

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.**

**Present:** Councillors: Allan, Burgess, Drew, Koning, Russell, Stead, Swambo and Tullett.

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

Chris McFarling – County Councillor.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

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

b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Cracknell and Wall. Apologies had also been received from District Councillor Johnathan Lane.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

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

The Youth disco / film night was cancelled due to Storm Darragh.

Having discussed the E Bike scheme outlined by Jeff Baldwin at the November meeting, Councillors will be looking at possible other schemes for the use of the remaining S106 monies.

The Deed of Amendment for the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Charity has now been signed and the Parish Council will now be the sole Trustee.

**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**

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

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

Councillor Stead reported that she had been burgled a few weeks ago and that PC Mark Evans was currently absent from work with a broken leg. Councillors wished Mark well.

**6. 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 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

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

ii). Finance and Probity Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

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

iii). Mopla Cottages Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

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

Councillors Stead and Tullett gave feedback on their visit to Wydean School to deliver a grant cheque from Mopla Cottages towards costs of uniform, coats, shoes and other items for the refugee children from Afghanistan.

## 7. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**To receive and note any announcements from the Chairman** of the meeting.

An email had been received from the Forest of Dean Heritage Open Days asking for details of local places of interest that could be included in the 2025 programme and for help with distributing leaflets and costs. Clerk to contact the Historical Society and offer to help with leaflet distribution. Councillors agreed not to consider financial help at a future meeting.

## 8. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Resolved to note** report from Chris McFarling received prior to the meeting.

County Council – approval given for the building of an SEN school on the outskirts of Gloucester on land owned by the CC. Cllr McFarling had attended the White Ribbon Charity conference which discussed many worrying topics around the treatment and attitude towards women and girls, particularly the lack of action if restraining orders are breached. A change in culture is required and the calling out of violence towards women.

District Council – a Government grant of £1.18m is due which balances the budget. Concerns about the Council Tax Support Scheme in that those most likely to need support are least likely to apply for it. To be debated at the full Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Tidenham – road safety issues – a speed survey in Gloucester Road has shown 85% of vehicles within limits. An assessment of the need for a zebra crossing would cost £9k for which there are no funds. Cllr McFarling still waiting to find out if money raised through public donations can be used to fund this. Tutshill School have again declined funding for a camera for the lollipop person. Cllr Tullett asked why – because of safeguarding issues. Tutshill mini roundabouts – ongoing, however as far as the Glos CC are concerned, they have not caused problems.

In view of the likely requirement for large house building projects in the Parish, the PC should liaise with the Planning Department on items that it feels must be included in the planning process such as a pedestrian bridge across the A48. Clerk to contact Clive Reynolds.

An announcement regarding the future of the County and District Councils is expected from the Government and it is likely that the proposal will be that there will be no District Council and that Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire may be made in to one unitary authority.

Bus passes for the Afghan refugee children – Cllr McFarling had not been able to extend the scheme to those children living within the two mile limit - even in exceptional circumstances.

Cllr Allan – the drain at the bottom of Sedbury Lane – Tutshill side – needs to be cleared as it will not drain. Cllr McFarling will report but it may need local residents to help clear.

Cllr Koning – could the stretch of road between Lancout Lane and Netherhope Lane be regarded as urgent for road repairs / re-surfacing as it is dangerous? Cllr McFarling – there is no funding as yet but the Highways Local Fund will be open again after the County elections in May 2025.

## 9. **PARISH CLERK'S REPORT**

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

The Assistant Clerk reported that a large number of speeding vehicles had been identified by the newly installed Speedwatch camera in Woodcroft. The warning signs are still to be erected by the County Council and the Planning and Highways Committee will discuss using the data at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

## 10. **FINANCE**

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

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

**c) Resolved to receive and note** the Receipts / Payments spreadsheet to November 2024 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**d) Resolved to receive and note** the Budget Monitoring Spreadsheet 2024/2025 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 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 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

## 11. **BUDGET / PRECEPT 2025/2026**

**a) Resolved to approve** proposed budget - as recommended by the Finance and Probity Committee.

**b) Resolved to approve** Precept amount of £129,486 - as recommended by the Finance and Probity Committee.

**12. INTERNAL AUDIT 2024/2025**

**Resolved to approve** appointment of GAPTC Internal Audit Service for 2024/25 for a fee of £320 and that the service offers an independent, impartial audit of the Council's governance and processes.

**13. CCTV CAMERAS**

- a) **Resolved to approve** quotation from WN Adams for the removal and replacement of the Safer Streets camera in Kind Alfred's Road for £200 plus VAT. Total price £240 inc VAT.
- b) **Resolved to approve** quotation from WN Adams for the removal of the broken camera in the car park in Sedbury for £200 plus VAT. Total price £240 inc VAT.
- c) **Resolved to note** approval was given by the Clerk for the clearing of branches obscuring the CCTV camera overlooking the Sedbury playing field as quoted by TrunkArb for £125 plus VAT - £150 inc VAT. This due to the urgent request from the Police for a camera to be installed due to the incidents reported in the location and the assurance given by the Council that the camera was operational.

**14. LAPTOP MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

**Resolved to approve** renewal of annual Hardware Maintenance and Support Contract with Tate Computer Technology for the Clerk's and Assistant Clerk's Council laptops at £300.00 plus VAT, total cost £360. Not to include the Youth Worker's laptop at present as not in use – cost would have been £150 plus VAT – total £180.

**15. SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL**

- a) **Resolved to note** money raised from the Christmas Fayre on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 was £339.70. Councillors commented that this was good especially considering the weather and Storm Conall on the day.
- b) **Resolved to approve** quotation from Shane Weldon for various work at the Hall – defibrillator fixing to wall, floor runner replace and fix, cleaning moss from path, cleaning gutters and replacing if needed of £160 (no VAT). **The Clerk reported that due to the risk posed by some of these items, the work had been authorised under emergency powers and had been completed on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

**16. SEDBURY AND DISTRICT LEISURE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION**

**Resolved to note** the reviewed and revised Management Agreement and the proposed management fee payable for the three years to 2026 has been sent to the Allotment Committee. Note – no payment has been made for 2024.

**17. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Email regarding EV from member of the public and reply sent.

Clerk had responded to survey from GAPTC regarding the retro fitting of self-funded insulation. If available may attend the January meeting.

In view of the time limits, Clerk and Assistant Clerk to prepare report on ideas for using the S106 funding following a meeting with the newly appointed DC Officer. Councillors to please send ideas.

**18. 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.

CLlr Russell – councillors will need to consider using the monies set aside for play equipment. This may be something for discussion at the development session on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**19. FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Planning and Highways Committee.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Amenities Committee Meeting.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Full Council meeting.

**The Chairman wished everybody a Happy Christmas and Healthy and Happy New Year.**

**The meeting concluded at 20.30hrs**