

**DRAFT
AWRE PARISH COUNCIL
and BURIAL AUTHORITY**

Meeting held 17.07.2017 at Blakeney Recreation Centre.

Present: Cllr M Marshall – in the Chair

Councillors R Fellows, H Clarke, G Bullock, K Allen, P Deighton.
Clerk D Preece. Also in attendance for part of the meeting;- County Councillor R Boyles and District Councillor G Hughes and Mrs I Graham, Mr T Morris, Mr A Ware and Mr R Cotton.

1.APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Fellows declared a personal interest in Planning Application P0589/17/LBC.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Graham stated that she was concerned about young girls who were playing in the area near the flower tubs in Church Square, Blakeney, who were flaunting themselves in a provocative manner to passing lorry drivers. An approach to the girls had met with abusive language.

Mr Morris was concerned about local people seen sitting in the same area who were throwing refuse into the brook.

He requested that an article be placed in the Parish Pump.

Mr Morris enquired about the possibility of approaching local businesses to gain sponsorship towards providing hanging flower baskets such as those in Lydney, in Blakeney.
It was agreed that the Council would look into this.

Cllr Allen thanked Mrs Graham and Mr Morris for watering the tubs in Church Square.

4. CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

It was proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Deighton and agreed to bring this item forward.

The Council received brief presentations from Mr Ware and Mr Cotton.

After some discussion it was agreed to co-opt Mr Cotton to the Parish Council.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19.6.2017, were approved, as circulated, and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

6. REPORT OF THE CLERK ON MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk reported that he had responded to the last correspondence from the District Council regarding Riparian Maintenance, as requested, but has not had a reply.

7. REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Boyles stated that he had set up a meeting with local Police to discuss policing policy.

The County Highways contract is due for renewal. The process will take between 18 months and 2 years.

He is working with social workers and outreach workers to deal with the Ofsted criticisms and produce a report for the Autumn.

He is very impressed with the Virtual Education scheme that the County runs to make it possible for 94% of the children in care to continue with their education.

8. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

With regard to the purchase of Blakeney Toilets he understands that an evaluation has been made and a report is awaited.

He has been dealing with a stream of planning concerns from parishioners.

There has been a change in the District Council Leadership following a vote of no confidence in Cllr Molyneux. Councillor Gwilliam is the new leader.

He will follow up the progress regarding the Red Hart, Awre.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P0847/17/LBC. Byeways, Etloe. Removal of existing render from gable end. Fit new lead work above roof and apply new render in rough cast finish and top coat to match rest of dwelling. No observations or objections.

P0589/17/LBC. Colstry Cottage, Hitchings, Blakeney. Replacement windows. No observations or objections.

10. DECISIONS RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P0795/17/FUL. Church View, High Street, Blakeney. Erection of 2 storey and single storey extensions. Extended canopy along front of dwelling. Granted.

It is noted that significant works appear to be taking place at Etloe Farm House. No application has been received. Clerk was asked to query this with the Enforcement Officer.

Notice has been received of an appeal being lodged with the Planning Inspectorate regarding the outline application to erect two dwellings at Cliff Patch, New Road, Blakeney. Clerk to make a submission to reiterate the Parish Council's original comments.

11. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING

2017-07-01 – GAPTC – Agenda for AGM - Noted.

2017-07-02 – Glos. County Council – Road closure notice A48 - Noted.

2017-07-03 – Notice of Frampton Fair-10.9.17 - Noted.

2017-07-04 – Berkeley Site Tour 21.8.17. Interested Councillors to inform Clerk by 27.7.17.

2017-07-05 – Amey Glos. – Request for information re Winter Maintenance – Clerk to contact previous Snow Plough Operators to see if they are willing to continue. Cllr Deighton will continue as Snow Warden. Clerk to request 20 bags of grit.

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were proposed by Cllr Fellows, seconded by Cllr Clarke and agreed for payment.

Payee	Amount	For	Authority
Blakeney & District Rec. Centre	£18.00	Hall hire 17/7/17	1
Blakeney & District Rec. Centre	£18.00	Hall hire 24/7/17	1
Community Heartbeat	£210.00	Defibrillator training	2
Highbury Garden & Lawn Services	£370.00	Cemetery maintenance	3
Rise & Shine Window Cleaning	£20.00	Bus shelter cleaning	4
Blakeney Duck Race	£50.00	Donation	5

Authority for payment – Local Govt Act 1972 unless otherwise stated.

1 – s134. 2 – Public Health Act 1936 s.234. 3 – s.214. 4 – LG(MP)A 1953 s.4(1). 5 - s.137.

