No apologies had been received.

### 2. **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023:**

The minutes were approved as presented and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. **Matters Arising from minutes:**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 4. **Reports:**

#### **A. Parish Council Report – Cllr Swambo will present the highlights of last year's activities and performance:**

Councillor Swambo gave an overview on Parish Council activities, these activities included:

- Plan to maximise what the Parish Council can do and to rationalise building and property usage.
- Implemented best practices, achieved the level required and awarded the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation level and working towards their gold level.
- Transfer of responsibilities for Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall to the Parish Council.
- Maximised usage of Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall with the introductions of the online booking App and the appointment of an Administrator for the hall and bus bookings.
- Received quotes for a presentation screen and audio system including audio induction loop for installation later this year.
- Plans are in place to rationalise access to Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall with a smart lock for users.
- Completion of Tidenham Community Transport project.
- Partnership with FoDDC in producing and implementing Climate Resilience Toolkit.
- Installed a community speed camera in Woodcroft and run Community Speedwatch sessions in the parish.
- Proposal for a dedicated Youth Centre at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall with financial support from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties

Hazel Evans – asked how much space the Youth Centre will take up in the car park. Cllr. Russell advised the Youth Centre is planned to go at the end of the car park by the old broken wall and would take approximately two parking spaces.

Liz McBride – advised that Sedbury Space was originally a Youth Centre and that this be given back for use as the Youth Centre. It was advised that funding was withdrawn for the youth hence the change of use. Cllr. Russell advised that the proposed Youth Centre would be available seven days/evenings a week and not just one or two days/evenings. Cllr. Russell also advised it would not just be a place for the youth to go to, but more involved, there are also a number of people keen to help.

Dawn Rooke – asked how often has the new kitchen facilities been used since installation. Cllr. Swambo advised the kitchen was used for a Christmas meal and at least three other community meals and that the kitchen was installed for the use by those hiring the hall. There followed some discussion of the benefits and cost of the kitchen. It was also discussed that members of parish can attend Parish Council meetings but no members of the parish attended when the kitchen was considered. Cllr. Swambo advised funding was sought from the district and county councils.

Dawn Rooke – asked why the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall trust was not consulted before being absorbed into Tidenham Parish Council. Dawn suggested the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall trust was overruled and that there should have been a community vote. Cllr. Koning advised that the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall is owned by the Parish Council and that there are three Councillors on the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall committee. Members of the parish can be Parish Councillors and can be on the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall committee. Cllr. Tullett advised that there are twelve Parish Councillors and all that has been achieved has been done with the interest and benefit of the community in mind.

Liz McBride – stated she believed there has been no new groups using the hall in recent months. Feedback was that there are new groups using and/or interested in using the hall.

Sarah Lewis – suggested that the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall administrator role should have been advertised. Cllr. Swambo advised that the role is for a six-month trial period after which a decision will be taken if to make it permanent and if the position will be advertised.

Liz McBride – asked if a telephone contact can be provided so those without internet access or email can book the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall or contact Administration, also if these details can be put on the noticeboards. Cllr. Swambo advised the Parish Council will look into providing a phone number.

#### **B. Financial Statements from:**

- ❖ **Tidenham Parish Council.**
- ❖ **Mopla Cottages Charity:**

Financial statements as per handouts, there were no questions.

#### **C. Report from:**

- ❖ **Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust.**
- ❖ **Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Charity.**
- ❖ **Poor's Allotment Charity.**

Poor's Allotment charity report as per handout. There was no report from Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust or Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Charity.

Liz McBride – asked if the charity money available is advertised and gave an example of a recent funding for a school trip for an underprivileged child. The Parish Council has Councillors that are contact points for all the schools in the parish and these should be contacted for initial charity considerations.

## **5. Police Report:**

PC Mark Evans introduced himself and advised he is the beat officer for the area. He has twenty-two years' service; he started in the Forest of Dean and plans to end his career when he retires there. He is passionate about neighbourhood policing. Priorities include Anti-Social Behaviour and he explained it is not always the youth responsible for ASB but often older generations who can cause ASB issues. PC Evans reported that the police are building a report in area and with the various schools. PC Evans explained that crime statistics for the area are reducing but that the biggest crime reported is categorised as violence and sexual offences. The categorisation is given when a crime is reported, but when investigated it is often different to when first reported.

PCSO Abi Coe introduced herself and advised she has been doing the job for six months.

Cllr. Drew – asked if the police were aware of the shoplifting issues at the Spar. PC Evans advised he was and that the Spar management are addressing the issue by limiting the number of students in the shop and also awareness of previous issues. PC Evans also advised that if a crime is not reported no investigation/action can be taken by the police.

## **7. Public Forum:**

Dawn Rooke – Read out a statement she had written about Cllr. Bollen, her mother, and how she felt Cllr. Bollen had been treated since the start of the transfer of the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. Dawn felt her mother has been treated with disrespect, some members of the public agreed.

Hazel Evans – thank both of Cllr Bollens daughters for their hard work raising funds for the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall trust.

Cllr. Koning asked Cllr. Bollen to join the meeting for the unveiling of the Sheila Bollen Room plaque which has been affixed to the wall in the room. Cllr. Bollen declined and asked Liz McBride to unveil the plaque.

Liz McBride – Gave her thanks to the contractor that had recently cleared the overgrown hedges and bushes at St John's Churchyard, Beachley. The clearing of the overgrown churchyard is a significant improvement and has revealed a number of graves previously lost in the overgrown hedges and bushes.

There was some discussion on the use of Facebook for communication of Parish business and guidance that the Parish Council should not use this media, especially given some of the abusive content often directed at the Parish Council. Councillors commented that they are concerned with some comments and this is often a distractor to recruiting new Councillors. It was discussed that the community appreciate the Parish Council Newsletter and the Parish Council committed to work on a new Newsletter for distribution. Members of the public are welcomed to join Parish Council meetings.

Cllr. Koning thanked all for their contributions and feedback at the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 20.19hrs**