

TIDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at Tidenham War Memorial Hall, Coleford Road, Tutshill, Glos NP16 7BN

Present: Parish Councillors: Mr John Powell - Chairman, Mrs Sheila Bollen, Mr Graham Drew, Mr Nick Evans, Mr Jan Koning, Mrs Helen Molyneux, Mr Rob O'Toole, Ms Audrey Tullett and Mr Chris Wall plus District Councillor Gethyn Davies, PC Henry Davies, Kevin Caster from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and 19 members of the public.

Also Present: Mrs Carol Hinton – Parish Clerk, Mr David Stevens – Clerk's Assistant

1. **Apologies:** were received from Councillor Sandra Gregory
2. **Presentation to Roy Birch – 'Honorary Freeman of the Parish'** – The Chairman reported that Roy was in hospital and so unable to attend for the presentation – another will be arranged as soon as he is well enough.
3. **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th April 2018:** Having given the public time to read the Minutes they were approved subject to a typing amendment at item 6, and duly signed.
4. **Matters Arising:** There were none.
5. **Chairman's Report:** Mr Powell welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. Mr Powell read his Annual Report and thanked councillors for their hard work and support during the past year.
6. **Police Report:** PC Henry Davies introduced himself and reported that things are much the same in the Tidenham Parish area. There have been no worrying trends and reported crime is down – 118 reported last year which is the lowest in the Forest of Dean by a long way. Tracy Garcia-Cote is the full time PCSO for the area and Natalie Lang now works in Lydney. There are 2 main areas where crimes are reported – The Pub and the secondary school. Road safety continues to be high priority and this will be tackled whenever possible. Hazel Evans asked if there were many drug problems – PC Davies reported that there has been no intelligence to suggest it is a problem and asked people to be vigilant and report suspicious activity. Susan Pears asked if the Police are going in to schools – PC Davies reported that there is a dedicated officer who visits schools and talks to students, building up a rapport, supported by local officers. Kevin Caster asked if drug driving is treated with the same severity as drink driving – PC Davies said yes and suggested 999 should be called if drug or drink driving is suspected, although he did acknowledge that response times in this area can be longer than elsewhere. Councillor Nick Evans asked if the impact of the closure of Lydney police station had been monitored and if so what had it been. PC Davies reported that there has been an impact particularly with regard to the visibility of Police officers in the local area but was not sure of any other negative impact. Councillor Evans also asked how the introduction of new technology on the beat is working. PC Davies said that the new technologies (tablets and laptops) are being introduced and improving but that whilst helpful, they are not as good as working in a station.

7. Tidenham Parish Council Committee Reports

Amenities Committee – Councillor Jan Koning, chairman of the Committee read his report. Hazel Evans asked about the trees that have been felled in readiness for the new Barratts development on the roundabout in Sedbury (to be dealt with under ‘Planning’). Liz McBride reported the felling of some trees in Bigstone Meadow which Councillor Evans believes belong to the County Council – to be investigated. Colin Pears asked for more details on the vandalism reported which was confirmed to be at the climbing equipment behind Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. Jan Ryman asked if the Tree Survey was available to the public and it was agreed to add this to the Parish Council website. Bob Civil asked if the Parish Council maps of footpaths are still available – This will be looked into and Gloucestershire County Council approached.

Planning, Development Control and Highways Committee – Councillor Powell read his report. He informed Hazel Evans that the trees at the roundabout have been cleared to allow a wide entrance/exit to the new development with a clear view of traffic. Hazel Evans expressed concern that the newly re-surfaced Beachley Rd is to be dug up for the new site sewers and that it should be correctly re-laid to avoid pothole in future. Councillor Powell reported that the developer has promised such roadworks shall be repaired to the same standard as before. Gethyn Davies asked if the Parish Council has applied for Section 106 monies for the three developments in the area. Councillors Evans responded that the Council understood that the facilities for which section 106 monies were available were provided by the developer as part of the original planning process - the Council will look into. Councillor Powell reported that a Grant of Easement has been made to the Barratts developer for which a sum of £20,000 will be received. A licence has also been granted for a compound on Wyebank Road for which the Council will receive £500 per month. Lance Allen asked if the Parish Council has considered what will happen when a) the Beachley Barracks closes and the impact on current facilities and b) the need for a by-pass should the camp be re-developed (now that the Welsh Office and English authorities appear to be liaising on the issue). Councillor Evans reported that the Council had invited an Army representative to speak at a meeting, who was only able to confirm that future plans were still fluid. Councillor Evans is in contact with the Barracks. Chris Ricketts then gave some details of a plan to develop the Barracks as a rehabilitation Centre for military personnel, including the use of married quarters for families of those being treated for both physical and mental issues and the provision of trade training and educational facilities – some of which are not available at the current rehabilitation facilities. The Centre could accommodate 600 personnel and would create up to 350 jobs. The impact on the local community would be minimal as the plans involve a similar number of people based at the Barracks with less movement in and out. The plan has received enthusiastic support and was quickly taken up by senior military personnel, now being with the Secretary of State for Defence. It is proposed that the money for the Centre would come from military oriented charities and businesses who have signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant. The District and County Councils are aware of the plans. Local support from the community and Parish Council will be important if the plans are to be adopted.

8. To Receive Financial Statements from:

Tidenham Parish Council – There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

Mopla Cottages – There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

9. To Receive Reports from:

Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust - There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Charity – Councillor Sheila Bollen read her report on the Hall. Helen Molyneux reported that the Christmas Carols sing-a-long had been very enjoyable and congratulated the Committee on an extremely well-used and run Hall, largely due to the efforts of Councillor Bollen.

Poor's Allotment Trust – Councillor Helen Molyneux gave an overview of the report as treasurer to Poor's Allotment. There have been no applications for relief received and Councillor Molyneux thanked the Trustees for their work. Kevin Caster, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, reported that they are slowly managing the clearance of bracken and that nothing dramatic is planned for the site. He encouraged people to visit. Beryll Metcalfe asked if there have been wild boar on the site – Kevin reported that there had only been evidence of one that had then left undetected.

10. Items Submitted by the Public:

Chris Ricketts from the Beachley Old Boys Association (BOBA) reported that the Association, which was formed 25 years ago, has now been given new accommodation in the old families NAAFI building in which a museum displaying 70 years of artefacts and memorabilia will be created. BOBA would like this to be a community project involving local people and asked for support from the Parish Council. It was agreed to promote and support the project through Parish Council media channels including website and newsletter. Such a centre / museum would be more difficult to close down when the future of the Barracks is eventually decided.

Hazel Evans asked if the Parish Council was aware of any larger proposed developments in the planning pipeline – Councillor Powell reported there were none known of.

Liz McBride asked if there were plans to reduce the speed on the A48 from the Tutshill turning into Chepstow. The new developments will mean more people crossing the A48 on what is already a dangerous section, particularly children crossing to schools. This will be considered by the Parish Council Planning and Highways Committee at the next meeting. Councillor Evans reported that Brian Watkins of Glos. County Council Highways has said that the size and width of the road dictates the speed limits and that the central bollards were installed after the original protests against the 91 house development.

Bob Civil asked if a representative of the Parish Council was attending the meeting on 11th April in Chepstow – Councillor Evans is attending.

Liz McBride thanked the Parish Council for their support with the Tidenham Remembers Book.

The Chairman informed those present that there will be vacancies for 4 Parish Councillors following election, unopposed, of 8 of the current councillors.

The meeting closed at 20.34hrs