

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st October 2020 at 7.00pm held as a virtual meeting through the Zoom video conferencing platform.

Present: Councillors: Drew, Hartford-Beynon, Koning (Chairman), O'Toole, Swambo, Tullett, and Wall.

Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk), David Stevens (Clerk's Assistant).

County Councillor Patrick Molyneux.

District Councillor Nick Evans.

Mark Elson – The Forest Review newspaper.

1. ATTENDANCE

a) Resolved to receive apologies for absence from those Councillors unable to attend from Councillors Bollen, Edwards and Molyneux.

b) Resolved to accept those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Bollen, Edwards and Molyneux.

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 received.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Resolved to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2020 subject to amendment to the date of the meeting.

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

4. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR NICK EVANS – ARMED FORCES LIAISON

Nick Evans informed Councillors that he had been elected Member Champion for Armed Forces for the Forest of Dean District Council in November 2019 which he felt was useful as the Beachley Barracks, home of 1st Rifles, is within the Ward. Under the Armed Forces Covenant 2010 the Government promised that Forces personnel and their families be treated fairly and Nick is developing his role to make sure that their unique requirements are heard within the District. He has developed links with local veterans groups, the Royal British Legion and the 1st Rifles welfare team for whom he has offered help as liaison with local schools and organisations, leading to work with County Council colleagues in areas such as special needs schooling. Through these links Nick has encouraged approaches to the District Council regarding grants, housing strategy etc. He has also been involved in discussions regarding Remembrance Day this year and has been helping Beachley Old Boys navigate approaching local authorities regarding an alternative plan for the Beachley site after closure.

Cllr. Wall - a member of the Armed Forces Breakfast Club – has Nick been in touch with them and would he be able to speak at one of their meetings? Nick had not been in touch and would be pleased to speak with them.

Cllr Tullett – what is the alternative plan for the barracks? 1st Rifles are due to leave the site in 2027. The District Council have identified the site for 600 houses in their proposed Local Plan. BOBA propose a mixed use site – some community use, as a site for forces personnel support / respite services run professionally and outdoor facilities (adventure training etc.) and are at the early stages of building a business case.

Cllr Koning – thanked Nick for attending and reporting to Councillors. The Parish Council will be pleased to help Nick where possible.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public, which may be answered but not debated.

County Councillor Patrick Molyneux – the County Council is in consultation with Monmouthshire County Council regarding the District Local Plan consultation, particularly regarding the highways issues this would

create. There have been recent issues with trains affecting children travelling to Gloucester from Lydney to school. This due to a franchising issue but has now been sorted.

Cllr Koning informed Patrick of the Parish Council's involvement with the Chepstow Transport Study. Patrick will send details of public consultation commencing 2nd November. His view is that a new bridge over the river Wye and link road to A48 is the best option, particularly if the Beachley Barracks development takes place.

Cllr Drew expressed concern that a suggested Park and Ride scheme would result in the tarmacking of further fields and only benefit Chepstow. Patrick agreed that public transport be improved first, starting with better services from Lydney and Chepstow by train with a direct route to Bristol.

Cllr Wall asked why the Parish Council had not been included in the recent Quidditch publicity. The Clerk explained that this was a commercial promotion and that the Parish Council had not been included in the final invitation to the photo shoot.

6. COMMITTEES

Resolved to receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees.

i) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2020.

Cllr Tullett asked Councillor Koning, Chair of the Committee if the visit to the Dive Centre had taken place. Cllr Koning informed Councillors that he and the Clerk's Assistant, David Stevens, had attended a meeting. They looked at the chalet / bungalow that had been the subject of a planning application to change use from staff accommodation to a larger holiday let and he was satisfied that the correct comment had been made to the planners. They had been shown around the site which during the pandemic has mostly been used for MOD training. Plans for the future were discussed. During a normal high season the site employs 50 people and once the cycle route to Tintern is open it will be a good tourist destination for people using the route which will benefit the local tourism trade.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Chairman had been invited to lay a wreath at St Luke's church which was filmed by Revd Treharne to be part of a virtual Remembrance Day service.

A constructive meeting had been held at the A48 / Sedbury Lane crossing point. Brain Watkins, Glos CC Highways and David Collicott – Road Safety Campaigns Manager, Gloucestershire Constabulary, were able to see first-hand the concerns that have been raised, particularly as several members of the public near the site confirmed the dangers the crossing posed. The ideal solution would be a foot bridge but that would cost over ½ million pounds. Other long term solutions were discussed, each of which presented problems of its own. For immediate effect some of the bushes on the Tutshill side towards Chepstow will be cut back to create better vision. With the District Local Plan suggesting a large increase in housing in the area Cllr Koning suggested an NDP might allow the Parish Council to stipulate that more major solutions to this problem must be engineered. The Police representative suggested there may be District / County funds available for this project. Clerk to email Patrick Molyneux with ideas discussed for him to look into options.

