

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

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

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

1. ATTENDANCE

a) Resolved to receive apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillor Cracknell.

b) Resolved to accept those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillor Cracknell. Apologies also received from County Councillor Chris McFarling.

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 19th March 2025, subject to removal of Cllr Burgess's name from those in attendance.

b) To consider any questions arising from those minutes.

Cllr Tullett – when will the drop-in sessions at Sedbury Space begin? Clerk to chase.

Cllr Stead – the Play Area Working Group had met and, also met with a contractor with a design for the spaces at the Hall. They are meeting again on 24th April. Clerk to calculate figure for available spend, including earmarked and ringfenced reserves.

4. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Resolved to approve co-option of Kristina Walsh to the Parish Council who duly signed the Acceptance of Office.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public. **None present.**

6. POLICING IN THE PARISH

a) 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)

b) Resolved to note letter to Parish Councils from Asst Chief Constable on future levels of Policing.

Clerk to write letter of concern about policing levels during the coming year, asking that Tidenham Parish which is on the periphery of the County won't be overlooked and how Special Constables will fit into the new structure.

7. COMMITTEES

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

None held.

8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Cllr Koning told councillors that this was his last meeting as Chairman as he will not be standing at the May meeting. He has held the position for 6 years and has very much enjoyed his time in the role. It is now time for somebody else to take it on and this is also good governance. Cllr Koning thanked councillors for their support and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for their work. Cllr Tullett thanked Cllr Koning for his hard work and very

much appreciated that he had steered the Council through some difficult times and had turned it around since becoming Chairman.

Cllr Stead asked the Chairman if the support meetings for the refugees at Beachley Barracks had now ceased and felt disappointed that there had not been a final meeting for those like the Parish Council who have given their support over the past year. Cllr Koning will email to find out.

9. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

To note reports from the District Councillors who may attend the meeting. **None present.**

Clerk to email the District Councillors to ask if they could each attend one or more Parish Council meetings.

10. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

11. FINANCE

- a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for March 2025.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for March 2025.
- c) **Resolved to note** the interest received on the Monmouthshire Building Society account for 2024/25 was £2265.87.
- d) **Resolved to note** VAT reclaimed for 2023/24 of £8492.78 has been received.
- e) **Resolved to receive and note** year end accounts summary for 2024/25.
- f) **Resolved to note** a payment of £70 from C Crossland had been paid into the Council's Lloyds bank account in error. This was immediately repaid by the Clerk before the end of the financial year.

12. ASSET REGISTER

- a) **Resolved to approve** adoption of Asset Register as in the 2024/2025 Annual Accounts.
- b) **Resolved to note** all assets have been visually checked during the year by the Clerk's Assistant, contractors or through playground checks.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS)

- a) **Resolved to approve** re-stating of resolution that all members of Tidenham Parish Council staff are eligible to join the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Scheme as stated in their Contract of Employment, as requested by Glos LGPS.
- b) **Resolved to note** contribution rates to the LGPS for 2025/26 remain the same as for 2024/25, the employer's rate being 21.1%.

14. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – GAPTC AND SLCC

- a) **Resolved to approve** renewal of annual membership of GAPTC 2025/2026 of £1560.91 – numbers of electors 4504 which includes the NALC element (8.34 pence per elector) and the GAPTC element (30.96 pence per elector) and a discount of £209.17 on the GAPTC element for having a CiLCA qualified Clerk and for achieving the Local Council Award - Foundation).
- b) **Resolved to approve** renewal of membership of SLCC 2025/2026 of £240.

15. AUTOSPEEDWATCH DATA CONNECTIVITY SUBSCRIPTION

- a) **Resolved to approve** renewal of AutoSpeedWatch annual data connectivity subscription at £198 plus VAT – total cost £237.60. This for the upgraded camera and with tamper alarm service included (£19 plus VAT).
- b) **To receive** overview of recent data received.
The Assistant Clerk gave an overview of the statistics from the camera in Woodcroft which showed an extremely large number of offending drivers over the past month. This has been the pattern since the camera was installed. Councillors agreed that, whilst the Police are being notified of 10 offenders each week, the statistics require further action to be taken. The Assistant Clerk to contact the Police Highways Safety Officer for advice and to see what action, if any, the police can take to provide a more effective way of dealing with excessive speeds, repeat offenders and vehicles that are not taxed and/or insured.

16. ELECTRIC VEHICLE

- a) **Resolved to approve** renewal invitation, statement of fact and quotation for insurance renewal for the Electric Vehicle from Gallagher insurance brokers with QBE for £1199.53, including insurance premium tax, fees and one year's no claims discount.
- b) **Resolved to note** the deadline for renewal has been extended until 27th April 2025.
- c) **Resolved to note** the premium will be repaid to the Parish Council from the reclaimed VAT on the original purchase price of the vehicle, once received.
- d) **Resolved to note** recent social media claims about a change to the rules for people aged 70 or over being able to drive the vehicle are incorrect. The vehicle is not a minibus and is therefore covered by the rules for car drivers.

17. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Resolved to note change of date for the Annual Parish Meeting to 28th May 2025.

18. GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR DEVOLUTION TO UNITARY AUTHORITIES

Resolved to note survey by GAPTC that will require completion by 31st May 2025 and which will be discussed by the working group with recommendations for consideration at the May meeting.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

To receive and consider any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.
GRCC have asked for a walk around the Parish following the Housing Needs Survey in 2022 where some housing needs were identified. Cllr Swambo will attend with them.

20. 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 Swambo – the next community Sunday Lunch will be on 27th April in the Hall.
Cllr Stead – have we had details of the Coroner's Report on the fatal accident a couple of years ago on Beachley Road? Once the 1st Rifles return there is likely to be more speeding on the road.
Cllr Burgess – hoping to have more details on the play areas after the next working group meeting.
Cllr Koning – The Forest of Dean Open Studios annual event will take place in the first two weeks of July. We can hopefully advertise and offer a couple of trips to see the artwork using the electric vehicle.

21. FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved to note the dates of future council and committee meetings:
Wednesday 23rd April 2025 – Planning and Highways Committee.
Wednesday 14th May 2025 – Amenities Committee.
Wednesday 21st May 2025 – **Annual Council Meeting.**

The meeting concluded at 20.56hrs