SEDGEBERROW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sedgeberrow Parish Council Meeting Held at 7.15pm on Wednesday 18th March 2026 at Sedgeberrow Village Hall

Present: J Williamson (Chairman), Cllrs S Morris, A White, A Howe-Double, R Chubb and C Jackson

In attendance: District Councillor Sims, 32 parishioners and Mrs N Nicholson (Clerk)

1. Apologies

County Councillor Hardman, District Councillor Kearsey &Cllr Hunt

2. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Howe-Double – Director of Parsons Grove Residents' Management Company
- Cllr Chubb – Treasurer & booking secretary of the Village Hall Committee

Democratic Time

A resident advised that the new defibrillator at Sandfield Lane was extremely brightly lit up, Cllr Jackson would liaise with the resident to try and resolve.

A resident who had queried the density of trees at the Bio-diversity site in January asked if there was an update, Cllr Simms advised she was trying to get further information via Liz Etheridge the bio-diversity officer at Wychavon District Council.

Many residents were in attendance due to a recent consultation undertaken by Pegasus group regarding a proposal to build 155 dwellings and a shop on land to the west of Sedgeberrow.

The Chairman asked those assembled to bring forward their concerns as follows:

Concerns regarding increased vehicles 300+ trying to access the A46

Concerns regarding local Roman finds.

Concerns regarding the existing Neighbourhood Plan.

Concerns regarding the School that is already full.

Query regarding a neighbouring residents private vehicle access and queries regarding the associated PROW.

The Chairman explained that the consultation was a pre-application consultation and it had no standing in planning terms and that no application had been submitted to Wychavon District Council

as the planning authority, he explained it was standard practice and a query on any planning application would be "has the applicant consulted with the local community." The chairman advised that one option is not to engage in the consultation at all, but that feelings in the Village would seem to necessitate the Parish Council making a comment that aligned with those in attendance.

The chairman read a pre-prepared suggested response that the Parish Council could submit as follows:

Land West of Sedgeberrow

Comments from Sedgeberrow Parish Council reflecting the views of the Village

- The scoping exercise by Pegasus cited an urban extension to Sedgeberrow. For clarification, Sedgeberrow is a small rural village, so talk of an urban extension is either disingenuous or misinformed.
- Sedgeberrow has a neighbourhood plan and has been supportive of developments appropriate to sustained growth over the last few years as demonstrated by planning approvals. The scale of this proposal with a proposed c40% increase in households and its potential to drastically change the nature and character of the village is unwelcome, fails to recognise the neighbourhood plan and the wishes of villagers.
- Concern over the red line site boundary which continues way beyond the site along the Cheltenham Road towards Evesham; land clearly belonging to WCC as highway authority and yet this red line zone is not part of the concept masterplan.
- The village along with other parishes ran a sustained campaign to secure a 40mph speed limit at the Sedgeberrow north A46 junction; we will be interested what mitigation is proposed for the undoubted increase in traffic on the Cheltenham Road and its impact upon the two A46 junctions.

Details are important as they demonstrate an understanding of the site and village. The sterilisation zone associated with the pipeline happens to be high pressure gas not oil.

Sedgeberrow is essentially a dark village with very little street lighting but again no details proposed.

No sustainable energy strategy; clearly important given global turmoil

The technical documents referenced lack a viability assessment regarding the proposed shop; previous village shops have closed.

No reference to the potential impact of a 40% increase in households upon the local school.

The chairman asked residents in attendance if the suggested response covered the current concerns they had attended this evening to express, he asked for a show of hands on whether to submit the suggested response to the consultation on behalf of the community, by show of hands the vast majority agreed and the clerk was asked to submit the response that evening as it was the final day of the consultation.