8. POLICING IN THE PARISH

a) **Resolved to note** Police crime statistics for Tidenham and Sedbury can be accessed following this link. <https://www.ukcrimestats.com/Neighbourhood/6107> Clerk asked to include the link on each agenda as there are useful statistics available.

b) **Resolved to note** Superintendent Jane Probert will be attending the November meeting to discuss changes to Policing in Gloucestershire and the Forest of Dean.

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 September 2020.

b) **Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement** for September 2020 - copy bank statements checked by Chairman against Financial Statement prior to the meeting.

11. BARRATTS HOMES DONATIONS FOR COMMUNITY AND CHARITABLE PROJECTS.

Resolved to keep this item open for future discussion and not to limit to one project to submit to Barratt Homes for funding from their Community Fund. To be re-visited over next few months with more concrete proposals.

12. CHEPSTOW TRANSPORT STUDY - STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE NO. 2

Resolved to note responses to the second survey on behalf of the Council by working group approved at the September meeting.

13. NEW BENCHES IN PARISH

Resolved to note report from Amenities Committee Working Group on the possible location of new benches in the Parish and for the Amenities Committee to prioritise budgeting over the next 2 years for benches initially at 4 of the locations - Sedbury (opposite shops), Tutshill roundabout, top of the steps from A48 on Beachley Road, Elm Road - junction Coleford Road. Also to look at third party funding / donations.

14. DEFIBRILLATOR CABINETS

Resolved that the Parish Council defibrillator cabinets should be left unlocked permanently, subject to review if problems arise.

15. PARISH COUNCIL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (YETI)

Resolved to note following re-instatement of the Youth Engagement Project, a productive meeting was held on 6th October 2020 and a report and business plan will be presented to the November meeting. Cllr Swambo highlighted the problems needing to be addressed. Patrick Molyneux will send link to the Glos CC Growing Communities Fund.

Item 10 Standing Orders - a motion was moved and approved at 8.57pm to suspend Standing Order 3x in order to allow the meeting to continue past the 2 hour limit

16. DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN ECONOMIC VIABILITY ASSESSMENT

Resolved 3 or 4 volunteer Councillors to produce a response to Local Plan Economic Viability Assessment on behalf of the Council - these to be Cllrs. Koning, O'Toole and Tullett. Clerk to email link to the Assessment.

17. ORMEROD ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Resolved to approve installation of Silent Soldier as part of the roundabout refurbishment to be purchased as part of the £2000 already agreed expenditure for the project, subject to Two Rivers agreement for the project. (Cost of Soldier £1000 including delivery and VAT)

18. PARISH COUNCIL LAND – WYEBANK ROAD

- a) **Resolved to approve** payment of £14 to HM Land Registry to obtain certified copies of the Title Register and Title Plan for Parish Council land in Wyebank Road, payable by cheque.
- b) **Resolved to approve** payment of £14 to HM Land Registry to obtain certified copies of the Title Register and Title Plan for Ministry of Defence land adjoining Parish Council land in Wyebank Road, payable by cheque.

19. NEWSLETTER

- a) **Resolved to approve** inclusion of 4 advertisements in the newsletter at a charge of £100 each – total income £400 towards the costs of delivery - from local businesses.
- b) **Resolved to approve** quotation from Storm Marketing for the design of Newsletter of £150.00 plus VAT - total cost £180
- c) **Resolved to approve** quotation from Hanley Court printers for the printing and packaging (suitable for delivery to the Royal Mail distribution centre, Swindon) of 3000 newsletters of £595 (no VAT)
- d) **Resolved to approve** use of Royal Mail Door to Door Service for distribution of the Winter Newsletter cost £500 plus VAT – total cost £600
- e) **Resolved to approve** Clerk to pay agreed amounts as and when they are required.

20. NATIONAL DIVING AND ACTIVITY CENTRE

Resolved to note email from the NDAC regarding underwater explosive firing on 10th November. Clerk to advertise on Facebook and website.

21. CLERK'S ASSISTANT PAY SCALE

Due to the confidential nature of this item members of the public and press were excluded from the meeting at this time.

- a) **Resolved to approve** amendment to Contract of Employment for David Stevens that annual incremental increases be considered on 1st October.
- b) **Resolved to approve** annual incremental salary increase to scale point 16 from 1st October 2020 as per Contract of Employment, and following amendment effective 1st October 2019, for David Stevens. Annual salary £24012 - pro rata salary £14277 per annum.

22. CORRESPONDENCE

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

There was no new correspondence

23. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

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.

There were no reports.

24. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 28th October 2020 – Planning and Highways Committee Meeting.

Wednesday 11th November 2020 – Amenities Committee Meeting

Wednesday 18th November 2020 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 21.30hrs

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

These minutes were approved by all Councillors at a virtual meeting of the Parish Council held under the above regulations during the Covid 19 lockdown period on 18th November 2020 and deemed to have been signed as of that date. **Minute 2020/21 November 2020 page 19 item 3 a).**