

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.**

**Present:** Councillors: Drew, Elliot, Koning, Russell, Stead and Swambo.

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

County Councillor - Chris McFarling. District Councillor – Johnathan Lane.

1 member of the public.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

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

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

**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> July 2024.

b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes.

The Clerk to chase MP Matt Bishop regarding a visit to the Parish.

Clerk to send details of the Safer Streets funding correspondence to Chris McFarling regarding the body cam for the 'lollipop' man in Tutshill.

**4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

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

**There were none.** The member of the public present had attended to observe as interested in becoming a parish councillor.

**5. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR JENKINS**

**Resolved to note** resignation of Councillor Jenkins and that a Casual Vacancy notice has been notified to the District Council and posted on noticeboards and website. Clerk to email Joe officially on behalf of the council.

**6. POLICING IN THE PARISH**

**Resolved to note** Police crime statistics for Tidenham and Sedbury can be accessed following this link.

[Tidenham and Sedbury | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk)

Clerk to invite PC Mark Evans and PCSO Abi Coe to attend the October meeting.

**7. COMMITTEES**

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

i). Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

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

ii) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

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

Councillor McFarling reported that there had been a walkaround with some residents, some of whom were quite irate over perceived safety issues. Road surveys are now being carried out which may or may not lead to road safety measures being introduced. Previous statistics, including those carried out by the community speedwatch sessions, do not indicate speeding problems.

Councillor Swambo – Tutshill School may now reconsider a camera for the Lollipop person. Clerk to contact the Safer Streets team and copy Councillor McFarling in to correspondence.

Councillor Lane reported that he continues to receive complaints about parking at Tutshill School – use of the Community electric vehicle was discussed as a way to reduce car usage.

iii) Amenities Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

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

## 8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Resolved to receive and note** announcements from the Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman reported that the embroidered picture reported as having been given to the hall to display several years ago had been found at the bottom of a box during a clear out of the small committee room and returned to its owner.

Facebook - Following the continued harassment of the Parish Council through the sharing of incorrect information and personal attacks on some councillors, the Chairman had reached out to the Sedbury Facebook Group administrators and arranged a meeting between them, the Chairman and the Clerk, along with Revd Bullivant, to try to find a way for the Council to interact more positively with the Group. The aim is to find a way to work together and for all to navigate the constant negativity.

Zoom – it has been suggested on Facebook and through email that Council meetings should be available through Zoom for members of the public to attend. It is not legal for anybody to take part in a meeting, other than in person. Whilst live streaming is allowed, Zoom is not a suitable platform to do this whilst councillors attend in person. There was much discussion on this subject which will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

## 9. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

**Resolved to note** reports from Chris McFarling and the District Councillors who may attend the meeting.

Councillor McFarling – had sent a report regarding road safety measures. Due to funds being stretched, priority will be given to measures where a death or serious injury has taken place. Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) that have already been agreed will be prioritised according to level of danger.

Ornate street light – Glos. Road – needs to be replaced with new post. Highways manager will test the ornate one for safety and advise Councillor McFarling if it is suitable for use.

School parking – too many cars for the roads outside of the school. This sometimes improves as the term progresses and once new parents have settled in to the routine. Also the problems with parking on the Coleford Road may best be dealt with by using cones in two or three places to allow for vehicles to pass. He is working with the Highways Manager on the safe way of doing this.

Councillor McFarling will look into any help the District Council can give regarding the Facebook issues.

Cabinet meetings have taken place at District and County – mostly monitoring performance and projects.

Councillor Swambo had met with Chepstow Town Council leader and the possibility of a footbridge from Sedbury was discussed – Councillor McFarling will look into.

Councillor Koning asked what a 'member observer role' was at the District Council – the role is to monitor organisations with SLAs with the Council and that contracts are being carried out correctly.

Councillor Koning asked that if a TRO for an A48 crossing is unlikely to be agreed, can this be a requirement under S106 funds for future developments in the area? Councillor McFarling reported that the Local Plan consultation is currently in limbo because the new Government is changing requirements and the local plan process. FoDDC may have to go back to the drawing board once it knows what it is required to do.

## 10. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

**Resolved to receive and note** the Parish Clerk's Report.

## 11. YOUTH PROJECT

**Resolved to consider** meeting date for the YETI Sub Committee to discuss the project now that it is at the end of its third year and that the Youth Worker is unable to continue. A meeting date of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm in Sedbury Hall was agreed.

## 12. FINANCE

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

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

**13. PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL**

- a) **Resolved not to approve** suitability of cover of Insurance Policy with **Hiscox** and that it meets the Parish Council's requirements.
- b) **Resolved not to approve** renewal of Parish Council Insurance Policy with Hiscox to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 @ £2757.23 per annum (including Insurance Premium Tax and administration fee). This price will be fixed if entering a 3-year Long Term Undertaking.
- c) **Resolved to approve** suitability of cover of Insurance Policy with **Clear Councils** and that it meets the Parish Council's requirements.
- d) **Resolved to approve** renewal of Parish Council Insurance Policy with Clear Councils to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 for £1916.71 and to enter into a 3 year Long Term Undertaking. These figures represent a discount for the Council having the Foundation Local Council Award Scheme.
- e) **Resolved to approve** Clerk to pay premium after the meeting once the insurance provider has been agreed.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Resolved to receive and note** any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.

**15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Resolved to receive and note** any matters which councillors wish to raise and where appropriate add to the agenda for the following meeting or meetings of committees.

Councillor Drew – Ormerod Road roundabout progress – Clerk will chase Two Rivers again.

Councillor Cracknell – had delivered a screen and data projector for use in the Steve Ford room of the hall, donated by St John's School. This will be very useful for council meetings, particularly amenities and planning.

Councillors expressed their gratitude for the generous donation to the community hall.

Councillor Swambo – the successful breakfast club held during the summer in Sedbury Space will be held during half term at the Hall. The Salvation Army will be providing a pop up free concert around Sedbury on 9<sup>th</sup> November and on 18<sup>th</sup> December will be providing a Christmas Grotto for children at the Hall as part of their toy appeal. Also, Two Rivers Housing Manager has confirmed they will be providing a freezer for the food bank.

Councillor Stead – had attended an event at SARA for the launch of their new incident control van which will be used around the Forest. Guests were also able to look around the control room. Also, along with Councillor Tullett, had been unable to contact anyone at Wyedean School regarding help with uniforms etc. for the students from Afghanistan, this despite emailing and visiting the school.

Councillor Koning – at the weekly support forum for the Afghan. refugees, the Parish Council had been asked for support – he will also try to make contact with the school. Also – an appointment should be made to discuss the allotment agreement.

**16. FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Planning and Highways Committee.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Full Council meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 20.25hrs**