

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.**

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

Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk) David Stevens (Assistant Clerk) Adrian Birch – District Councillor.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillors Burgess, Cracknell, Russell and Swambo.

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

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 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. **There were none.**

**4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

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

**5. 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** reports that the number of PCSOs in the Forest of Dean area is to be reduced substantially. The Clerk had contacted the Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy for comment with no response.

**6. COMMITTEES**

**Resolved to receive** reports, minutes and recommendations from committees.

i) Finance and Probity Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

There were no questions to members of the Committee.

ii) Mopla Cottages Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

There were no questions to members of the Committee.

iii) Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

There were no questions to members of the Committee.

iv) Amenities Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

There were no questions to members of the Committee.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

It had been encouraging to see that the English and Welsh Governments have jointly set aside a fund of £1m for improving the River Wye.

GRCC have sent a reminder to review the Housing Needs Survey they conducted in 2023.

Users of the Electric Vehicle – need to encourage more donations for use. Now that it has been used for 10 months a cost per mile can be calculated. Concerned that Sedbury Space are advertising for a driver and is this to use the community vehicle?

There will hopefully be somebody to co-opt as a councillor in April. Clerk to contact to discuss.

## 8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

**To note** reports from Chris McFarling and the District Councillors who may attend the meeting.

Cllr Birch gave an overview of the items to be considered at the DC meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March. A new Monitoring Officer has been appointed – taking up post in April.

The DC is submitting an application for UNESCO Biosphere designation for the District. This considers all aspects of life in the Forest of Dean. If successful it will be one of 8 in the country and will be a lasting legacy of the DC as it is dissolved.

Local Govt re-organisation – letter from Glos CC has to be submitted by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March on proposals for the future. There are 10 work streams taking place on the devolution across the County, one of which is looking at the work of the existing districts, towns and parishes going forward. There is a preference for joining the West of England Combined Authority which may be more relevant than the proposed Hereford/ Worcester. A more detailed appraisal has to be submitted to Govt. by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Once the May County Council elections have taken place, the DC will be able to move forward. A public consultation will be held. The DC will be setting out principles for the proposals specifically for the Forest of Dean.

The second phase of the 'repatriation' of Publica staff will have taken place by 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Following a series of mishaps with contractors, a new contractor for the Five Acres Leisure Project will be considered at the council meeting. The total borrowing requirement will now be £5.6m.

## 9. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

## 10. FINANCE

- a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for February 2025.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve** the Financial Statement for February 2025.
- c) **Resolved to note** the interest rate on the Monmouthshire Building Society account will reduce from 2.45% to 2.00% on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- d) **Resolved to receive and note** the Receipts / Payments spreadsheet to February 2025 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- e) **Resolved to receive and note** the Budget Monitoring Spreadsheet 2024/2025 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- f) **Resolved to note** an invoice for £652.08 has been sent to the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Committee as reimbursement of charges and expenses for the online booking administrator. The Committee has agreed that the admin online booking costs for the Electric Vehicle are negligible as there is no invoicing or payments involved.

## 11. EARMARKING OF FUNDS IN RESERVES – 2023/24 BUDGET

**Resolved to approve** earmarking of funds for the following amounts for work that was approved during the 23/24 financial year but has not yet been carried out / invoiced:

- a) £5000.00 - SBVH play equipment replacement.

**(Total 23/24 earmarked funds = £5000.00)**

## 12. EARMARKING OF FUNDS IN RESERVES – 2024/25 BUDGET

**Resolved to approve** earmarking of funds for the following amounts for work that was approved during the 24/25 financial year but has not yet been carried out / invoiced:

- a) £4290.00 – Churchyard Wall Repairs.
- b) £10,000 – Play equipment repairs / replacement.
- c) £1,540.20 – Shane Weldon for bus shelter repair.
- d) £1,555.20 – Greenfields for embankment slide repair.
- e) £640.00 – Proposed Allotment Assn. management fee 24/25.

**(Total 24/25 earmarked funds = £18025.40)**

## 13. RINGFENCING OF FUNDS IN RESERVES

- a) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £13,800 from future significant projects (originally reserves for HM Queen Platinum Jubilee projects 2022) for HM King Coronation Projects.

- b) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £9,124 for the Tidenham Youth Programme.

- c) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of previously earmarked funds of £1000 for refurbishment work on Ormerod Road roundabout.
- d) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £700 pending final consideration of grant applications by the Finance and Probity Committee.  
(Total ringfenced funds = £24624.00).

**14. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**Resolved to approve** adoption of revised Financial Regulations, subject to amendment of 7.1 in that the Clerk may authorise bank payments that have been approved by full council.

**15. KING ALFRED'S ROAD CCTV CAMERA**

**Resolved to note** the replacement HDD unit for the camera has not rectified the problem with the CCTV. The Assistant Clerk is corresponding with WCCTV Ltd. for a suitable solution.

**16. SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL**

- a) **Resolved to approve** quotation of £190.00 plus VAT – total cost £225 - for replacement camera for the CCTV system from MJ Security (Original supplier of the CCTV System.)
- b) **Resolved to approve** quotation of £65 plus VAT – total cost £78 – for call out to inspect second faulty camera from MJ Security.
- c) **Resolved to note** Clerk to obtain quotation for door to be fitted at end storage room to include removal of redundant toilet and sink, to allow removal of storage items from the committee room so that it can be rented out as a consultation space.

**17. PLAY AREA WORKING GROUP**

**Resolved to approve** Councillors for the Play Area Working Group and for it to be re-convened once existing members have been consulted. Cllrs Stead and Tullett to look at what equipment might be needed particularly around the hall.

**18. GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR DEVOLUTION TO UNITARY AUTHORITIES**

- a) **Resolved to approve** working group of Cllrs Allan, Koning and Russell to gather information and guide the Council on the process as it develops.
- b) **Resolved to approve** support for a councillor led working group of West Dean Town and Parish Councils to establish if they can work together to take over local services and assets from the District Council. Councillor volunteer to join the group required – Clerk to liaise with the West Forest Hub that has been set up. Cllr Koning to be involved at outset.

**19. COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025 – PRE-ELECTION PERIOD**

**Resolved to note** advice from the FoDDC on pre-election council activity.

**20. DEVELOPMENT SESSION – KIM BEDFORD 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

**Resolved to note** report and feedback from the meeting.

The Council has begun to address issues identified: reducing the number of Committees/meetings, better social media presence and a review of staff roles.

**21. CHANGES TO PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**Resolved to approve** changes to Parish Council Committees and meetings.

From May 2025 there will be no separate Planning and Highways Committee meetings. These to be incorporated into Full Council meetings – Clerk and Asst. Clerk to recommend procedure and Scheme of Delegation to be introduced.

**22. SEDBURY SPACE**

**Resolved to approve** link up with Sedbury Space for drop in sessions, but these to be monthly by parish councillors.

**23. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The Clerk had circulated a test new website which she and the Assistant Clerk will look at in detail, including links to other sites and information.

**24. 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 Drew – burnt out car in A48 layby Friday 14<sup>th</sup> / Sat 15<sup>th</sup>. Also – the Spar shop was broken into. Police have said this was an organised raid – cigarettes taken.

Cllr Koning – asked Clerk to contact DEEP to follow up on previous interaction with them.

**25. FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Planning and Highways Committee.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Full Council meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 21.18hrs**