

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.**

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

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

County Councillor Chris McFarling, District Councillor Johnathan Lane, plus 1 member of the public.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

- a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Cllr Swambo.
- b) **Resolved to approve for acceptance** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Cllr 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 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026, subject to amendment at page 36 item 24 that the light was 'facing into her garden, instead of the road'.
- b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes.  
**The Clerk confirmed that Wydean School had responded positively to a competition to design a new Council logo and will be in touch to progress this.**

**4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**To receive and consider** any questions from the Public, which may be answered but not debated.  
**There were none.**

**5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**P0298/26/TPO** - 3 Piermont Drive, Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7EB.

Fell 1 x Oak covered by A2 of Tree Preservation Order number DFTPO 152 due to excessive decay in main stem.

**Tidenham Parish Council supports this planning application.**

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

**None.**

**7. TO CONSIDER HIGHWAY ISSUES**

**None.**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

There were no questions to Councillor Clive Russell, Chairman of the Committee.

- ii) Mopla Cottages Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

There were no questions to Councillor Clive Russell, Chairman of the Committee.

- iii) Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

There were no questions to Councillor Clive Russell, who attended the Committee meeting.

**10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The Chairman is due to meet a representative from Two Rivers Housing to explore the possibility of using the vacant shop next to the hall as a youth centre.

**11. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Resolved to note** reports from Chris McFarling and the District Councillors.

District Cllr Lane confirmed that the vote of no confidence in March broke down and had been introduced by District Councillors opposed to how the Draft Local Plan has been undertaken. This was a political issue.

Cllr Walsh – how will the DC respond to the negative posts about the Biosphere? Cllr Mcfarling – it will respond honestly. Most of the claims made are false. The commoners, free miners etc, will not be thrown out and the DC will invite them to be part of the process. There is a further public meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April which Cllr Mcfarling will attend. He hopes to change the dynamic of the meeting and will invite the complainants to take part. For correct information on the Biosphere please see the DC website. The majority of people are in favour of the proposal.

Cllr Koning – there has been £60k set aside for a Town and Parish Council Officer – what will the role entail? Cllr Lane confirmed that they will be a point of reference for help for Town and Parish Councils during the Local Government reorganisation.

Cllr Koning – there is an individual in the Parish who is admitting to damaging / defacing road signs (the County Council is aware). Can we be assured that the repairs will not be paid for by the tax payer? Cllr McFarling informed councillors that the cost of legally pursuing damage to property cases tends to be more costly than the repairs. Cllr Koning stated that in this case the perpetrator is admitting the damage and it would be unfair for the tax payer to pay the repair costs.

Cllr Tullett – very impressed to see in the foster care report that a 17 year old had written his debut novel.

**12. 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.

**13. FINANCE**

**a) Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for February 2026.

**b) Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement** for February 2026.

**c) Resolved to receive and note** the Receipts / Payments spreadsheet to February 2026 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

**d) Resolved to receive and note** the Budget Monitoring Spreadsheet 2025/2026 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

**e) Resolved to approve** payment of the Kompan invoice for the toddler play area of £46,086.68 by the end of the financial year, subject to satisfactory completion and inspection of the project.

**f) Resolved to note** the employer contribution rate for the Gloucestershire Local Govt. Pension Scheme will reduce by 3% to 18.1% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

**14. EARMARKING OF FUNDS IN RESERVES – 2025/26 BUDGET**

**Resolved to approve** earmarking of funds for the following amounts for work that was approved during the 25/26 financial year but has not yet been carried out / invoiced:

**a) £46,086.68 – S&BVH Toddler Play Area refurbishment.** (Work may be completed, invoiced and paid before end of March 2026 – not to be included in earmarked funds if so (see 13e) above.)

**b) £4,725 – Orchard Fundraising** (grant application support).

**c) £690 – The Music Bus.**

**d) £1404 – Futurecell – low energy lighting @ S&BVH.**

**e) £240 – WN Adams – replace CCTV camera.**

**f) £748.80 - Kompan – servicing of inclusive roundabout, Buttington Road.**

**(Total 25/26 earmarked funds = £53894.48 (inc. toddler play area cost.) (= £7807.80 if toddler play area cost paid before end of financial year.)**

### 15. RINGFENCING OF FUNDS IN RESERVES

- a) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £15,000 for future significant projects (originally reserves for HM Queen Platinum Jubilee projects 2022) for HM King Coronation Projects.
- b) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of funds of £2600 from the Tidenham Youth Programme Social Prescribing Fund for youth activities.
- c) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of previously earmarked funds of £1000 for refurbishment work on Ormerod Road roundabout.
- d) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of £6936 – Play equipment repairs / replacement from Amenities budget 2025/26.
- e) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of £7414 – from Tump Farm Solar community benefit 2025 for the Open Spaces Project.
- f) **Resolved to approve** ringfencing of £1100 – Street Hardware from Amenities budget 2025/26 for noticeboard/defib cabinet replacements.  
(Total ringfenced funds = £34050.00).

### 16. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

- a) **Resolved to approve** quotation from Shane Weldon of £130 to wash algae from yellow gates and green fence railings surrounding the infant playground at the front of Sedbury and Beachley Village, cost £130 no Vat.
- b) **Resolved to approve** £286.27 + Vat price increase for grass cutting by Monmouthshire County Council in 2026 which represents 3.2% cost increase. Total cost based on agreed cut frequency for 2026 is £9,230.56 + Vat = £11,076.67.

### 17. FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL REVISED DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

**Resolved to approve** responses to the consultation to the Revised Draft Local Plan for the District 2025-2045, with the addition of the suggestion that a 'garden town' in the Cheltenham/Gloucester area be considered.

### 18. CONSULTATION ON GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION PROPOSALS

**Resolved to note** responses submitted to the Government consultation on the three proposals from Gloucestershire.

### 19. PAYPHONE KIOSK REMOVAL PROPOSAL - BT CONSULTATION

**Resolved to approve** proposal from BT to permanently remove the payphone telephone kiosk from Coleford Road, Tutshill and the option to adopt the kiosk. **Councillors to think of ideas for possible alternatives at the site for the April meeting.**

### 20. OPEN SPACES

**Resolved to note** update on Open Spaces consultation on potential development of play area at Buttington Road site and that student surveys are underway in the local schools, with Wyedean now having responded.

### 21. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

**Resolved to note** email and report from Glos. Public Rights of Way Officer.

### 22. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Introductory email from the new Crime Prevention Officer.

Email from Katie Clubb, Climate Change Community Programme Advisor at the DC, about a community climate event and the potential use of the EV to transport people to and from it.

### 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.

Cllr Koning – he and Cllr Swambo had met with a GP representative to discuss the use of the EV for hospital visits. This will be for blood test visits on Wednesdays. The GP surgeries do not want to be involved and the Council will need to advertise and arrange the service. This service will be for a trial period of 3 months after which it will be assessed. A leaflet and administration process will need to be agreed. Volunteer drivers will be

required. Cllrs Burgess, Koning, Swambo, Tullett and Walsh to be involved in setting this up – Clerk to arrange a meeting.

Cllr Stead – when will the benches for the new play area be considered? Asst. Clerk confirmed this will be at the April meeting.

Cllr Walsh – a Youth Support Volunteering bus visited Tutshill School. Are councillors happy for her to approach them to explore if there are ways the Council could help or use the service? Councillors agreed for Cllr Walsh to do so.

**24. FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Full Council meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 2003hrs**