

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 12th July, 2023 at 7.00pm at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfred's Road, Sedbury.

Present: Councillors: Koning, Strong, Swambo (chairman) and Wall.
Officers: D Stevens (Assistant Clerk).

1. CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for 2023/24.

Councillor Swambo was proposed and elected unanimously.

2. ATTENDANCE

a. **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend, from Councillors Bollen and Tullett.

b. **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Bollen and Tullett.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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. None received.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. **Resolved to approve** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May, 2023 with the following amendment.

Page 11, item 6 – Councillor Koning proposed the text be changed to 'Resolved to defer consideration', to be consistent with item 7a considered and stated in the minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 14th July, 2021. The chairman agreed.

b. **Resolved to consider** any matters arising from those minutes. There were no questions.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There were no members of the public present.

6. ASSISTANT CLERK'S REPORT

a. **Resolved to accept** the Amenities budget sheets.

b. **Resolved to note** bi-monthly playground safety checks were completed in June. Seized padlock replaced at Woodcroft Playground under emergency powers, cost £24 inc. Vat. Councillor Koning advised the pedestrian gate latch requires repair.

c. **Resolved to note** that two of the Victorian bench seats at Tutshill War Memorial recreation ground have been stolen and reported to the Police. The Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground are considering replacement benches.

d. **Resolved to note** 'Danger Cliff Edge – Keep Out' signs have been installed on the new fencing along Wyebank Road. There is one spare sign which will be installed once a suitable post to install on is identified. Councillor Swambo advised the wild flower signs and posts on Wyebank Road have been removed, the Clerk's office to install replacements signs.

e. **Resolved to note** request received from the church to cut patch of nettles at St Mary's and St Peter's Church. The patch of nettles has since been cut back.

f. **Resolved to note** the CCTV cameras at Sedbury car park and King Alfred's Road have been checked and are working. Councillors discussed the request for four new remote CCTV cameras which will be considered as part of the Safer Streets Funding project.

g. **Resolved to note** following incident on Beachley Road the Loop Road defibrillator required a replacement defibrillator pad pack which was purchased under emergency powers, cost £80.80 inc. Vat. The Assistant Clerk advised that all defibs will require replacement pad packs in February 2024.

h. **Resolved to note** GCC are consulting on Phase 2 of their roadside (7kw) car chargers. Councillors

discussed there are no public EV charge points in Tidenham and with the increase in the number of EV cars, and limited off street parking in Sedbury, locations for public EV charge points such as Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall should be considered.

7. TO CONSIDER CHURCHYARD WORKS AND ISSUES

Resolved to note a Zoom meeting was held with Councillor Koning, Councillor Swambo, Clerk and the Archdeacon in June where the cost and maintenance of churchyards was discussed. The Archdeacon was understanding of the Council's position and asked for a few weeks to consider possible options.

8. TO CONSIDER OPEN SPACE ISSUES

a. **Resolved to accept** the cost to allow one cut and collect of the wildflower area on Wyebank Road in September and take the arisings to the proposed community garden.

i. **Resolved to accept** Glebe – one cut and collect of the wildflower grass area on Wyebank Road.
£300.00 + Vat - £360.00.

b. **Resolved to note** requirements for grass cutting tender to include no mow May and keeping the frequency of cuts to every two weeks. Councillors considering extending the Wyebank Road wild flower area but first would like a review with Mark Cleaver on the success of the pilot and options to extend. Councillors also discussed less frequent cuts in churchyards to allow wild flowers to grow, Councillor Swambo to discuss with Revd David Treharne. Councillors also suggested extending the orchard area on Wyebank Road.

c. **Resolved to not accept** the trimming of all internal hedges at Woodcroft playground. Councillors considered the quote received to be expensive and suggested either local community support, Councillor Koning has a community contact, and for the Clerk's Assistant to obtain quotes from alternative local hedge trimming companies.

i. **Resolved to not accept** Glebe – Hedge trimming.
£650.00 + Vat - £780.00.

d. **Resolved to note** response from FoDDC Tree Officer with regards trees that should be protected by means of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Councillors discussed there are some very distinct trees in the parish and one option to protect them is a TPO. Councillors proposed to put on Facebook for parishioners to list trees that should be considered for protection. Councillor Swambo agreed to create a Facebook post. Councillors discussed that one of the issues, as witnessed with the recent felling of a tree in Buttington Road, is notification of the felling and who to contact.

e. **Resolved to note** Councillor Swambo will propose wording for each Chat Bench plaque. Councillors agreed the plaque text should be simple and include that the benches are being donated by the Parish Council. The plaque for Beachley Road at the top of the A48 steps should also thank the Chepstow Covid helpers for their support.

9. TO CONSIDER PLAY AREA ISSUES

a. **Resolved to accept** the cost for the annual playground inspections which is due September, seven playgrounds in all.

i. **Resolved to accept** Play Inspection Company – £65 + VAT per playground.
£455.00 + Vat = £546.00.

ii. **Resolved to not accept** ROSPA Play Safety – £75.00 + VAT per playground + £3.50 per extra item.
£550.50 + Vat = £660.60.

iii. **Resolved to not accept** Gordon Playground Inspection Ltd – £90.00 per playground.
£630.00 + Vat = £756.00.

b. **Resolved to accept** a replacement litter bin at Tutshill War Memorial recreation ground.

i. **Resolved to accept** FES - black Glasdon litter bin, with a 2ft concrete slab attached to the base.
£222.62 + Vat = £267.14.

10. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a. **Resolved to note** correspondence received with regards who is responsible for grass cutting in Bigstone Meadow.
- b. **Resolved to note** correspondence received with regards who is responsible grass cutting on land to the west of Danes Hill (next to the Danes Hill play area).

11. TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' LOCAL REPORTS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr. Koning – advised that the Lady Winifred Waring bench opposite the Pen-Moel estate on the B4228, Coleford Road is not usable due to overgrown vegetation on the verge and the bench needs refurbishment. The Assistant Clerk advised that the Clerk's office wrote to the Waring family previously, and GCC Highways, to enquire on ownership and permission to refurbish this bench. Ownership was unknown but both the Waring family and GCC Highways had no objections to the refurbishment.

Cllr. Swambo – advised that the Police has asked if the Council would be willing to support new remote CCTV cameras in the parish and also a body cam for Robbie the lollipop man at Tutshill C of E School. Councillors discussed the need for new remote CCTV cameras and a body cam which as per item 6.f. above should be considered as part of the Safer Streets Funding project.

Cllr. Swambo – advised that the Police have requested if they can store two bicycles that they are using at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. The Assistant Clerk to get details for a small shed, similar to that used by Rainbows, and add to a future agenda for Council consideration.

12. RESOLVED TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting 13th September, 2023.

The meeting closed at 20:05 hours.