

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.**

**Present:** Councillors: Allan, Burgess, Russell (Chairman), Stead, Tullett, Walsh.

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

District Councillor Adrian Birch, County Councillor Chris McFarling plus 2 members of the public.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

- a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillors Drew, Koning and Swambo.
- b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Drew, Koning and Swambo.

**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> November 2025.
- b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. The group reviewing the hall energy audit to meet by the end of January 2026.
- c) **Resolved to approve** as a correct record the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.
- d) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. **There were none.**
- e) **Resolved to note** response from PCSO Abi Coe regarding recent crime statistics and that there had been no violent attacks.

**4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

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

**Diana Cave** – what can be done about the queues on the A48, especially now that the old Wye Bridge is closed to traffic? Cllr McFarling responded that this is a huge problem without an easy solution. Various issues were discussed including the difficulties re-introducing HGV's to the M48 bridge, the time it may take to repair the old Wye Bridge and the sequencing of the traffic lights by Tesco's. Cllr McFarling reported that these issues are within the remit of Monmouthshire County Council but that Gloucestershire have been looking at possible solutions including a shuttle bus between Lydney and Chepstow.

Cllr Walsh asked if a car share scheme could be set up.

Cllr Allan reported that there are some pupils that use the school buses from the Lydney direction that are late for school every day, regularly missing their first lesson.

Cllr Burgess reported that teachers are frequently late – some 2 hours due to traffic congestion and that this impacts on all pupils while their classes are covered.

**Michael Cave** – concerned about the massive excavations ongoing at the proposed Gladman site. Have they been given planning permission that the public aren't aware of and is the site going to go through without opposition? The Assistant Clerk reported that he had spoken to the DC Planning Dept who had reported that these are exploratory digs and that the application has not yet been considered by the District Council.

**5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**P1374/25/FUL** – 22 Bridget Drive, Sedbury, Chepstow, NP16 7AR.

Erection of single and two storey rear extensions with associated works.

The Council supports this application.

**6. TO REPORT ON PLANNING DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS (s101)**

**None.**

## 7. TO CONSIDER HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) **Resolved to note** correspondence regarding parking problems in Woodcroft.
- b) **Resolved to note** correspondence regarding traffic on local lanes since the old Wye Bridge has been shut.
- c) **Resolved to note** correspondence regarding the 707 bus through Woodcroft that has now been sent to County Councillor Roger Whyborn.

## 8. 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 \(www.police.uk\)](http://www.police.uk)

## 9. COMMITTEES

**Resolved to receive** reports, minutes and recommendations from committees and to consider any questions arising from them.

- i). Finance and Probity Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.  
There were no questions to Councillor Clive Russell, Chairman of the Committee.
- ii) Mopla Cottages Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.  
There were no questions to Councillor Russell, Chairman of the Committee.
- iii) Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.  
There were no questions to Committee members in the absence of Cllr Swambo, Chairman of the Committee.

## 10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Chairman reported that he, Cllr Koning and the Clerk had visited the Deep campus for an update on progress. A visit for other councillors can be arranged in the new year.

## 11. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

**Resolved to note** report from Chris McFarling.

The Chairman asked if there was information available on the youth expenditure recently announced by the Government. Cllr Birch will try to find out how the funds will be accessed.

Cllr Birch – the District Council voted against Local Government Reorganisation altogether and has written to the Ministry to ask for evidence that the new neighbourhoods will work. Evidence from existing models suggest they don't. No answer has been received. The situation is now further complicated by the Glos City Council financial difficulties. The DC will however have to set itself up for the new arrangements and make the most of it. To that end a project manager will be appointed.

Cllr McFarling – the County Council Highways have carried out a very thorough repair of the pavement in Buttington Road enabled by the residents doing an excellent job of clearing and cutting back hedges etc.

Cllr Walsh – what is the Grassroots Grant fund for? Cllr McFarling confirmed that this is for projects that help improve health and wellbeing.

## 12. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

## 13. FINANCE

- a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for November 2025.
- b) **Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement** for November 2025.

## 14. INTERNAL AUDIT 2025/2026

**Resolved to approve** appointment of GAPTC Internal Audit Service for 2025/26 for a fee of £320 and that the service offers an independent, impartial audit of the Council's governance and processes.

## 15. BUDGET / PRECEPT 2026/2027

- a) **Resolved to approve** proposed budget - as recommended by the Finance and Probity Committee. (Finance Committee Draft Minutes Dec 25 page 4).
- b) **Resolved to approve** Precept amount of £151,934 as recommended by the Finance and Probity Committee.

16. **SEDBURY SPACE MONTHLY SESSION**

No session in December.

17. **OPEN SPACES – TODDLER PLAY AREA SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL**

- a) **Resolved to approve** the revised quotation from Kompan Ltd for the refurbishment of the Infant playground at the front of Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. This includes changing one of the pieces of equipment and adding the coloured splashes in flooring. The increase in price to be considered is £1038.32 plus VAT – total price £1245.98.
- b) **Resolved to note** grant application for £15,000 towards the refurbishment made to Mopla Cottages Charity was approved.

18. **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Resolved to receive and note** any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.

**DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF ITEM 19, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING**

19. **STAFF SALARIES**

**Resolved to approve** recommendation from Staffing Sub Group, following a Clerk's job evaluation, to increase the salary pay scale point. This to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

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.  
**There were none.**

**The Chairman wished members a happy Christmas and New Year.**

21. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Amenities Committee meeting.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 – Full Council meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 1957hrs**