

AWRE PARISH COUNCIL
&
BURIAL AUTHORITY

Report for the Press of Meeting held on 21.8.2017

Councillors had no objections or observations in relation to an application for the removal of a Cypress tree and a Hazel tree from 21, Butlers Mead, Blakeney.

Notification has been received of the granting of an application for the erection of a single storey front extension at Mead Coach House, High Street, Blakeney, and an application for the removal of render from gable end, to fit new lead work and apply new render in rough cast finish, and top coat to match rest of building at Byways, Etloe.

An application for prior approval to change the use of an agricultural building to two dwellings at Guy Hall Farm, Newnham and an application for a two storey extension and the raising of the roof, plus new vehicular access at The Cottage, Blakeney Hill have been refused.

Councillors received a request to install hanging baskets in Blakeney, a la Lydney. It was felt that this would be very costly and there were a lot of safety issues to be considered. It was, however, agreed to make some enquiries about costs etc.

Mr Morris, Blakeney agreed to restore the seat at the bottom of Church Square, Blakeney. The Chairman thanked him for this and agreed to reimburse him for the cost of the wood preservative.

Councillors were disappointed that a number of the works, highlighted at a recent meeting with the Area Supervisor for Highways, relating to the cutting of hedges and drainage have either not been carried out or had been done to a very poor standard. It was resolved to write to County Councillor Boyles.

The meeting heard that the Public Right of Way Officer for the County Council has agreed to attend a future meeting of the Council. He has apologised for the overgrown state of many of the footpaths in the Parish. This is the result of the delay in payment to his contractor, which meant that he, as a self employed person, had to seek other work to pay his bills. This has been resolved and they are working hard to deal with the backlog. He shared the Council's concern about the fact that a number of the 'Footpath' signs in the parish were either; missing, damaged or overgrown. He requested a list from the Clerk, which he promised to deal with.

The Parish Council is keen to promote the use of public footpaths in the Parish, many of which are of historical significance, being widely used by locals before the development of the motor car and also by post men and women before the introduction of the 'red

van’.

A map of local paths is in the process of compilation and it is hoped to make copies available to members of the public.

It was decided to conduct a publicity campaign to encourage use.

It is rumoured that the government is proposing, in 2020 deregister a number of footpaths that it thinks are not being used, meaning that they will disappear forever, as the local authority will no longer have a responsibility to maintain them.

The Council heard that Mr Dean is hoping to initiate a Blakeney History and Archaeological Society. It commended his initiative, but hoped that it would be extended to include the whole Parish. It agreed to assist with the cost of publicity and the cost of the hire of a hall to hold initial meetings.

The Council has agreed costs with a contractor to deal with the Japanese Knotweed on the edge of Blakeney Cemetery bordering the stream. It is hoped that other riparian owners (i.e. those with land bordering on waterways) in the Parish will follow suit.

The Council will soon be inviting tenders for the renewal of the Blakeney Cemetery maintenance contract which expires next year.

An additional section of the cemetery will be ‘marked off’ to accommodate future interments of ashes.

The next meeting of the Awre Parish Council will be held on 18.9.2017 at Blakeney Recreation Centre @ 7.00pm. Members of the public are invited to attend and are able to address the meeting at the beginning.