

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 9th July, 2025 at 7.00pm at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfred's Road, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Koning, Russell, Stead, Swambo (chairman), Tullett and Walsh.
Officers: D Stevens (Assistant Clerk).

1. CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for 2025/26.

Councillor Swambo was proposed and elected unanimously.

2. ATTENDANCE

a. **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend, none received.

b. **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence, none received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. **Resolved to approve** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March, 2025. Note, the meeting on 14th May was not quorate so cancelled.

b. **Resolved to consider** any matters arising from those minutes. There were none.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There were no members of the public present.

6. ASSISTANT CLERK'S REPORT

a. **Resolved to accept** the Amenities budget sheet. The clerk advised that there is £15k earmarked and £10k in this year's budget for playground equipment.

b. **Resolved to note** the slide at Tutshill recreation ground has been repaired at a cost of £398 + Vat and the lifted wet pour safety matting under one of the junior swings was repaired at cost of £556 + Vat, both under emergency powers.

c. **To report** the rotting floor boards and side panels on the slide tower at Woodcroft playground has been repaired at a cost of £200 under emergency powers.

d. **To report** the defibrillator wall boxes, are starting to rust on the door edges and replacements should be considered at a future meeting, cost estimated to be £499 + Vat each plus fitting £250 + Vat each. Two defibrillators are showing low battery levels, replacements to be considered before recommended minimum levels are reached, cost estimated to be £280 + Vat each. Councillors agreed both to be considered at the next meeting.

7. TO CONSIDER CHURCHYARD WORKS AND ISSUES

a. **Resolved to accept** quote to trim hedges/brambles and generally tidy the churchyard at St John's Church, Beachley.

i. David Kirkham – Hedge trimming. £ 500.00 no Vat.

b. **Resolved to note** correspondence received of an overgrown Laurel Tree at St. Luke's Church, Tutshill. Councillors considered photos of the overgrown Laurel, the fact the neighbouring property (original complaint) can trim up to the boundary, and that the 3-year tree survey is due next year. Councillors concluded that they should wait for the tree survey due in Spring 2026 before considering further.

8. TO CONSIDER OPEN SPACE ISSUES

- a. **Resolved to accept** hedge trimming along Shirley's Grove / Recreation Ground and Mopla Road boundary. Awaiting quote, previous price paid £232.80 inc. Vat in 2024. Councillors agreed as per previous year, due to absence of a quote, value for money and reputable work, to accept a price of up to £350. Councillors asked the Assistant Clerk to chase the quotation which is usually done at the end of August/September after bird nesting.
- i. D S Cracknell Contracting tba.
- b. **Resolved to accept** the remaining chat bench can be installed in the infant playground to the front of the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall.

9. TO CONSIDER PLAYGROUND ISSUES

- a. **Resolved to accept** quote for the repair of the wet pour safety surface under the second junior swing which is starting to break up at Tutshill recreation ground, see item 6.2 above.
- i. Greenfields Ltd. £556 + Vat = £667.20.
- b. **Resolved to accept** quote for the trimming of all internal hedges at Woodcroft playground.
- i. David Kirkham – Hedge trimming. £400 no Vat.
- c. **Resolved to not accept** quotes for various playground equipment repairs/replacement. Councillors considered both quotes and due to the non-urgent nature and imminent annual playground inspection agreed to defer until the annual playground inspection report is received in August/September.
- The replacement of a missing fixing bolt, washer and nut on the slide at Danes Hill playground.
The replacement of the junior swing set bolts and worn shackles at Tutshill recreation ground.
The replacement of some of the rotten wood posts on the Junior Agility Trail at Tutshill recreation ground.
- i. Greenfields Ltd. £2,987 + Vat = £3,584.40.
ii. WM Garden Services. Note: quote includes replacement of Junior Agility Trail, not repair. £7,490 + Vat = £8,988.00.
- d. **Resolved to note** report from the Police of increasing incidents of footballs being kicked at neighbours next to the playing field behind the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. The police asked the Council to consider permanent solutions to prevent re-occurrence. Suggested solutions included; catch nets behind each goal to stop balls going over into neighbouring gardens, reorientating the goal posts, or removing and relocating the goal posts to another playing field. **Resolved to not accept** quote for a 4m high metal mesh catch fence. Councillors considered suggested solutions and felt the only feasible option was to relocate the goal posts to the Skate Park on Buttington Road, although this on its own would not stop balls going over fences and incidents with neighbours at the playing field behind Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. Councillors agreed the relocation of the goal post should be investigated further by the playground working group. Councillors also considered if the playing field should be turned into a garden/woodland area, similar to Garden City, with paths for buggies, disabled, etc but didn't consider further due to the community garden experience.
- i. WM Garden Services Ltd. £6,000 + Vat = £7,200.00.
- e. **Resolved to accept** the repair **but not** the repainting quote for the repair of rotten boards and panels and the preparation and repainting of the Junior Multi-Play equipment at the Woodcroft Lane playground, and the cleaning of the algae or moss on the Crazy Gander bouncy equipment. Councillor Koning proposed to reach out to the Woodcroft community to assess interest in refurbishing and repainting the Woodcroft playground if materials are supplied by the Council.
- i. **Resolved to accept** Shane Weldon. Repair of rotten boards and panels £200 already paid under emergency powers, see item 6c. £50 no Vat.
ii. **Resolved to not accept** Shane Weldon. Preparation and repainting. £1,000 no Vat.

- f. **Resolved to note** the updates from the Play Equipment Working Group with regards the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall playgrounds. Ideas with regards the refurbishment of the two playgrounds have progressed and initial plans and estimated costs have been received. These plans include retaining some of the serviceable playground equipment and the replacement old rotten/broken equipment with new. The plan also includes some new equipment and new rubber bonded mulch flooring for the infant's playground. Initial cost estimates were stated to be £24K excl. Vat for the infant playground and £40K excl. Vat for the junior playground. Councillors considered the plans and estimated costs and proposed the Council will need to investigate funding options before any commitment. Councillors did agree that the playground refurbishment should focus on the infant playground at the front of Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, and create a showcase. The next steps should include a final plan and quotation and also take into account residents views, which could be socialised using Facebook, questionnaires etc.

10. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

There were none.

11. TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' LOCAL REPORTS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr. Russell – advised a recent news article reported a four-year-old boy killed by falling gravestone and asked if the Council are responsible for gravestones at their closed churchyards. The Assistant Clerk advised that he and the Clerk will be investigating further and will report back to Council.

Cllr. Tullett – asked if anyone knew what is happening to boarded up shop next to Sedbury Space. No one knew.

12. RESOLVED TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting 10th September, 2025.

The meeting closed at 20:05 hours.