The Chairman addressed residents in attendance by way of an update regarding the current Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan, the Chairman advised that the current government is not supporting Neighbourhood Plans and has ceased funding. The new SWDPR is due to be adopted over the next few weeks this will then give a 5-year land supply and the land suggested for the 155 dwellings is not an allocated site. Residents agreed that the Sedgeberrow neighbourhood Plan should be revisited and a further site may need to be identified, as the 5 years land supply in the SWDPR will at some point come to an end, leaving the Village vulnerable to this kind of speculative development. The issue of the allocated site at Springfields Nurseries having not come forward for development yet has been spoken of by the inspector who allowed the rural exception site behind the school, updating the Neighbourhood Plan and selecting a further site for housing would make it more robust.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2026 were proposed by Cllr Chubb, seconded by Cllr Morris, agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Policing Matters – Local Thefts and Sedgeberrow Security Working Party

Cllr Morris updated the members as follows:

A draft specification for an ANPR system had now been drawn up as had a data protection impact assessment (with thanks to Cllr Howe-Double). Both would now be finalised and subject to finding companies willing to tender, to issue a tender request via the clerk.

It was suggested that the system would be funded by Community infrastructure Levy, potential support from P&C commissioner and a donation that had been pledged by a resident. However, at this stage costs were undetermined so any tender exercise would be subject to affordability

It was noted the Parish Council were looking at a passive system that ONLY the police can request data from; the system would need very responsible data management in line with GDPR or the data would become inadmissible. With that in mind the Security Group had approached a local resident who was willing to act as the Data Controller; the individual had considerable experience in their professional life, and would undertake the role as a volunteer. Cllr Howe-Double raised his concerns regarding a local resident having access to CCTV images and concerns regarding other residents getting hold of the images for spurious reasons. The Chairman advised that ONLY the police or the DVLA would be able to request footage and they would have to advise of specific criteria to the data controller. The Chairman also advised that employing an independent data controller was a prohibitive cost.

Cllr Morris advised that this would be the first system set up in a village in Worcestershire, there would ideally be 4 cameras, located 2x Cheltenham Road, 1x Sandfield and 1x Winchcombe Road. The data gathered would include Vehicle, number plate and CCTV image of the driver; the proof of who was driving any vehicle associated with a crime would be essential for any prosecution to be brought forward. The cameras would only view the road so no other images of individuals etc would be captured.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Morris and all the members of the working party.

5. County and District Council Reports

County Councillor Hardman: no report this month.

District Councillor Reports:
District Councillor Sims talked through her report, which noted that Wychavon District Council had once again had zero % increase on their share of the Council Tax but sadly Worcestershire County Council had a 8.98% increase.

Cllr Simms advised that the economic development funding had been withdrawn but Wychavon District Council had grant schemes for funding energy efficiency groups.

She advised that Wychavon District Council had allocated £5 million for people/place/environment further details would be available at the end of March.

District Councillor Kearsey:
The Chairman gave an overview of Cllr Kearsey's report, noting she had also referred to the zero % Council tax increase at Wychavon District Council.

Cllr kearsey was anticipating the adoption of the SWDPR by the 3 Councils in the coming weeks.

Cllr kearsey advised that there had been a planning application for a huge increase in size to the gas works at Wormington and suggested the Parish Council should consider submitting a response and requesting works traffic is routed awy from Sedgeberrow.

6. Highways Matters – Direction sign

The Chairman advised that the new direction sign had now been installed and expressed his thanks to County Councillor Hardman.

It was noted that the requested traffic monitoring for the Winchcombe Road had not yet taken place, and there had been a further resident complaint regarding the volume of HGV's.

7. Glebe Meadow

Insurance: The clerk confirmed that the Parish Council insurance now covered Glebe Meadow and that an additional policy had been advised as necessary to cover all the Petanque group activities and this had been put in place costing £299.10 which was an additional cost that would need including in next year's precept budget.

Tree works: Cllr Chubb advised that all the tree works except the work on the tree with the TPO had been completed; unfortunately permission for the work on the tree had not been given when the other works took place; it has now been received and Cllr Chubb would arrange the required works, there was also a large stump that required assessment of what to do regarding remove/reduce.

