

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

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

b) Resolved to accept those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Cracknell, Drew and Swambo.

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 15th January 2025.

b) To consider any questions arising from those minutes.

Cllr Tullett asked if there was any progress on youth events – Cllr Burgess reported that she is liaising with Revd. Bullivant and there will be an Easter trail in the area. Revd Bullivant needs funding for some of the projects planned. Asst. Clerk suggested not charging hall rental for free youth events that need funding support. Cllr Burgess to suggest applying for grant funding.

Cllr Tullett – hall management committee progress? The new Council Hall Committee with the Council as sole Trustee will meet on 5th March. Recruitment of the management team will follow during March.

Cllr Stead – the support provided to the Afghan refugees by the Council added value to the arrangements made by Mears.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public. **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)

Cllr Koning noted that the number of crimes recorded increased from 14 in November 2024 to 27 in December 2024. Two questions for when the Police Officers are next able to attend a meeting – why are 30% of crimes unable to be prosecuted and why are violent and sexual offences lumped together in one statistic?

6. COMMITTEES

Resolved to receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees already circulated, enclosed herewith or to be circulated and to consider any questions arising from them.

i). Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 22nd January 2025.

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

The Planning and Highways Committee meeting scheduled for 26th February has been cancelled.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

A recent Points West news item discussed the importance of CPR training – can we arrange some sessions including if possible one for young people?

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Resolved to note reports from Chris McFarling who attended the meeting.

The County Council had met today and agreed a budget of £665.079m which will represent a band D Council Tax increase of £79.83 per year. The budget covers statutory functions such as social care, schools etc. A new SEN school is being built in Gloucester. More funding will go into educational psychologists and three new care homes. A total of £700k is allowed for amendments to the budget with the Lib Dems and Labour asking for more than the total. Some amendments from the Green party have gone through (£50k climate action fund, £50k for two more sharing libraries – tools etc. - £50k for repairs to volunteer run community libraries and £100k support for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust natural flood management projects, reducing the risk of flooding to 150 properties.) There will be more investment in road maintenance and the Council will look again at zebra crossings and 20mph zones. Build Back Better Fund distribution will be down to newly elected councillors following the May elections.

District Council - £12.13m budget 2.99% increase. The waste fleet report shows the electric waste vehicles saving air pollution, less maintenance and quieter but expansion limited due to connectivity (National Grid) at depots.

Highways locally – resident report of flooding/blocked drains on Beachley Road. Highways have jetted but silt coming off poorly managed fields blocks it again straight away. Further down the system a blockage cannot be cleared by using the ‘super-jetter’ so investigation work to repair needs to be carried out.

Cllr Russell asked if the DC has a comparison between returns on traditional investments compared to ethical investments. Cllr McFarling – ethical investments have lower returns. Medium term financial strategy - policy that new investments will be ethical.

Cllr Koning – devolution to unitary authorities – how are the DC and County Councils being kept in the loop and how can parish council keep on top of it? Cllr McFarling – Jim McMahan has been approached regarding the future role of parish councils. Cllr Adrian Birch and Glos CC Chief Exec are meeting weekly and a proposal has to be submitted by 21st March. The final proposal will be in November.

9. PARISH CLERK’S REPORT

Resolved to receive and note the Parish Clerk’s Report. All items requiring the council to make a decision are specified separately on this agenda.

The Clerk had now had a response from the Section 106 officer confirming the amount the PC has for air quality improvements in the parish. Councillors were disappointed at the very narrow definition of how this can be met. Cllr McFarling to discuss with Clive Reynolds.

10. FINANCE

a) **Resolved to approve** payments according to the Financial Statement for January 2025.

b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for January 2025.

c) **Resolved to note** annual wayleave payment from National Grid of £20.68 has been received and paid into the bank account.

d) **Resolved to note** the VAT claim for 2023/24 has been submitted for £8492.78.

e) **Resolved to approve** continuing payment of the annual Information Commissioners Office fee (2024/25 £35) by Direct Debit.

f) **To consider** reconsidering of the 2025/26 precept to help prepare for future changes following the Government’s devolution plan which has been announced since the precept was set.

g) **To consider** (if 10 f) is agreed) an application to the District Council for an extension to their deadline for the requesting of the precept.

Items f) and g) not considered due to time constraints by the DC.

11. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Resolved to note an election has not been requested following the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Wall and the Council can now co-opt to fill the vacancy.

12. KING ALFRED’S ROAD CCTV CAMERA

a) **Resolved to approve** quotation from WN Adams for the replacement Hard Disk Drive of the Safer Streets camera in King Alfred’s Road for £200 plus VAT. Total price £240 inc VAT.

- b) **Resolved to approve** gesture of goodwill from WCCTV to delay the start of the 5 year airtime/warranty contract until the issues with the King Alfred's Road camera are finally fixed. This contract should have commenced in June 2024 and would be extended beyond the original end date of June 2029 by the appropriate number of months, the monthly cost equating to £166.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

Resolved to review and approve re-adoption of the Council's Risk Assessment document.

14. PARISH ONLINE NEW WEBSITE

a) **Resolved to approve** new website and email addresses through Parish Online to include .gov.uk domain and email account names and to bring them into line with other .gov.uk sites and users. Cost £390 plus VAT per annum (total cost £469.20) for the first year with £100 discount. £490 per annum thereafter. Parish Online are a not for profit company. They do not charge for the initial set up and provide:

- Hosting - the servers where the website lives.
- Ongoing Maintenance and Upgrades - they may have a slightly higher ongoing cost than other providers, but they invest in the Council's service to make sure it's always the latest new features, security upgrades or updates to align to new legislation.
- SSL Certificate - this keeps the site encrypted and safe for visitors.
- Content Migration - they port over as much content from the current site as possible at no extra cost.
- Accessibility - their sites always follow the latest Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). Their sites already conform to WCAG 2.2 AA which is a requirement from October 2024 onwards.
- Support - they have a bank of knowledge base articles available to help with managing the website. They also provide email support.

b) **Resolved to approve** payment of an extra £25 plus VAT (total cost £30) for the forwarding of emails from existing accounts for one year.

c) **Resolved to approve** domain name of: **tidenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk**.

15. PARISH ONLINE

Resolved to approve subscription to Parish Online (digital mapping service) of £97.20 total price (£81 ex VAT) for 21/01/25 to 21/01/26. This includes a further reduction on previous years now that the Council uses Clear Councils for its insurance.

16. GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS (GAPTC)

a) **Resolved to approve** that GAPTC transition to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

b) **Resolved to approve** that GAPTC formally changes its name to Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils.

17. DEVELOPMENT SESSION – KIM BEDFORD 12TH FEBRUARY 2025

To consider feedback from the meeting.

This item to be considered in March.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

To receive and consider any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.

Further requests from Mr Powell.

19. 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 Tullett – when considering re-structuring of the PC, the Planning Committee meeting could be held immediately before the full council meeting each month.

20. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 26th February 2025 – Planning and Highways Committee – Cancelled.

Wednesday 5th March 2025 – Finance and Probity Committee followed by Mopla Cottages and S&BVH Committees.

Wednesday 12th March 2025 – Amenities Committee.

Wednesday 19th March 2025 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 20.32hrs