Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Allan, Burgess, Koning (Chairman), Stead, Swambo, Tullett, Walsh, Warby
Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk), David Stevens (Assistant Clerk)
District Councillor Adrian Birch, County Councillor Chris McFarling plus 1 member of the public.
In the absence of the Council Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Councillor Koning chaired the meeting.

1. ATTENDANCE

a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillor Russell.
b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillor Russell.

2. DEATH OF COUNCILLOR GRAHAM DREW

Tidenham Parish Council is deeply saddened by the passing of Councillor Graham Drew, who served the community with dedication and kindness. We extend our sincere condolences to Graham's family and friends. The Council will formally acknowledge the vacancy in due course, following a respectful period of mourning.
Councillors observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Councillor Drew.

3. 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.**

4. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR CRACKNELL

Resolved to note resignation of Councillor Cracknell and that a Casual Vacancy notice has been notified to the District Council and posted on noticeboards and website. **Clerk to send a message of thanks from the Council.**

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a) **Resolved to approve** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2025.
b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. **There were none.**

6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public, which may be answered but not debated.
Claire Hawcroft – raising concerns about road safety in Tutshill, including safe crossing places and the lack of continuous pavements. Also concerned about the recent and increasing incidents with dangerous driving near the Lollipop guy near the school. Has there been any risk assessment done and would it be possible to provide a bodycam? The Clerk reported that Gloucestershire County Council had now appointed somebody from the Think Travel team to look at the situation. They have contacted the Clerk and are looking into the possibility of a bodycam for him. They will be visiting him and the school as soon as possible. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council has been liaising with Gloucestershire Highways regarding traffic issues in the area.

7. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a. **P1407/25/TPO –** Wye View House, 66 Bigstone Meadow, Tutshill, Chepstow.
Undertake the following works to trees covered by Tree Preservation Order number DFTPO 50. Fell 2 x Ash trees (T1 and T3) due to infection with Ash Dieback Disease (stage 2). Prune Sycamore T2 by 1.6 metres laterally and reduce in height by 2 metres, as indicated in red on the accompanying photographic images.
The Parish Council supports this application.
b. **P1510/25/FUL –** Greystones, Sedbury Lane, Sedbury, Chepstow.
Erect an Heritage Orangery to the rear elevation.
The Parish Council supports this application.
c. **P1574/25/FUL–** 5 Philpots Court, Tidenham, Chepstow, NP16 7LL.
Conversion of pool building into ancillary guest accommodation & single storey extension to the main house.
The Parish Council supports this application.

Carol Hinton – Clerk to the Council
Tel: 07356052752
Email: clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

d. **P1567/25/LBC –** 5 Philpots Court, Tidenham, Chepstow, NP16 7LL.
Erection of a single storey extension.
The Parish Council supports this application.

8. **TO REPORT ON PLANNING DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS (s101)**
None.

9. **TO CONSIDER HIGHWAY ISSUES**
Resolved to approve potential locations for a small quantity of speed camera signs that GCC Highways currently have available. Bishton Lane, towards Chepstow; nearest post to the Tutshill lollipop crossing; 2 x locations on Gloucester Road- by No. 6 and Piermont Drive; 2 x locations on Beachley Road – on 50mph sign towards Beachley and 30mph sign towards Sedbury.

10. **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)
b) **Resolved to note** retirement of PC Mark Evans on 31st December 2025. Councillors would like to send their thanks for his support and work over the years. Clerk to try to contact through Abi Coe.

11. **COMMITTEES**
Resolved to receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees and to consider any questions arising from them.
i). Amenities Committee meeting held on 14th January 2026.
There were no questions to Cllr Swambo, Chairman of the Committee.

12. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Resolved to receive and note any announcements from the Chairman of the meeting.
Cllr Koning had attended a Zoom meeting of the GAPTC Local Government Re-organisation Working Group. There is slow progress on what will happen and it was disappointing that only 5 of the 12 representatives attended. GAPTC is developing a toolkit to help town and parish councils navigate the changes. They will offer a 2 hour face to face session on this, with councils then required to carry out a self-assessment 'course' to help consider capacity etc.
Notice of the District Draft Local Plan has been received and will require responding to – suggest a working group to look at the Plan in detail be set up.

13. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**
Resolved to note reports from Chris McFarling and the District Councillors who attended the meeting.
Cllr Birch – the draft Local Plan is due to be considered at the DC meeting on 22nd January. Need as many comments as possible from the community on the Plan. Cllr Walsh asked if the PCs comments will be taken into account, particularly in view of the extra traffic the draft Plan will generate in the Parish. Cllr Birch replied that this is a long term plan for the District and comments will be listened to. The DC is undertaking traffic surveys and will be working with the County Council and Monmouthshire County Council regarding longer term traffic issues. Developers will be asked to contribute toward roads. They are allowed to make profits from developments and unfortunately, due to the relatively lower costs of housing in the Forest area, the available funds for road improvements are not high.
Cllr McFarling – County Council large drop in funding from the Government. Glos CC has £15m shortfall from the Govt, for its roads maintenance programme and has decided to remove its individual councillors' Highways Fund and pay interest on £15m loan. Glos CC budgets being decided in February. Considering putting solar panels on primary schools. Transport and Safety measures – only essential work to be carried out so things like zebra crossings may not be agreed. The Transport Local Plan shows that road building will not get us out of congestion or reduce pollution so will start looking at alternatives. Chris still trying to engage with Monmouth CC to discuss congestion but as yet no response. Cllr Koning – what quality control is there for road repairs, some of which are not well done and problems quickly reappear? Cllr McFarling – quality control only carried out in extreme circumstances (eg when public report). The CC has a duty to repair dangerous potholes first, then if time will return to repair more minor ones. The CC will often carry out 'patching' – small areas of

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Email: clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

resurfacing. Cllr Walsh – Highways manager suggested re-cycling bins at Tutshill mini roundabouts to stop parking – is this feasible? Cllr Mcfarling – possibly not at that site. Cllr Tullett – Glos CC Community Prevention Grant of £384k – how does this work. Cllr McFarling to find out.

14. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Resolved to receive and note the Parish Clerk's Report. All items requiring the council to make a decision were specified separately on the agenda.

15. FINANCE

a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for December 2025.
b) **Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement** for December 2025.
c) **Resolved to note** annual wayleave payment from National Grid of £20.68 has been received and deposited in bank.

16. INTERNAL AUDIT 2025/2026

Resolved to note the GAPTC Internal Audit Service has been appointed for 2025/26 for a fee of £320 for an independent, impartial audit of the Council's governance and processes.

17. BUDGET / PRECEPT 2026/2027

Resolved to note the precept amount of £151,934 has been requested from the District Council.

18. STANDING ORDERS

Resolved to approve review and adoption of TPC Standing Orders.

19. CODE OF CONDUCT

Resolved to approve review and adoption of new model Code of Conduct.

20. DATA PROTECTION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Resolved to approve review and adoption of new Data Protection and Information Management Policy.

21. IT POLICY

Resolved to approve review and adoption of new IT Policy.

22. INTERNAL CONTROLS & GOVERNANCE POLICY

Resolved to approve review and adoption of new Internal Controls & Governance Policy.

23. OPEN SPACES

a) **Resolved to note** order has been placed with Kompan for the toddler play area improvements at Sedbury Hall.
b) **Resolved to note** update from the Open Spaces Group on the Buttington Road skate park area.
c) **Resolved to note** initial suggestion for the Sedbury Hall playing field as part of local air quality improvement plan.

24. SEDBURY SPACE MONTHLY SESSION

a) **Resolved to approve** Councillor representative to attend January public session as Cllr Swambo.
b) **Resolved to approve** continuing community sessions given that mostly nobody has attended, but that these should now take place every two months, the sessions providing an extra opportunity outside of evening meetings for members of the Parish to meet with Councillors.

25. CORRESPONDENCE

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

26. 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.

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Cllr Walsh – could we please ask for an update on the request to Glos CC Highways for railings around Tutshill School. Asst. Clerk to chase.

27. FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved to note the dates of future council and committee meetings:
Wednesday 18th February 2026 – Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 2040hrs

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