Minutes of the Parish Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Burgess, Drew, Koning, Russell, Stead, Swambo and Walsh.
Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk) David Stevens (Assistant Clerk)
Chris McFarling – County Councillor Johnathan Lane – District Councillor

1. CHAIRMAN

a) To elect a Chairman for 2025/2026.
Councillor Russell was proposed and with no other proposals was elected as Chairman for 2025/2026.

b) Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
Declaration of Acceptance of Office duly signed.
Councillor Russell thanked Councillor Koning for his hard work and for the improvements he has overseen during the six years he has been Chairman of the Council in terms of the Council's governance and procedures. He also thanked him for his guidance and support for projects introduced during his tenure, including the community electric vehicle, improvements to the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall and his work with the Poor's Allotments Charity. Councillors thanked Councillor Koning and showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

2. VICE CHAIRMAN

a) To elect a Vice Chairman for 2025/2026.
Councillor Koning was proposed and with no other proposals was elected as Vice Chairman for 2025/2026.

b) **Vice Chairman to sign** the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
Declaration of Acceptance of Office duly signed.

3. ATTENDANCE

a) To receive apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillors Allan, Cracknell and Tullett.

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

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Resolved to confirm that all changes to Councillors' Register of Interest have been notified to the Clerk.

b) Resolved 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.**
Interests may be declared at any time during the meeting should they become apparent.

c) To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered. (All councillors appointed to the Mopla Cottages committee should request a dispensation once appointed, to be considered at the next meeting of the Council.) **None received.**

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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

6. REMIT OF COMMITTEES

Resolved to approve for adoption the Remit of Committees.

7. STANDING COMMITTEES

Resolved to Appoint members to standing committees as approved by the adoption of 'Remit of Committees'
Amenities Committee – Cllrs Bollen, Burgess, Drew, Stead, Swambo, Tullett, Walsh, Chairman and Vice Chairman.
Finance and Probity Committee)
Mopla Cottages Committee) Cllrs Allan, Bollen, Burgess, Swambo, Tullett, Chairman and
Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Committee) Vice Chairman

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8. PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

Tidenham Youth Project – Cllrs Burgess, Cracknell, Stead and Tullett.
Staffing Sub Group – Cllrs Koning, Russell and Tullett.
Open Spaces Group – Cllrs Burgess, Stead, Tullett and Walsh.

9. PUBLIC AND CHARITABLE BODIES

a) To consider appointments to Public and Charitable Bodies.
Poor's Allotment – Cllrs Koning and Russell, Revd. Nikki Bullivant, Sarah-Jane Gilchrist and Elizabeth O'Toole
Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Trust – None, Clerk to inform hall committee.
Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) – Cllr Koning.
Forest Economic Partnership – Cllr Russell.
A48 Meeting – Cllr Drew.
Sedbury Space – Cllr Drew

b) To note Lead Councillor roles to be nominated as and when required during each year covering the following areas (but not limited to):
Climate Emergency (Forest Community Energy) – Cllr Walsh.
Partnership Chepstow – Cllr Swambo.
The River Severn (in combination with SARA) – Cllr Koning.
Elderly Residents – Cllr Swambo.
Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Drew.
Local Schools. - Cllrs Stead & Tullett (Wyedean), Cllrs Burgess & Drew (Offa's Mead), Cllr Walsh (Tutshill), Cllr Cracknell (Dean Close St John's).

10. PROVISION OF INFORMATION UNDER FREEDOM of INFORMATION ACT

Resolved to approve adoption of Provision of Information – Model Publication Scheme.

11. EMAIL POLICY

Resolved to approve adoption of Email Policy.

12. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Resolved to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2025.
b) To consider any questions arising from those minutes. **There were none.**

13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS MEETING

a) Resolved to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2025.
b) To consider any questions arising from those minutes. **There were none.**

14. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

P0459/25/LD1 – Castleford House Nursing Home, Castleford Gardens, Tutshill, Chepstow.
Application under Section 191 to establish whether lawful commencement of development took place before the expiration of planning permission P2076/21/FUL with the construction of foundations and concrete base for bin store. **Resolved - Tidenham Parish Council understands that this development has commenced and continues to support this application.**

Gladman proposal – Cllr McFarling suggested that residents should respond to the survey of which details were given in the leaflet circulated to some residents. The Assistant Clerk had consulted FoDDC Planning Dept. – no planning application has been received at this stage.

15. 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
b) Resolved to note a letter has been sent to the Asst. Chief Constable regarding levels of policing in the Parish following the request at the April meeting. Clerk to chase response.
c) Resolved to note the Clerk has contacted the Road Safety & Traffic Management Officer for an update on the inquest following the fatal RTA in Beachley a couple of years ago. He had not heard and will make further enquiries. Clerk to chase further information.

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16. 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.

17. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive and note any announcements from the Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman had reported some of the potholes in the Beachley area through the FixMyStreet link on the Glos CC website as they are getting worse.

18. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Resolved to note no report from Chris McFarling and the report from Cllr Lane, District Councillor, had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs McFarling and Lane and congratulated Cllr McFarling on his recent re-election to the County Council.

Cllr McFarling – The County Council is now Lib Dem controlled. The leader has announced that the CC will be tackling highways issues as a priority. They will be re-visiting 20mph rollout with more a safety push. Cllr McFarling spoke to the cabinet member for roads and will work with him, particularly regarding A48 congestion issues and will be contacting Monmouthshire CC and Welsh Assembly to try to get relevant parties together to discuss joint action. The CC has still to decide if individual councillors will have the same Highways Local Fund available. He recognises that the proposed Gladman development will put more pressure on trying to resolve A48 traffic problems.

Local Govt reorganisation – the District Councils will be abolished 2027/28. The County Council has responded to Govt. with three options. CC officers are working up the proposals with the final deadline for submission in November 2025. The CC have estimated and requested the total cost of preparing the proposals as £4m. The Govt. has only allocated £7.5m for the whole country. Cllr McFarling suggested that some DC responsibilities will be pushed out to Parish Councils including allotments and play areas. There was some discussion on the benefits of the re-organisation, including that final outcomes must be better for residents. Parish Councillors discussed that the role will involve more work as a volunteer and that it is already difficult to recruit councillors.

Cllr Swambo – has found it difficult to engage with the regeneration team for the Innovation Award team - Cllr Lane to email.

19. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

Cllr Koning asked if information on all facilities in the parish can be shared on the website. Clerk to check with Parish Online and look at sharing on Facebook.

Clerk to contact Clive Reynolds to ask for meeting to discuss S106 requirements for new developments.

20. FINANCE

a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for April 2025.
b) **Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement** for April 2025.
c) **Resolved to note** receipt of first half of the 2025/26 annual precept payment of £64,743.00 was received 25 April 2025.

21. ZOOM RENEWAL

Resolved to note the Zoom Workplace Pro Annual renewal of £155.88 inc. VAT was taken by debit card on 6th May 2025 and is noted on the Monthly Financial Statement.

22. ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2024/25

Resolved to consider and note Annual Internal Audit Report for 2024/25 and note no issues identified or actions required. Some recommendations made to further improve transparency.

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23. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2024/25

a) Resolved to approve responses to items 1-9 of section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Review (AGAR) 2024/25 should be 'Yes'.

b) Resolved to approve signing of the Governance Statement which was duly signed.

c) Resolved to approve the Annual Accounting Statements as shown in the Annual Return and certified and signed by the Clerk, which was duly signed by the Chairman.

d) Resolved to approve the dates for the period for exercising of public rights to be set as from Tuesday 3rd June to Monday 14th July 2025.

24. PLAY AREA REPAIRS

Resolved to note following the postponement of the Amenities Committee meeting on Wednesday 14th May, there were two items that were to have been considered regarding two urgent repairs to play ground equipment. After consultation with the Chairman, I have authorised expenditure as follows so that the items can be made safe.

Repair of the stainless-steel slide which has become detached from the ground mounting point on the Multi-play Junior Fort at Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground. Greenfields Garden Services - £464 + Vat = £556.80.

Repair of rotten boards and panels of the Junior Multi-Play equipment at the Woodcroft Lane playground. Shane Weldon - £250 (no VAT).

25. GAPTC CONFERENCE AND AGM

a) Resolved - no motion to be submitted to the GAPTC AGM.

b) To consider councillors attendance at the Conference and AGM on Saturday 12th July at Toddington Village Hall. **None available to attend.**

26. GAPTC DRAFT DEVOLUTION SURVEY

Resolved to approve draft survey as prepared by Cllrs Allan, Koning and Russell for submission to GAPTC.

27. FoDDC PARISH SETTLEMENTS SURVEY

Resolved to approve draft Parish Settlements survey for submission to FoDDC.

28. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Email received regarding adding asking FoDDC that Beachley Barracks be used as an apprentice's college once closed to the agenda. Clerk to respond that as there is no closure date yet available this not to be added.

29. 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 – had walkaround with S Walker, GRCC, there is no PC land available for development. Also – the audio visual company used at the Hall can quote for installation of the interactive whiteboard and data projector donated by St John's School in the Steve Ford room.

Cllr Stead – the open spaces group had walked around the two play areas with Greenfields Garden Services who will be suggesting suitable equipment and re-design.

Cllr Koning – Active travel consultation – had attended the meeting at The Rising Sun earlier. There were some good suggestions for improvements. He had raised the condition of access for buggies and wheelchairs on Castleford Hill. Members of the public should be encouraged to respond to the survey – Clerk to remind councillors to respond individually.

30. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 28th May 2025 – **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Wednesday 4th June 2025 – Finance and Probity Committee meeting.

Wednesday 4th June 2025 – Mopla Cottages Committee meeting.

Wednesday 4th June 2025 – Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Committee meeting.

Wednesday 18th June 2025 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 20.50hrs

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