

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 7.00pm held at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Allan, Koning (Chairman), Stead, Swambo, Tullett, Walsh.

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

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

1. ATTENDANCE

a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Cllr Russell.

b) **Resolved to approve for acceptance** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Cllr Russell.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact Cllr Warby who has not attended for a couple of meetings.

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 18th March 2026.

b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes.

Cllr Tullett – is there any news from Wyedean School regarding the survey and logo competition? Nothing as yet – Clerk to chase.

Cllr Walsh – update on damage to street signs – covered under item 7.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Resolved to receive and note any questions from the Public, which may be answered but not debated.

Resident concerned about digging activity on land at 10 Wyebank Road, suggesting that it breaches planning regulations for the use of the land. It appears this may be to build bike jumps. Concerns also about drainage issues on adjacent land. Resident had also emailed Cllr Adrian Birch and had received a response from the FoDDC Planning Officer confirming that the current activity did not breach use of land terms. Cllr Birch suggested the resident contact the Officer and ask for a site visit. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had limited powers regarding planning issues and that contacting the Planning Officer was the best route to take.

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a. **P0278/26/FUL** – Green Hedges, Bishton Lane, Tidenham, Chepstow.

Erection of three additional dormers with associated works.

Tidenham Parish Council supports this application.

b. **P0233/26/FUL** – Penmoel Cottages, Coleford Road, Woodcroft, Chepstow.

Widening of vehicular access, including demolition of small bin store structures and partial removal and repair of a stone boundary wall, and extension/widening of the existing driveway with bound and permeable surfacing and associated drainage.

Tidenham Parish Council does not support this planning application for similar reasons as advised by the Local Highway Authority i.e. the overall width of the proposed vehicle access.

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

None.

7. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED RE HIGHWAY ISSUES

To report continued vandalism to Tutshill road signs. The Clerk gave a confidential briefing to councillors on the current situation. Members of the public had left the meeting at this point.

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

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.**

10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Chairman reported that there had been graffiti painted on some of the equipment at the Woodcroft play area before, and over, the weekend. The council handyman had painted over the original images but some members of the public had removed some further graffiti that re-appeared.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Resolved to note reports from Chris McFarling and District Councillor Birch who attended the meeting.

Cllr McFarling – the Local Government Reorganisation – 2 parts - first to become unitary authorities after abolition of District and Borough Councils. It seems the preferred option may be that Gloucestershire becomes 2 unitary authorities. After which each unitary authority will join with another to become 'super' authority. The preferred option would be to join with West of England (which includes Bristol) or Hereford and Worcestershire in the north. S106 monies – he and Clerk had met with CuraTerrae to look at possible air quality monitors to be positioned at the schools in Sedbury. Cllr Swambo asked if using the monies to put in an electric boiler and solar panels with battery at the hall could be re-considered by the S106 officers as this would better help air quality improvement for which the monies are earmarked. It seems the officers are being very difficult in their interpretation of the terms of use. Clerk to contact Cllr Birch to follow up with the DC officers.

Cllr Tullett – Is it possible to find out the number of long term empty homes by Parish as mentioned in the report? Cllr Birch to follow up.

Cllr Stead – can the PC apply for funding under the Grass Roots Fund? It must be used directly for wellbeing.

Cllr Swambo suggested an application could be made for the installation of a sink in the new consulting room at the hall so that the midwife hub can be set up. Clerk to email Cllr Mcfarling with details.

Cllr McFarling confirmed that the County and District Councils are looking into ways to help pedestrians who need to access Chepstow while the old bridge is shut. It is hoped one of the walkways may be opened during May. Cllr Allan suggested improvements to the number 72 bus service into Chepstow particularly for while there are access issues.

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 March 2026.

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

c) **Resolved to note** the interest received on the Monmouthshire Building Society account for 2025/26 was £1553.28.

d) **Resolved to note** VAT reclaim for 2025/26 of £14751.83 has been submitted to HMRC and payment received.

e) **Resolved to receive and note** year end accounts summary for 2025/26.

f) **Resolved to note** a payment of £38 from AH Jones Butchers had been paid into the Council's Lloyds bank account in error. This was immediately repaid by the Clerk before the end of the financial year.

14. ASSET REGISTER

a) **Resolved to approve** adoption of Asset Register as in the 2025/2026 Annual Accounts.

b) **Resolved to note** all assets have been visually checked during the year by the Clerk's Assistant, contractors or through playground checks.

