

AWRE PARISH COUNCIL  
&  
BURIAL AUTHORITY

Report for the Press of Meeting held on 16.10.2017

Councillors had no objections or observations in relation to an application to discharge conditions in relation to landscaping, foul and surface water and ground levels on a previously granted Planning Application at 2, Pollards Lane, Blakeney for the erection of a replacement dwelling, part demolition and retention of the existing building to form a workshop.

In relation to an application for new vehicular access and driveway at Underhill Cottage, New Road, Blakeney, Councillors were unable to make informed comment and requested more detail of the elevation from the road, and site sections, to fully understand the proposed levels and retaining features. There was also concern regarding the effectiveness of the visibility splay provided.

Notification has been received of the granting of the following application; Oakland Park, Newnham. Erection of a biomass boiler room and storage silo (part retrospective).

The meeting was attended by the Public Rights of Way Officer, Gloucestershire County Council who has been in post now for nearly a year. He inherited a huge backlog of work and has only had the use of one sub contractor in his area which extends from May Hill to Chepstow. This accounts for the fact that a lot of paths have become overgrown and signs neglected. He is doing his best to catch up and is hopeful that things will further improve when the 'footpaths' element of the contract with Amey is brought back 'in house' (hopefully next year).

He has already tackled some of the list of tasks supplied to him by the Parish Clerk and is looking forward to a close working relationship with the Parish Council, as was enjoyed by his predecessor.

He pointed out that where Public Rights of Way cross private land, it is the responsibility of the landowner to keep them clear.

He is in favour of publicity campaign that the Parish Council is about to launch to promote the use of the extensive network of public footpaths in the Parish, many of which have historical significance as they were once the only link between communities and were also used for postal deliveries before the arrival of the 'red van'.

County Councillor Boyles requested feedback on the new Elmbridge roundabout which appears to be working quite efficiently.

He also promised to follow up a number local highway issues on behalf of the Parish Council.

The drainage problems around Awre and Blakeney, which he chased up, have now been successfully addressed.

The Parish Council has made enquiries regarding the installation of hanging baskets in Blakeney. It may well be possible to employ a company to install and maintain baskets through the village, but the problem of weekly watering needs further investigation.

The Japanese Knotweed on the edge of Blakeney Cemetery bordering the stream has now been treated and it is hoped that with some further work it will be eradicated at this location.

There have been further complaints about dog fouling in Blakeney, on Blakeney Hill Road, Millend and the Hitchings. The Clerk will seek the assistance of the Street Warden in addressing this problem.

The Council undertook its annual consideration of requests for donations and made a number of contributions to local organisations and one or two other voluntary organisations that provide a service to local people.

Mr T Morris, who recently, painted the seat adjacent to the two flower tubs in Blakeney does not wish to accept the re-imbusement offered by the Parish Council. The Parish Council is very grateful to him.

The next meeting of Awre Parish Council will be held at the Blakeney Recreation Centre on 20.11.2017 @ 7.00pm. Members of the public are invited to attend and are able to address the meeting at the beginning.