

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 12th March, 2025 at 7.00pm at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfred's Road, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Koning, Russell, 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, none received.
- b. **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence, none received.

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 8th January, 2024.
- 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 faulty HDD in the CCTV Camera in King Alfred's Road was replaced on Thursday 6th March but the CCTV camera is still faulty. A letter has been sent to WCCTV requesting a replacement camera that has been fully tested.
- c. **Resolved to note** the Woodcroft defibrillator was reported as used on 3rd March, the pad pack had been opened. The defibrillator has since been put back on line with the spare pad pack and a replacement pad pack purchased at a cost of £82.80.
- d. **Resolved to note** the Assistant Clerk will undertake the monthly playground checks until alternative arrangements can be arranged.
- e. **Resolved to note** GCC Highways have installed the concrete pad and will be installing the chat bench on Beachley Road by the A48 steps later this week.

6. TO CONSIDER CHURCHYARD WORKS AND ISSUES

Resolved to note that the repair of the churchyard walls at St Luke's Church have commenced however more serious issues were uncovered. The additional repairs of the south wall between the churchyard and the school were quoted to cost £5,160, which was agreed by the Clerk, Council Chairman and Committee Chairman as an emergency. Councillors agreed with the additional repair and the urgent expenditure approval given the potential safety risks for the adults and children using the adjacent path to the church.

7. TO CONSIDER OPEN SPACE ISSUES

- a. **Resolved to accept** the £541.61 price increase for grass cutting in 2025 which includes 3.6% cost increase and four cut and collect cuts at Tutshill Recreation Ground (as agreed in November 2024). Total estimated cost based on agreed cut frequency for 2025 is £8,944.35 + Vat = £10,733.20.
- b. **Resolved to accept** the repair of the bus shelter on the B4228 at the end on of Miss Grace's Lane. The Assistant Clerk explained the last replacement bus shelter cost £3,288 in 2018. Councillors agreed there needs to be a shelter, even with a limited bus service, to encourage the use of public transport.
 - i. Shane Weldon. £1,540 no Vat.

8. TO CONSIDER PLAYGROUND ISSUES

- a. **To consider** quotes for the annual playground inspections which are due September, seven playgrounds in all.
- i. **Resolved to accept** Play Inspection Company – £71.50 + VAT per playground.
£500.50 + Vat = £600.60.
 - ii. **Resolved to not accept** ROSPA Play Safety – £72.00 + VAT per playground.
£648.00 + Vat = £777.60.
 - iii. **Resolved to not accept** Gordon Playground Inspection Ltd – £100.00 per playground.
£700.00 + Vat = £840.00.
- b. **Resolved to accept** quote for the repair of the wooden fort at the top of the embankment slide at the Buttington Road playground. Two contractors were invited to quote but only one provided a quote.
- i. Greenfields. £1,296 + Vat = £1,555.20.
- c. **Resolved to note** there was no update from the Play Equipment Working Group. Councillors agreed the working group needs to be reestablished and to ask councillors outside of this committee if they wish to be involved. The Assistant Clerk to reach out to the Clerk to include in the Full Council agenda. Councillors and the Assistant Clerk discussed the need for repairs to some of the existing playground equipment/areas and will consider further at a future meeting.

9. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

There were none.

10. FUTURE OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE

To consider how the functions of the Amenities Committee might be carried out under potential re-organisation of the Parish Council Committees and meetings.

Resolved – it was discussed that some meetings are relatively short and that these could be consolidated to reduce overall meeting attendance and travel time. Councillors also stated they are concerned about the likely increase in parish responsibilities following central government plans for the devolution of councils. Councillors agreed they need to prepare for the devolution of councils.

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

Cllr. Tullett – reported that a CCTV camera and warning sign has been installed near Sedbury Park Belfry. It was discussed that the location was likely to be private land and belonging to the new owners of Sedbury Park. Cllr. Tullett also reiterated the need to reestablish the Play Equipment Working Group and asked for this to be added to the Full Council agenda.

Cllr. Swambo – asked if the EV use could be reviewed at a future meeting.

12. RESOLVED TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting 14th May, 2025.

The meeting closed at 19:50 hours.