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

Present: Councillors: Allan, Burgess, Russell (Chairman), Stead, Swambo and Walsh.
Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk), David Stevens (Assistant Clerk)
District Councillor Adrian Birch

1. ATTENDANCE

a) **To receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend. **None.**
b) **To consider for acceptance** those apologies received with reasons for absence. **None.**

The Chairman asked that those present observed the 60th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster with a moment of silence and reflection.

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 9th September 2026.
b) **To consider any questions** arising from those minutes. Wyedean School – Cllrs Stead and Tullett had left the details of the anti-racism training and the Jan Koning Award and are awaiting a call to arrange a meeting to discuss. Cllr Russell had approached St John's on the Hill who were delighted to be involved in the Jan Koning Award. Cllr Russell to do a presentation to the whole School on the Award.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

To receive and consider any questions from the Public, which may be answered but not debated. **None present.**

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a. **P1044/26/TPO –** Land South of Castleford Gardens, Castleford Hill, Tutshill, NP16 7LE.
Crown lift all roadside trees covered by A1 of Tree Preservation Order number G41 (TPO 22) to a minimum height of 5.2 metres above ground level under the Highways Act, using common law right to cut back to the boundary.
Tidenham Parish Council supports this planning application.
b. **P1054/26/TPO –** Beracah House, Gloucester Road, Tutshill, Chepstow.
Fell 1x Weeping Ash of DFTPO 152 (A1) due to presence of a fungal bracket around the base of the tree which now covers half the circumference of the trunk. Significant swelling of trunk to 2.5 metres high from ground level, with ring-cracking of the bark above the swelling. Vitality in the crown of tree is poor with dead branches and a thin crown. Minimal response growth higher up, if it snaps the tree could fall onto the adjacent footpath, the road or the property.
Given the size and prominence of this tree, Tidenham Parish Council supports the expert advice and decision of the planning officer with this planning application.
c. **P0692/26/FUL –** Land South East of Garden Cottage Stroat.
Change of use of land from agricultural to equine, including the construction of a new stable block and menage. Note: there are two notices of additional information.
Tidenham Parish Council supports this planning application.
d. **P0095/26/FUL –** Sheercliffe, Coleford Road, Tidenham.
Erection of a two-storey extension and double garage.
Tidenham Parish Council does not support this planning application for the same reasons as previously advised.

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

e. **P1208/26/TPO –** 2 Bigstone Meadow, Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7JU.
Undertake the following works to trees covered by A2 of Tree Preservation Order number DFTPO 152. Remove dead branch from Lime tree. Reduce Sycamore over shed and garden by approximately 2 metres. Reduce Beech over garden and greenhouse by approximately 2 metres. Trim tops of group of Yews by approximately 1 metre.
Tidenham Parish Council supports this planning application.

f. **P1106/26/FUL –** Land Northwest of Kinley Barns, Bishton Lane, Tidenham, Chepstow.
Change of use of land to accommodate the siting of 5 no. shepherds huts for holiday accommodation use together with associated parking and landscaping.
Tidenham Parish Council supports this planning application.

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

7. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONCE RECEIVED RE HIGHWAY ISSUES

a. **To consider** correspondence received from GCC Traffic Engineering Team looking at introducing a number of highways improvements outside Offa's Mead Academy school, including school keep clears and double yellow lines. Cllr Russell - the recent re-surfacing around the Wyebank Road area has been done very well.
Tidenham Parish Council supports the proposed safety improvements.

b. **Resolved to note** correspondence received from National Highways with regards regular updates on the M48 Severn Crossing. The Clerk will attend the bi-weekly updates where possible.

c. **Resolved to note** update from Cllr Walsh on a local Safer Road Project she is involved in.

8. POLICING IN THE PARISH
Resolved to note Police crime statistics for Tidenham and Sedbury can be accessed following this link. Tidenham and Sedbury | Police.uk (www.police.uk) Clerk to contact Police as stats seem to be inaccurate.

9. COMMITTEES
Resolved to receive reports, minutes and recommendations from committees and to consider any questions arising from them.
i). Amenities Committee meeting held on 16th September 2026.
There were no questions to Councillor Swambo, Chairman of the Committee.