Other repairs: Cllr Chubb advised that regarding accessibility the required specification had been prepared and a village meeting planned to request comments & feedback. It was hoped to apply for DDA funding from Severn Trent Water.

Annual inspection: Cllr Chubb advised he was working through the ROSPA report repairs and still outstanding was the gate post; he had also ordered 2 apple trees as agreed previously to replace the felled trees as part of the petanque works.

Weekly Checks: Cllr Chubb would complete the weekly visual checks and give copies to the clerk for the records.

Signage: Cllr Howe-Double advised that despite members reviewing and agreeing the wording of the recently installed signs there had been complaints from youths regarding signing suggesting they needed adult supervision and the Petanque Group as they do consume alcoholic beverages on the social evenings. A resident had also complained regarding the location of one of the new signs. Cllr Howe-Double would in the first instance remove the signs and he and Cllr Chubb would review the

locations, and re-wording would be circulated once again for review; there would be an additional cost to replace the signage, but it was within the previously approved sum.

8. Jubilee Play Area

Signage: Cllr howe-Double advised that the signage at Jubilee Park had been installed.

ROSPA inspection: Cllr howe-Double would review the annual inspection report.

Weekly Checks: Cllr Howe-Double confirmed he does the required weekly inspection and would pass copies of the checklist to the clerk for the files.

9. Planning

a) Pegasus consultation on 155 dwellings and a shop See detailed discussion in democratic time.

b) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: none

c) Applications approved:

- W/25/02131/FUL and associated ref: W/25/02132/LB The Mill, Winchcombe Road. Conversio of car port and loft of residential annex to create two extra bedrooms, associated alterations to front and rear elevations and retrospective change of use from annex to annex and holiday let.

c) Applications refused: None.

d) Updates on approved developments:
There was no update on the Springfield development consultation. No application or further information had been received.

e) Updates on enforcement cases raised in November:
No further update had been received from Wychavon District Council enforcement.

10. Updates

New Community Hall / Legacy Grant: No updates this month. It was noted there was still no application or update on the Springfield site.

Neighbourhood Plan: As discussed in democratic time

Additional Defibrillator:
Cllr Jackson advised that the new defibrillator had been installed, the resident hosting the defibrillator had paid himself for the installation - thanks was noted to Mr Spencer. Cllr White was asked to flag this in the Newsletter and Cllr Howe-Double was asked to add it to the asset register. Cllr Jackson asked if he could purchase a bleed kit, cost circa £100 – all members agreed.

Pétanque Piste:
Cllr Morris advised that the re-start of the social Friday games is scheduled for Friday 10th April. Cllr Morris advised that A Harris had written an article for the Newsletter.

Parish Games:
Cllr Morris advised that the recruitment evening had taken place and they had recruited people for every event and captains had been selected, there was still a captain required for angling and junior table tennis which would be advertised in the Newsletter. Cllr Morris advised the full entrance fee would be payable.

11. Finance

The bank reconciliation for January & February was confirmed by Cllr Chubb.

Payments made since the last meeting were noted.

