

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 10th July, 2024 at 7.00pm at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfred's Road, Sedbury.

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

1. **CHAIRMAN**

To elect a chairman for 2024/25.

Councillor Swambo was proposed and elected unanimously.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

a. **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend, from Councillors Russell, Stead and Wall.

b. **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence, from Councillors Russell, Stead and Wall.

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 8th May.

b. **Resolved to consider** any matters arising from those minutes.

Page 14, item 6 – Councillor Koning suggested that the churchyard walkaround with the Church Warden to consider the churchyard wall survey report should cover both St Mary's and St Peter's Church, Tidenham and St Luke's Church, Tutshill.

5. **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

There were no members of the public present.

6. **ASSISTANT CLERK'S REPORT**

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

b. **Resolved to note** two of the chat benches have been measured, exact locations agreed and are currently awaiting concrete plinths before final installation. The third chat bench location, due to restrictions on the pavement and boundary wall, will need to be reconsidered at a future meeting.

c. **Resolved to note** the Sedbury defibrillator was deployed on Friday 21st June but not used. The defibrillator was checked and made ready to use on The Circuit app.

7. **TO CONSIDER CHURCHYARD WORKS AND ISSUES**

a. **Resolved to note** a meeting is being arranged with the Church Warden for Sunday, 21st July to walkaround the closed churchyards to review the findings of the 2024 Churchyard Wall Survey and actions that need to be taken. Councillor Swambo to confirm date and time with the Church Warden and this committee. The walkaround will focus on St Mary's and St Peter's Church, Tidenham and St Luke's Church, Tutshill.

b. **Resolved to note** correspondence regarding nettles and other weeds growing at St. Mary's and St. Peter's Church, Tidenham. This item will be discussed with the Church Warden on Sunday, 21st July, see item 7a.

8. **TO CONSIDER OPEN SPACE ISSUES**

a. **Resolved to accept** a 9% price increase for emptying of the dog waste bins in the parish and litter bins / litter collection from Council run playgrounds for 2024/25.

i. Forest Equipment Services – 23 x dog waste bins weekly

£137.89 + Vat = £165.47

- ii. Forest Equipment Services – Emptying litter bins / litter picking per visit.

£89.48 + Vat = £107.37

Note: emptying litter bins / litter picking per visit is twice a week BST and once a week GMT.

- b. **Resolved to accept** the clearing of overgrown grass, brambles and hedges at one of the following two bus shelters. The Assistant Clerk advised that he has investigated published bus services at each bus stop / shelter and there was no evidence, that could be found, that a service stops at the Bus Shelter next to the double roundabouts in Tutshill, at the top of Castleford Hill and backing onto the Tutshill War Memorial recreation ground. Councillors discussed if this stop should be removed and agreed to leave as is for the time being.
 - i. **Resolved not to accept** – Anthony Roch – Bus Shelter on Gloucester Road, Tutshill, next to junction with Elm Road, travelling towards the A48. £125.00 no Vat.
 - ii. **Resolved to accept** - Anthony Roch - Bus Shelter next to the double roundabouts in Tutshill, at the top of Castleford Hill and backing onto the Tutshill War Memorial recreation ground. £125.00 no Vat.
- c. **Resolved to consider** extending the Wyebank Road wildflower area at a future meeting. Councillors declared there is a need to provide more wildflower areas to support environmental improvements and the increase of pollinators in the area. Several actions were considered included awareness sessions on the benefits of the wildflower areas by local experts and the extension of the orchard area and/or additional trees with the Transition Chepstow group (who supported the original orchard).

9. TO CONSIDER PLAYGROUND ISSUES

- a. Resolved to accept the replacement of four broken D handles on the SchoolsScape Beacon Double Tower multiplay equipment at Tutshill Recreation Ground play area.
 - i. **Resolved to accept** Greenfields Garden Services Ltd. £215.00 + Vat = £258.00.
- b. **Resolved to note** update from the Play Equipment Working Group that a meeting with a representative from The Landmark Practice, (consultants for the new Dell Playground in Chepstow) has been arranged for an initial discussion on their playground design services.

10. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a. **Resolved to note** correspondence from two residents who complained about the condition of the grass after cutting at the skate park / grass area on Buttington Road. The grass being left long and clumps of cut grass dropped following a cut. To also note feedback from the grass cutting contractors. Councillors considered the correspondences and agreed given the more seasonable weather we have had recently to see what the next couple of grass cuts deliver and review if changes to the frequency of cuts, or other changes, should be considered.
- b. **Resolved to note** correspondence from a resident who has advised that the hedges along Offa's Dyke footpath adjacent to the Wyebank Road grass area are overgrown and blocking the footpath. Councillors considered the correspondence and stated that Offa's Dyke is a great asset for the parish and the footpath should be kept clear, the Assistant Clerk to obtain quotes for the cutting back of the hedges and clearing the footpath.
- c. **Resolved to note** correspondence, following the annual playgrounds inspection, there is one piece of playground equipment at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall playground (at the rear of the hall) that due to wood rot has been reported as high risk and requires action to repair or take down. Councillors considered the report and agreed the play equipment needs to be removed as soon as possible, the Assistant Clerk to obtain quotes for the dismantling, removal and making safe to area. New play equipment will be considered as part of the Play Equipment Working Group.
- d. **Resolved to note** correspondence from a resident with regards freedom of information regarding the trial wildflower site. The Assistant Clerk advised Councillors that similar correspondence has previously been received from this resident and was addressed by the Clerk at the time. Councillors

considered both and asked the Assistant Clerk to resend the previous response and to answer the specific questions.

- e. **Resolved to note** correspondence from a resident with regards overgrown roadside grass who believed the Parish Council was responsible. The Assistant Clerk advised councillors that the Clerk has written to the resident and advised it is GCC Highways responsibility, and not the Parish Council, and provided the resident with the Highways FixMyStreet web page details.

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

Cllr. Koning – advised the committee that an audio / video system has been installed at the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. Cllr. Koning also raised the issue of weeds growing around the edges of the car park and damage to the fencing caused by vehicles hitting the rear fence, both to be considered at a future meeting.

12. RESOLVED TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting 11th September, 2024.

The meeting closed at 20:10 hours.