10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
Resolved to receive and note any announcements from the Chairman of the meeting.
The Chairman expressed concern that Cllr Chris McFarling is unwell and asked that the Clerk send a card from the PC wishing him well.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS
Resolved to note reports from Chris McFarling and the District Councillors who may attend the meeting.
Cllr Birch informed Councillors of the DC meeting on 22nd October at which the proposed Biosphere will be debated. Also - there are currently concerns about the perceived lack of democratic accountability for planning decisions. The new target of 8.5k houses in 10 years seems to be academic as there is very little building happening at the moment. The public will be consulted on the new Housing and Economic Needs Assessment and what they want to see in the Forest of Dean District. They will be given base data on what the District currently has. Unfortunately, designated employment sites have not yet been built out. The Forest has a number of small businesses (up to 5 employees) but these are not expanding.
Cllr Swambo – why can't the District Council reserves be used to help meet some needs before LGR swallows it up? – Cllr Birch – the Council is not allowed to do this under the LGR rules and this may still go ahead next year. Cllr Tullett – what is the news on the Biosphere proposal. Cllr Birch – critical vote at the DC meeting on 22nd which can be watched live online. Hopefully it will not be ditched - unfortunately misleading information has been circulated. The Biosphere would give the Forest of Dean a brand for the future.

12. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT
Resolved to receive and note the Parish Clerk's Report. All items requiring the council to make a decision had been specified separately on the agenda. Cllr Walsh to chase update on what appears to be a further delay on the bodycam for the Lollipop guy at Tutshill.

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

13. FINANCE

a) **Resolved to approve payments** according to the Financial Statement for September 2026.
b) **Resolved to receive and approve the Financial Statement** for September 2026.
c) **Resolved to note** the second part of the 2026/27 precept payment of £75,967 was received on 18th September 2026.
d) **Resolved to receive and note** the Receipts / Payments spreadsheet to August 2026 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 2nd September 2026.
e) **Resolved to receive and note** the Budget Monitoring Spreadsheet 2026/2027 as presented to the Finance and Probity Committee at the meeting on 2nd September 2026.
f) **Resolved to approve** signing of Lloyds Bank Mandate confirming removal of E Bollen and GJ Koning as Lloyds Bank account signatories and adding Cllr Clive Russell and Cllr Janet Stead as signatories.

14. COUNCILLOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SESSION 14TH NOVEMBER 2026

a) **Resolved to approve** cost of refreshments for the session at The Rising Sun Community Pub in Woodcroft on Saturday 14th November at 11am at £12 per head, including use of the meeting room. To be allocated from the training budget. **The session to be at 2pm.**
b) **Resolved to note** Three Year Strategy Report as prepared by Cllrs Russell and Walsh.
c) **To confirm** availability for attendance. All Councillors present available except Cllr Stead.

15. PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CLUSTER MEETING 19TH NOVEMBER

Resolved to note cluster meeting at Beachley Barracks, rearranged so that Tidenham councillors can attend – original was planned for evening of November full council meeting. Clerk to re-circulate details.

16. REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATH AND PARADE

Resolved to note wreath has been ordered from the local Poppy Appeal co-ordinator at a cost of £23. Cllr Russell to attend parade as PC representative.

17. TIDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL .CO.UK. DOMAIN NAME

Resolved to approve retention of the tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk domain name at an annual cost of £40 plus VAT (no services included). This is recommended to protect the name and avoid potential unscrupulous use.

18. OPENSPACES GROUP UPDATE

a) **Resolved to approve** renewal of Agreement from Orchard Fundraising for a further 12 months to 30 September 2027 for 10 x 8 hour days @ £4600 plus VAT.
b) **Resolved to note** update from the Open Spaces Group.
c) **Resolved to approve** progressing the Family Park Project as per Open Spaces Group recommendations, commencing with fundraising for the pump track.
d) **To consider** councillors' suggestions for potential local businesses to sponsor parts of the family park. Cllr Russell had approached a couple of local businesses and had been asked how they would benefit from sponsorship and what their ongoing commitment would be. The Open Spaces group to prepare a Q&A on this.

19. SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL PLAYING FIELD

a) **Resolved to approve** increase of quotation from Shane Weldon to re-position/repurpose 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 £130 - to total £280 no VAT. The original quote agreed September 2026 was for positioning of a straight fence. A staggered one with access is required.
b) **Resolved to approve** increase in cost of £15 to £55 per periodic seasonal weed spray of the hall car park by Dave Kirkham to include around the toddler play area next season.

20. ELECTRIC VEHICLE USE

To consider future use of the vehicle outside of its original remit.
This item not considered – to be considered at a later date.

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

21. GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Resolved to note notice from GALC of change of staff and services provided. The Clerk informed councillors that there would be no internal audit service for the 2026/27 year and that the local Clerk's network will be producing a list of suitable auditors. GALC have been asked for comment on the 2026/27 subscriptions for a service that will not at present be provided.

22. CORRESPONDENCE

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

23. 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.

Cllr Allan – the path between the shops and the hall car park is very overgrown and difficult for users. Clerk to contact Two Rivers.

Cllr Walsh – The People's National Emergency Briefing has now been adapted as a film for over 16 year olds and will be pushed out to sixth forms – can we contact Wyedean School Student Council – Cllr Allan to do.

24. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 11th November 2026 – Amenities Committee meeting.

Wednesday 18th November 2026 – Full Council Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 2019hrs

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Email: clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk