

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 13th November, 2024 at 7.00pm at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfred's Road, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Koning, Stead, Swambo (chairman) and Tullett.
Officers: D Stevens (Assistant Clerk).

1. ATTENDANCE

- a. **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend, from Councillors Russell and Wall.
- b. **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence, from Councillors Russell and Wall.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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. None received.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **Resolved to approve** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September.
- b. **Resolved to consider** any matters arising from those minutes. There were none.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There were no members of the public present.

5. ASSISTANT CLERK'S REPORT

- a. **Resolved to accept** the Amenities budget sheet.
- b. **Resolved to note** the two new Safer Streets CCTV Cameras have been installed and working. However, one camera is experiencing tilt problems and will need to be returned to the manufacturer.
- c. **Resolved to note** the CCTV camera in the carpark behind the butchers in Sedbury has been damaged and not working. As these cameras are no longer supported a quote is to be obtained to remove the camera and considered at a future meeting.
- d. **Resolved to note** issues with grass clumping following a recent cut on Tutshill Recreation Ground causing issues for the Tidenham football team. See item 7c.
- e. **Resolved to note** the Bee signs marking the wildflower area on Wyebank Road were removed by an unknown person and have since been replaced by the grass cutting contractor.
- f. **Resolved to note** the Sedbury defibrillator was reported as used on 6th November, when checked it had not been used and has been put back on line ready to be used.
- g. **Resolved to note** GCC Highways still due to install the concrete pads for mounting the Chat Bench by the A48 steps.

6. TO CONSIDER CHURCHYARD WORKS AND ISSUES

Resolved to note update from onsite meeting with the Church Warden and a walk round of St. Luke Church, Tutshill and St Mary and St Peter Church, Tidenham churchyards with regards condition of churchyard walls and overgrown vegetation. Councillors asked the Assistant Clerk if quotes could be obtained for those walls listed as Category 5 in the Churchyard Wall Survey and for the quotes to be considered at a future meeting.

7. TO CONSIDER OPEN SPACE ISSUES

- a. **To consider** the quotes for the two-year and three-year tree maintenance as suggested in the 2023 arborist report. Three contractors were invited to quote, the third contractor who has previously quoted is now focused on a different business model.
 - i. **Resolved to not accept** - Greenfields.
Two-year and three-year work. £1,611 + Vat = £1,933.20.

- ii. **Resolved to accept** - Trunk Arb Ltd.
2 plus year tree works as per survey. £1,375 + Vat = £1,650.00.

- b. **Resolved to accept** the quote for hedge trimming along Offa's Dyke path next to Wyebank Road grass area. Four contractors were invited to quote but only one provided a quote, the requested work was either considered too large and no capacity for the work or no quote submitted.

- i. Trunk Arb Ltd. £1,150 + Vat = £1,380.00

- c. **Resolved to accept** quote for the cut and collect grass cutting on the Tidenham War Memorial Recreation Ground football pitch, up to four times a year to reduce the gang mower grass cutting clumping experience in 2023 and 2024 due to very wet weather.

- i. Monmouthshire County Council – Four cuts at £57.70 + Vat per cut. £230.80 + Vat = £276.96.

- d. **Resolved to accept** to keep the grass cutting frequency in 2025 the same as 2024 and to continue to monitor.

8. TO CONSIDER PLAYGROUND ISSUES

Resolved to note the Play Equipment Working Group discussed progress of the Chepstow Dell Play and how their project experience can be used in Tidenham. Councillor Stead agreed to find out more and how their experience could help Tidenham Parish. Councillors also discussed running a public consultation early 2025 to seek suggestions from the local community with regards play ground improvements and who would be willing to join the project team. Councillor Swambo suggested contacting GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council) who have experience of running public consultations.

9. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a. **Resolved to note** correspondence with regards Wyebank Road wildflower area grass cut and collect in September.
- b. **Resolved to note** correspondence with regards overgrown brambles and trees at the back of the allotments. The Clerk's office is awaiting feedback from the allotment association.

10. TO CONSIDER THE AMENITIES BUDGET FOR YEAR 2025/26

Resolved to accept the proposed Amenities budget for 2025/25 as prepared by the Assistant Clerk. The proposed budget is based on the 2024/25 budget and actual spend with a 5% contingency for inflation.

11. TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' LOCAL REPORTS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

There were none.

12. RESOLVED TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting 8th January, 2025.

The meeting closed at 19:46 hours.