13. TO CONSIDER REPORT OF ANNUAL ‘WALKABOUT’

Cllrs Bullock, Fellows, Allen and Marshall undertook this on 10.7.17. See notes attached. Clerk to contact Mr Jeff Wheeler, Public Rights of Way Officer regarding a number of overgrown footpaths in the Parish and to invite him to a Parish Council meeting.

14. TO CONSIDER DAMAGE TO A FLOWER TUB IN BLAKENEY

Newly planted flowers were removed from the tub near to the Post Office in Blakeney. It was agreed that the tub be removed. Cllr Deighton will undertake this task.

15. MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEMETERY

Cllrs Allen and Bullock met with Mr N Crockett regarding the possible purchase of a piece of additional cemetery land. The price is now £16,000 per acre and the proposed area would be ½ acre.

Cllr Allen produced a report (see attached) which indicated that considerable work would need to be undertaken, such as a hydrogeological assessment, etc, to see if the land was suitable, in the first instance. If it was ascertained that it was suitable further work would need to be done in order to submit a planning application. Assuming Planning permission was granted, further costs would be involved in securing the site (fencing, access etc). The initial £6,000 would likely be trebled.

Cllr Allen proposed a motion that the Council stick to its original proposal not to pursue the purchase of the additional land. Seconded by Cllr Deighton and agreed. One abstention (Cllr Bullock).

It was agreed that a new site be marked out for future interments of ashes.

Cllr Allen met with the Contractor (see notes attached) and agreed with a number of extra works that need to be done including the clearing of the footpath from All Saints to the Recreation Ground. The contract will need to be adjusted to cover the additional costs.

Cllrs Fellows and Allen will liaise over the drawing up of a new specification, in preparation for a new contract which is due next year.

16. OTHER MATTERS CONCERNING THE COUNCIL

Cllr Bullock will obtain compost for the new flower tubs in Awre.

The Defibrillator training at Awre on 11.7.17 was well attended.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.55 pm.

Notes from Parish walk about – 10th July 2017.

Cllrs Marshall, Fellows, Allen & Bullock in attendance.

Lych gate

In good order. Roof tiles are all in place.

Cemetery

Councillors made a general observation of the cemetery grounds. There are a number of actions arising:

- The headstone adjacent to the entrance (currently taped) needs to be righted.
- The notice on RHS of entrance is to be moved to be adjacent to the old bin.
- Himalayan Balsom is to be sprayed off and undergrowth in NW corner to be cut back.
- Japanese Knotweed to be sprayed in September
- The hedge adjacent to the footpath (to playing field) is to be cut back and undergrowth on both sides of the path to be strimmer off.

Cllrs also looked at potential locations for the interment of ashes.

Cllrs looked the area of land which has been proposed as an extension to the current cemetery.

Nibley Green

General undergrowth under the large trees needs to be cut back.

Cllrs observed the obvious, regular vehicle movements which have been taking place on the area adjacent to the road and around the tree in the SE corner.

Bus Shelters

All 3 bus shelters outside of the village centre need to be cut back to the sides and rear. It was suggested by Cllr Allen that strimming is carried out 3 times per year to keep the undergrowth back.

Public Footpath - Nibley

Councillors observed the line of the footpath and the obvious indications that the FP signs had been removed. Cllrs identified a FP sign in the undergrowth and assessed alternative routes should a footpath diversion be submitted.

Highways

Councillors viewed Blakeney Hill Road and Loiterpin and the general state of the public highway and overgrown hedges and verges in advance of the Highways meeting on the 24th July.

Awre Village Green

Councillors inspected the Village Green and noted the recent grass cutting. The telephone box was inspected with Cllrs Marshall and Bullock outlining the works which are required to refurbish the box.

Copy of record of meeting given to Tim Hills today - Ken

Cemetery Site Meeting – 05/07/2017

Items discussed:

- Area previously cleared to be maintained as part of routine grass cutting. Amount of additional payment due per cut will be agreed at a later meeting. Ken Allen to be notified via text each time the area has been cut.
- Parish Council (PC) to organise treatment of Japanese Knotweed and other 'weeds' by specialists.
- Further meeting to be organised to:
 1. Agree extent and timing of future clearance work along the bank of the brook – meeting to include agreed estimates for work to be undertaken so that this can be completed at the most appropriate time without further reference to the full Parish Council. It is anticipated that this work will be done during the early part of 2018.
 2. Agree the amount of additional payment to be made for maintaining the areas cleared / to be cleared, and for strimming the grass below the hedge by the public footpath.
- Weed killer to be applied to path as discussed. Path to be cleared in an attempt to make it safer during the winter months / wet weather.
- Discussions about providing further space for Cremated Remains suggest a minimum of 400mm between memorial stones. Creating a space which was covered in chippings, as in Lyndey, would make maintenance easier.