SEDGEBERROW PC PAYMENT AUTHORISATION & RECEIPTS FEBRUARY 2026				
	Main Account			
Date	**Payee**	**Details**	**Supplier Total**	**Payment by**
paid on 28.01.26	Mrs N Nicholson	clerk salary - Jan	**£ 451.07**	S/O
paid on 28.01.26	Mrs N Nicholson	clerk WFH allowance	**£ 26.00**	S/O
paid on 03.02.26	Sedgebrrow Village Hall	meeting room hire pc meeting 2025	**£ 150.00**	bacs
paid on 05.02.26	M Woodhouse	lengthsman services - Jan	**£ 170.00**	S/O
Paid on 19.02.26	A R Lewis reee care	glebe meadow tree works	**£ 2,460.00**	bacs
Paid on 19.02.26	Clear councils	Pentanque Insurance	**£ 299.10**	bacs
paid on 17.02.26	Lloyds bank	banking fee	**£ 4.25**	
paid on 28.02.26	Mrs N Nicholson	clerk salary - Feb	**£ 451.07**	S/O
paid on 28.02.26	Mrs N Nicholson	clerk WFH allowance	**£ 26.00**	S/O
paid on 27.02.26	S Morris	reimburse Parih games rec evening	**£ 100.00**	bacs
paid on 05.03.26	M Woodhouse	lengthsman services - Feb	**£ 170.00**	S/O
to pay on 19.03.26	Lloyds bank	banking fee	**£ 4.25**	
to pay on 19.03.26	Mrs N Nicholson	clerk OPE	**£ 25.75**	bacs
to pay on 19.03.26	Mr B Howe-Double	reimburse sign fixings	**£ 50.97**	bacs
to pay on 19.03.26	Playsafety Ltd	Annnual playpark inspections	**£ 208.80**	bacs
		CURRENT ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE	**£ 4,597.26**	
	Receipts			
Date	**Payee**	**Details**	**Total**	**Receipt by**
14.02.2026	Otmoor Ltd	oil buying clun divident 2025	**£1,712.02**	bacs
19.02.2026	Worcestershire County Council	Lengthsman reimbursement	**£ 561.00**	bacs
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	**£2,273.02**	

12. Village Newsletter

Cllr White had compiled the spring newsletter and was ready to go to print once he had received updates from tonight's meeting, required was the Parish Council update – Cllr Williamson, Security Group update – Cllr Morris. Hitchens/Pagasus response as agreed this evening. Details regarding the summer fete and advert for someone to take over running SeSaMe and Cllr Morris suggested including an article regarding the phone box and sad passing of the original librarian S Beasley, thanks to J Harris who has been covering and welcome to Mr Holdstock and his daughter who are now going to take over.

13. Village Maintenance

Bus Shelters:
Cllr Howe-Double advised that the Parsons Grove Management committee had written to Mandy Kennard the Worcestershire County Council s106 officer regarding the bus shelter allocation and timeline.

Community Litter Pick:
As discussed in January - Cllr Hunt would organise a community litter pick in May. It was hoped that equipment could be loaned from Wychavon District Council, which would supply litter bags and arrange collection of the filled bags. It was proposed to involve school children, and there may be a cost associated with providing high-visibility vests, unless the school can provide.

14. Environmental Issues & SeSaMe Oil Buying Club

Cllr White advised that due to the Iranian war the oil buying club was not currently operating.

It was noted to include an advert in the Newsletter to try and get volunteers to take over SeSaMe.

15. Correspondence for Information / Discussion

The Chairman advised that a Subject Access request and a code of conduct complaint had been received from the proprietor of Holloway Agri drain. The clerk would fulfil the SAR request in the required time frame.

The code of conduct complaint referenced the chair and a planning matter; it was noted this had been dismissed with no investigation required by Wychavon District Council monitoring officer.

Correspondence received from the Old Rectory residents was discussed, much of which was with reference to Worcestershire County Council Highways matters, the clerk would compile a reply explaining which Council was responsible for each of the items raised. It was noted that residents of Sedgeberrow were concerned regarding the demolition of the wall at the Old Rectory and that the Parish Council should seek clarity on the protection of the war memorial plaque within the remaining wall.

Cllr Morris advised that she had been invited to view a well that the residents had located in the course of excavating their rear garden and Cllr Howe-double had also spoken with the owners, but neither of these members were the people referred to in the letter.

17. Future Agenda Items and Reports

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 20th May 2026

To be preceded by the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** at 6.15pm, both to be held at Sedgeberrow Village Hall, within Sedgeberrow C of E School. 7.15pm start.

Meeting closed: 10.05pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____