

DRAFT
AWRE PARISH COUNCIL
and BURIAL AUTHORITY

Meeting held 21.08.2017 at Blakeney Recreation Centre.

Present: Cllr M Marshall – in the Chair

Councillors R Fellows, H Clarke, G Bullock, K Allen, R Cotton, A Blake.
 Clerk D Preece. Also in attendance for part of the meeting;- Mr T Morris.

1.APOLOGIES

Cllr Deighton, accepted by the meeting. District Cllr Hughes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Morris again enquired about providing hanging baskets in Blakeney. The Clerk explained that he was still trying to obtain information from Lydney Town Council regarding costs etc.

Mr Morris requested permission to paint the seat at the bottom of Church Square, Blakeney. It was agreed that he obtain a suitable wood treatment, for which the Council would reimburse him. The Chairman thanked him.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17.7.2017, were approved, as circulated, and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

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

The Clerk reported that he had made contact with the Public Rights of Way Officer, Mr Jeff Wheeler, who is keen to build a relationship with the Parish Council and will attend the November meeting of the Council.

Work on paths has been delayed because Amey kept his contractor waiting for several months for payment, forcing him to give priority to other work. He is currently catching up on the backlog.

He requested that the Clerk send him a list of all of the 'Footpath' signs in the Parish which require attention. Councillors added to a list which the Clerk has started to compile. He will complete this and send it to the PROW.

Cllr Fellows will compile an up to date list of footpaths in the Parish.

It was suggested that the Council produce some publicity regarding the network of paths in the Parish and that the updated list be made available to the public.

The Casual Vacancy was advertised for the Statutory Period, and as a request for an election was not received, the Council has been given permission by the District Council to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt, subject to his agreement, Mr Tony Ware, who was interviewed for the previous vacancy.

6. MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 24.7.17

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 24.7.17 were approved, as circulated and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

7. REPORT OF THE CLERK ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THAT N MEETING

Nothing further to add.

8. REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Boyles was not present. There were a number of comments relating to the Extraordinary Meeting and the list of highway matters that were discussed with Mr Watkins, County Highways.

Some promised works have not taken place and some of the work has been completed to an unsatisfactory standard, raising concerns regarding the waste of scarce resources. Clerk to pass these comments on to Cllr Boyles.

9. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor Hughes sent his apologies.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P1236/17/TCA. 21, Butlers Mead, Blakeney. Remove x 1 Cypress Tree and x 1 Hazel Tree. No observations or objections.

11. DECISIONS RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P0492/17/PQ3PA. Guy Hall Farm, Newnham. Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to 2 dwellings. Refused.

P0507/17/FUL. Mead Coach House, High Street, Blakeney. Erection of a single storey front extension. Granted.

P0700/17/FUL. The Cottage, Blakeney Hill. Proposed two storey extension and raising of roof, with new vehicular access. Refused.

P0847/17/LBC. Byeways, Etloe. Removal of existing render from gable end. Fit new lead work above and apply new render in rough cast finish, and top coat to match rest of building. Granted.

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING

2017-08-01 – West Glos. Neighbourhood Watch – Donation request – Deferred to October meeting.

2017-08-02 – Dementia Friendly Community Enablers – Training offer - Noted.

2017-08-03 – PCSO Nick Jones – Contact letter – Clerk to invite to meeting.

2017-08-04 – FODDC – Grant funding - Noted.

2017-08-05 – GRCC – Police Commissioners Funding – Clerk to seek more information.

2017-08-06 - I Dean – Offer to set up a Blakeney History/Archaeological Society – Clerk to reply stating that the Council would be prepared to consider donating towards the cost of publicity and initial hire of hall for meetings.

2017-08-07 – Conservation Volunteers – Bookings for work – Clerk to request more information.

2017-08-08 - Glos. County Council – Road Closure at Minsterworth 4-13/9/17 - Noted.

2017-08-09 – Forestry Commission – Wild Boar posters – Agreed to put on notice boards.

13. 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 21/8/17	1
The Telecottage	£27.80	August Newsletter	2
Water Plus	£61.81	Toilet Water Bill	3
Highbury Garden & Lawn Services	£370.00	Cemetery maintenance	4
Farm & Country Agricultural Suppliers	£8.00	Compost for planters	5

Authority for payment – Local Govt Act 1972 unless otherwise stated.
1 – s134. 2 – s142. 3 – Public Health Act 1936 s.87. 4 – s214. . 5 – Highways Act 1980 s.96.

The three monthly Financial Check, completed by Cllr Clarke, was accepted by the meeting.

14. DISPOSAL OF THIS YEAR'S BLAKENEY RED PEARS

It was decided that it was too late this year, but that next year the Council should bid for a charitable contribution from persons wishing to harvest the Blakeney Red Pears at Nibley hill.

15. REQUEST TO INSTALL A SEAT IN BLAKENEY, IN MEMORY OF R PEATY

This is actually a request to install a plaque on a stone, in memory of Mrs Rose Peaty, in the Collins Garden next to the weir in Blakeney.

It was agreed that this was not appropriate and a suggestion made that the Recreation Centre be a more appropriate site.

16. PURCHASE OF BULBS FOR PLANTING IN PARISH

It was agreed that Cllr Bullock acquire the usual amount of King Alfred Daffodil bulbs for planting throughout the Parish.

17. MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEMETERY

Cllr Allen met with Nature Conservation Services to agree on a price of £651.12 to treat the Japanese Knotweed on the bank of the stream adjacent to Blakeney Cemetery. There will probably need to be a follow up treatment next year to completely eradicate the weed from the site.

There is also Knotweed on the stretch of the stream behind nearby Yew Tree House. The Clerk contacted the owners, who agreed to have this treated and who will negotiate a separate price with NCS. This should avoid re-contamination of the two sites. NCS will arrange for permission from the Environment Agency.

It was suggested that NCS be asked to treat the small area of Knotweed that has appeared on the Collins Garden wall on the Soudley Road, Blakeney.

The above was proposed by Cllr Fellows, seconded by Cllr Marshall and agreed by the meeting.

The Cemetery maintenance contract is due for renewal and will have to go out for tender as it amounts to more than £3,000 per annum.

Cllrs Fellows and Allen will draw up a specification for the Clerk to advertise for tenders. It was agreed to include a request for a separate price for the cutting of the undergrowth around the bus shelters in Blakeney three times per year, and include this in the process.

The Council has received a request to plant a Bristol Whitebeam tree in Blakeney Cemetery in memory of some persons buried there.

Whilst sympathetic to the sentiments of the request it was felt not to be appropriate.

Firstly, it would set up a precedent, on a limited space.

Secondly, the Council spends money each year in controlling the existing undergrowth and trees surrounding the cemetery and would not wish to add to this burden.

Thirdly, in recent years the Council has incurred expense in having to have trees removed from the surrounds of the cemetery. The proposed type of tree is likely to grow to a considerable height.

It was suggested, as an alternative, that the applicant approach the Recreation Centre with a view to possibly planting the tree in the 'Nature Trail' area.

A space, consisting of the area of four graves was identified for the future interment of ashes. Cllr Allen to mark this out with pegs.

18. OTHER MATTERS CONCERNING THE COUNCIL

The Clerk pointed out that the Blakeney Duck Race has again been a great success and the Council has received a letter of thanks from the Committee, for its sponsorship.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.35 pm.