I will also discuss the problems associated with cutting the hedge at the top of the cemetery because of nettle growth along the path with the PC.

Please let me know if I have missed anything.

Ken

Cemeteries and burials: prevent groundwater pollution

From: [Environment Agency](#)

Part of: [Groundwater protection](#) and [Water quality](#)

Published: 14 March 2017

Last updated: 18 May 2017, [see all updates](#)

Understand how to manage cemeteries and burial of human and animal remains, to prevent or limit groundwater pollution.

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Burials must not pollute groundwater. Groundwater can be at risk of pollution from burials where the numbers are sufficient and if the site is in a sensitive or vulnerable area. Measures to prevent or limit pollution must be appropriately considered, given the sensitivity and risks posed.

The [Environment Agency's groundwater position statements](#) explain government policy on the burial of human and animal remains.

Human and animal burials: minimum groundwater protection

A burial site must be:

- outside a [source protection zone 1](#) (SPZ1)
- at least 250 metres from any well, borehole or spring supplying water for human consumption or used in food production – for example at farm dairies
- at least 30 metres from any spring or watercourse not used for human consumption or not used in food production
- at least 10 metres from any field drain, including dry ditches

All graves must:

- have at least 1 metre clearance between the base of the grave and the top of the water table – they shouldn't have any standing water in them when dug
- not be dug in bedrock or areas susceptible to groundwater flooding
- be deep enough so at least 1 metre of soil will cover the top of the coffin, body or animal carcass

Always allow for any potential rise in the water table, including seasonal variations and extreme rainfall. The Environment Agency can take action if large numbers of burials, either as a single event or over a period of time, affect or could affect groundwater quality.

The Environment Agency may serve a works notice under section 161A of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Anti-Pollution Works Regulations 1999 to prevent or seek remedial action for pollution of controlled waters.

In addition to the requirements set out in this guide, you may need to monitor groundwater before burying animal or human remains. Find out what you need to monitor in the [cemeteries and burials groundwater risk assessment guidance](#).

Burials below the water table

Burials must not cause pollution and therefore shouldn't take place below the water table. Burials below the water table limit the capacity for attenuation and there must be no direct input of [hazardous substances](#) to groundwater. Therefore, some sites with existing planning permission, such as existing cemeteries, may need some form of intervention to control groundwater levels. For example, artificial drainage and abstraction for removal.

You must collect any artificially drained groundwater, treat it as contaminated, and dispose of it as foul water. You'll need an [environmental permit](#) to carry out these actions unless you have permission to discharge to mains foul drainage. [Contact your local sewerage provider](#) in these cases.

Until there is more information about the effect of any new method for managing burials close to, or below, the water table, the Environment Agency will want to see:

- a [hydrogeological assessment](#) of present and future risks
- plans for continued checks of the site including long-term [monitoring](#)

For human burials, this includes the use of sealed caskets.

Existing cemeteries

Manage existing cemeteries to limit environmental impact. For example, use methods such as artificial drainage to reduce the risk and meet the minimum requirements where possible.

Any extension to an existing site must comply with the [requirements for new cemeteries and extensions](#). All existing sites should have an appropriate [risk assessment](#).

New cemeteries and extensions

Any new cemetery or extension to an existing site, including grave plot reuse and 'lift and deepen' methods, must:

- comply with [minimum groundwater protection requirements](#)
- pose no unacceptable risk to groundwater used for drinking water and food production purposes

As a minimum you must do a [tier 1 risk assessment](#) to evaluate the potential harm to groundwater from pollution.

Local councils control new cemetery and extension applications through planning laws, and the Environment Agency is a statutory consultee for potential groundwater pollution.

The Town and Country Planning Act and Regulations (various dates) have provisions allowing the control of development and land use, including cemeteries. Planning conditions may be set to protect groundwater.

You may also have to carry out regular [monitoring](#) to ensure the risk of groundwater pollution stays acceptable. How often, and what checks, depends on:

- cemetery size and rates of use
- results of the [risk assessment](#)
- hydrogeological characteristics
- ongoing results of the monitoring

The Environment Agency expects you to limit your cemetery's environmental impact, such as phasing burials to reduce the concentration of substances and organisms.