

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th March, 2020
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Fellows (Chairman), Allen, Bullock, Cotton, Greening, Muldrew and Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public and the Clerk.

Before the meeting commenced, those present stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Mr. Alan Truman, a past Councillor.

200. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was resolved to accept apologies for absence from Cllrs. Johnson and Ware and County/District Cllr. Boyles and District Cllr. Packer.

201. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

202. DISPENSATIONS

None.

203. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public raised the following issues with the Council:

- The poor state of the lanes and the volume/type of traffic. He wondered how much it would cost to have the lanes swept.
- Footpaths and the possibility of setting up working parties to help with the maintenance of these.
- The concerns of residents regarding the current lawful development application for Severn View Farm following the refusal by planner in 2019.

Cllr. Greening mentioned that the GCC Highways website could be used to report issues and the more times they were reported the greater of likelihood of problems being resolved.

204. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt, as a true record, the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 17th February, 2020.

205. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk's report which was circulated prior to the meeting contained the following points:

205.1 Verge side damage – this matter has been followed up with County Cllr. Boyles and a response is awaited from Brian Watkins.

205.2 Planning – P0130/20/TCA – Manchester House, Church Square – pending.

205.3 Memorial Plaque – Mrs. Morris has been contacted and has thanked the PC and will organise the fixing of the plaque.

205.4 Parish & Town Council Meeting – enforcement issues added to the agenda for this meeting. Information from Clive Reynolds circulated.

205.5 Camphill Village Trust – representatives will be attending the April meeting.

205.6 Plantscape – Lydney Town Council was contacted regarding their floral display. The decision has been made to purchase baskets/tubs etc. and for the Ground Staff to undertake the planting and maintenance of these.

- 205.7 Telephone Boxes** – can the PC sell off two of its telephone boxes? Ongoing item.
- 205.8 Cemetery** – Clerk to contact Mr. Morgan – ongoing.
- 205.9 Furnace Valley** – request feedback from Clerk to West Dean PC relating to the questionnaire completed by Cllr. Ware. E-mail sent but no reply to date.
- 205.10 New Road/Clarks Lane Junction** – Explanation received (circulated to all) from Brian Watkins as to why a mirror will not be installed at this junction. Clerk to respond to the parishioner’s e-mail.
- 205.11 Defibrillator Training** – Dates and times to be suggested by Awre Village Hall Committee regarding organising training.
- 205.12 Internal Audit** – **it was agreed** that Mrs. Fowler should be appointed, as in previous years, to carry out the Council’s internal audit.

206. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Boyles was not present, but his County and District reports sent to the Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that a list of priorities should be drawn up and sent to Cllr. Boyles.

207. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Packer was not present, but a report sent to the Clerk had been circulated to Councillors.

208. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following planning applications were considered:

208.1 P0277/20/AG – Hewlers Farm, Brains Green, Blakeney

Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for further details. Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building. **It was concluded** that this application was one for the FoDDC to decide particularly in relation to whether permitted development had been exceeded.

208.2 P0164/20/LD1 – Severn View Farm, Gatcombe, Blakeney

Application under Section 192 to establish whether the storage of building materials on land and within barns and outbuildings including scaffolding, timber, bricks, blocks and other building materials together with plant, vehicles, trailers, transporters and other equipment to facilitate the building business is lawful.

During discussion, Councillors acknowledged that the building has been present for some time, however given the large gap in mapping data it is not possible to conclude if this was more than 10 years ago. It was suggested that perhaps the applicant would have invoices for the building/structure that would help to prove this beyond reasonable doubt? Maybe buildings insurance or payment of business rates? Also, as the storage of materials is directly connected with a business activity rather than a domestic or agricultural one, would permission for change of use not have been necessary? Clerk to request further information/evidence.

208.3 P0066/20/LBC – 3, Furnace Valley, Blakeney

Listed building consent for the installation of LPG heating system including new boiler, horizontal flue, radiators and heating pipework. Removal of existing LPG heating system. **No observation or objections.**

- 208.4 P1943/19/FUL – Legg Barn, Church Square, Blakeney**
Replacement of existing attached garage with extension to house. Remodelling of existing house. Replacement of demolished double garage with a detached double garage. **No objections raised.**
- 208.5 P0276/20/FUL – Hewlers Farm, Brains Green, Blakeney**
Installation of 15kv biomass boiler. It was noted that this is a retrospective application and that the biomass boiler is 150kv and not 15kv. No objections.
- 208.6 P0300/20/OUT – Land South of New Road, Blakeney**
Outline application for the erection of a detached bungalow. (Some Reserved Matters) (Revised Scheme)
It was noted that this application is identical to the previous application which was withdrawn. As such the Council's response is the same, i.e., that it wished to ensure that Highways are satisfied that access to the site is safe.
- 208.7 EN/0076/17 – Land South of New Road**
It was noted that an Enforcement Notice, Stop Notice and Hedgerow Replacement Notice were issued at the above site on 4th of March 2020.

209. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

209.1 Road Closure – New Road

A letter from a parishioner received by County Cllr. Boyles was considered. The letter raised concerns about the closure of New Road and the use of alternative routes by motorists ignoring the diversion signs and the works at Underhill Cottage. It was noted that County Cllr. Boyles had forwarded a reply from Highways to the resident. It was recognised that the geotechnical survey would not be undertaken until the ground had settled and that this may be some time. It was agreed to suggest to Highways that:

- i) it would be useful to review how the closure is set up at the junction with the A48.
- ii) the tourist signs be covered.
- iii) that pedestrian and cycle access be maintained if at all possible.