15. **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – GAPTC AND SLCC**

- a) **Resolved to approve** renewal of annual membership of GAPTC 2026/2027 of £1773.19 – numbers of electors 4561 which includes the NALC element (8.64 pence per elector) and the GAPTC element (35.57 pence per elector) and a discount of £243.37 on the GAPTC element for having a CiLCA qualified Clerk and for achieving the Local Council Award - Foundation).
- b) **Resolved to approve** renewal of membership of SLCC 2025/2026 of £253.

16. **FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL - NATURE AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2026**

To consider responses to the FoDDC Nature and Climate Emergency Strategy Consultation 2026.

Resolved – working group to meet to discuss. Clerk to email councillors for volunteers.

17. **POLICE FOREST COUNCILLOR FOREST ADVOCACY SCHEME**

Resolved - TPC councillor representative for the Scheme to be appointed at the May meeting.

18. **ELECTRIC VEHICLE**

- a) **Resolved to approve** renewal invitation, statement of fact and quotation for insurance renewal for the Electric Vehicle from Gallagher insurance brokers with QBE UK Ltd for £1095.32 including insurance premium tax, fees and two year's no claims discount.
- b) **Resolved to note** - to ensure continuity of cover, Gallagher will renew the insurance pending consideration and notification by 16th April that cover is required and paid for.

19. **SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL TODDLER PLAY AREA PICNIC BENCHES**

- a) **Resolved to approve** purchase of 1 or 2 picnic benches for the grass area by the new toddler play equipment.
- b) **To consider** if benches purchased should be anchored to concrete plinth or free standing. **Resolved** – benches should be anchored. Clerk to obtain quotes for concrete plinths for the May meeting.
- c) **To consider** options
- 1) Waddingtons Accessible picnic table six seater with wheelchair/buggy access in black or brown made from Enviropol 98% recycled materials – cost £690 plus VAT – total cost £828 inc. free delivery and concrete fixings.
 - 2) Waddingtons Accessible picnic table six seater with wheelchair/buggy access in light brown or grey made from Timberpol 95% recycled materials – cost £840 plus VAT – total cost £1008 inc. free delivery and concrete fixings.
 - 3) Earth Anchors Forest Saver recycled plastic multi coloured octagonal accessible picnic bench 8 seater – cost £917 plus VAT – total cost £1100.40 inc. delivery. Concrete fixings extra £14 plus VAT - £16.80.
 - 4) Earth Anchors Forest Saver recycled plastic multi coloured Junior octagonal accessible picnic bench – cost £765 plus VAT – total cost £918 inc. delivery. Concrete fixings extra £14 plus VAT - £16.80.
- Resolved to approve** purchase 2 of Waddington Accessible picnic tables @ 1) but that order should coincide with concrete installation.
- d) **Resolved to note** purchase of bench(es) to be from earmarked 2025/26 funds.

20. **SEDBURY AND BECHLEY VILLAGE HALL PLAYING FIELD**

To consider quotation from Shane Weldon to re-position the railings previously at the front of the hall to the bottom entrance to the field to stop access to the field for motor bikes of £150 no VAT. Note – it was not possible to obtain further quotes for this work.

Resolved – Councillors required more information on the position and purpose of the railings – to be considered at the May meeting.

21. **WOODCROFT PLAY AREA**

Resolved to note Shane Weldon has been asked to paint over some unpleasant graffiti on the slide at the Woodcroft play area. This will be emergency expenditure and will include the cost of materials once purchased. The Clerk confirmed that the cost is £70.

22. **OLD WYE BRIDGE CLOSURE**

Resolved to note update on closure as at date of meeting and through www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/old-wye-bridge-chepstow/

23. MAY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a) **Resolved to note** change to the amenities and full council meetings in May as at item 25.
- b) **Resolved to note** update on Annual Parish Meeting on 27th May.

24. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to receive and note any other correspondence as detailed in the Clerk's Report.
Forest Community Energy meeting – 21st April.

25. 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 Walsh – any progress on the use of the EV for hospital visits? The Clerk confirmed that there had not been any drivers available for April and that the use of the vehicle as a temporary solution to accessing Chepstow had been offered to the County and District councils. Once this has been resolved the visits can start on Wednesdays.

Chairman: This was Jn Koning's last Full Council meeting and he will step down as a Councillor on 12 May. He thanked Parish Councillors for their support during his tenure; he also thanked District Councillor Birch and County Councillor for their support to him and the Parish Council over the last 8 years.

26. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 13th May 2026 – Full Council Meeting.

Wednesday 20th May 2026 – Amenities Committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at 2045hrs