209.2 Ground-breaking Research on Dementia

A request from NALC, which is working with the University of Plymouth, to take part in a research project regarding this subject, was considered. **It was agreed** that the Clerk could complete the survey on behalf of the Council.

209.3 Coronavirus: Information for Councils

Councillors noted the link to the Local Government Association website, which contained information for local Councils about the Coronavirus and a useful list of Government advice sources, which it was recommended should be checked at regular intervals.

209.4 Calor's Rural Community Fund

It was noted that this Fund was now open and **it was agreed** that the Clerk should forward this information to both Village Halls.

209.5 Coronavirus Information for Communities with cPADS (Community Public Access Defibrillators) – information from the Community Heartbeat Trust

was noted regarding training and additional steps suggested for undertaking the weekly checks on the defibrillator equipment. Cllr. Muldrew offered to supply alcohol wipes for Cllr. Allen to use for this purpose.

209.6 Climate Action Day for Town & Parish Councils – 30th March, 2020

Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know if they wished to attend this event; numbers limited to three per Council?

210. FINANCE

210.1 It was resolved to approve the following accounts for payment.

Proposed: Cllr. Greening; seconded: Cllr. Cotton and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
19/57	1227	FoDDC	Green Waste Licence	LGA 1972 s.112	£39.00
19/58	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's Pay February	LGA 1972 s.112	£484.33
19/59	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Microsoft 365 Subs for January & February	LGA 1972 s.112	£22.56
19/60	BACS	Ursula Deighton	a) Clerk's Office Allowance @ £4/week b) Telephone & IT @ £10/mth – balance £85.72	LGA 1972 s.112	£208.00 £85.72
19/61	BACS	Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services	Grass cutting at the Cemetery.	LGA 1972 s.214	£430.00
				TOTAL:	£1269.61

210.2 Plantscape – It was resolved to approve the costs detailed below for the provision of planters for the flower display in Blakeney as follows:

20 x half planters @ £33.50

1 x carriage charge – deliver and collect @ £100

Total price - £770.00 + VAT = £924.00.

211. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS (if any)

211.1 Highways – Cllr. Bullock reported that the work carried out by Highways at Penns Corner was a really good job. A digger had been hired for 2 days to undertake remedial work at Etloe but had not been completed. Clerk to contact Cllr. Boyles/Brian Watkins to organise a road sweeper for the lanes around Awre/Etloe. Cllr. Greening mentioned an issue with standing water alongside Box Farm.

211.2 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – Cllr. Allen reported that he had met with the contractor and had agreed that the banks and paths would be cut every other time and that he would be considerate regarding the cutting of the hedges. He outlined a number of areas that required attention, namely:

- i) the moss needed to be scraped from the paths and it was suggested that perhaps they could be jet washed.
- ii) a crumbling pathway would need attention as some point.
- iii) a check on the safety of the gravestones was required.

211.3 Snow Warden – a broken grit bin was reported to Cllr. Cotton.

211.4 Amenities – it was noted that the Clerk would be writing to npower regarding the outstanding electricity bill.

211.5 Planning – Cllr. Fellows reported on the following items:

- i) that the District Council planned to discontinue providing paper copies of planning applications. It may be that the majority of

applications could be viewed online with paper copies only requested for major projects. It was suggested that in future, applications could be viewed on a screen in meetings.

- ii) Telephone boxes – the Blakeney one is a conservation area and so a new coat of paint is acceptable; the one in Awre requires an application for listed building consent.

211.6 Finance – Cllr. Greening reported that she would be meeting with the Clerk to go over the end of year figures.

211.7 Emergency Plan – Cllr. Cotton informed the meeting that he would be following Government guidelines.

212. PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS MEETING

Cllr. Cotton reported on the issues covered at the recent Parish & Town Councils meeting as follows:

- i) Cultural Economy – grants for artwork (information circulated to all).
- ii) Climate emergency – proposed utilisation of District Council areas to grow vegetables.
- iii) Fastershire – the Clerk confirmed that she hadn't received any feedback from this organisation.
- iv) Planning Enforcement – paper circulated to all.
Clerk to contact Cllr. Boyles to ask for feedback as to why enforcement issues were not being dealt with in a timely manner.

213. FURNACE VALLEY SPEED CHECK/FOLLOW UP

Cllr. Smith informed the meeting that she had been in contact with PCSO Nick Jones and that the black box speed recorder had been removed owing to the closure of New Road.

214. MEMORIAL BENCH

Arrangements for the installation of the memorial bench for Mark Marshall were confirmed as follows:

- i) wording for the memorial plaque would be circulated by Cllr. Fellows.
- ii) the bench would be sited between the two trees on the green behind the Post Office.
- iii) the Parish notice board would be re-sited by the existing slabs.
- iv) Mr. Adams would be contacted regarding installation of the bench.

215. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

In the light of the uncertainty regarding the Coronavirus, it was agreed to await guidance from GAPTC.

216. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

- i) The suggestion to move the 40mph sign back to the Cock Inn public house was noted.
- ii) Being a Better Councillor – Clerk to check whether this event is to be cancelled.

217. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Coronavirus - A brief discussion took place regarding the developing situation and it was agreed that the Council would follow guidance as and when issued and would consider ways of continuing with the business of the Council as appropriate.

218. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2020	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
20 th April	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	10 th April
April	Annual Parish Meeting	t.b.c	n/a
18 th May	Annual Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	8 th May
15 th June	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	5 th June
20 th July	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	10 th July
17 th August	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Club	7 th August
21 st September	Parish Council	AVH – t.b.c.	11 th September
19 th October	Parish Council	AVH – t.b.c.	9 th October
16 th November	Parish Council	AVH – t.b.c.	6 th November
21 st December	Parish Council	BYC – t.b.c.	11 th December

Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.