

# Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020  
at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Fellows (Chairman), Allen, Bullock, Cotton, Greening, Johnson, Smith and Ware.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County/District Cllr. Boyles, District Cllr. Packer and the Clerk.

**91. APOLOGIES**

None received.

**92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**93. DISPENSATIONS**

None requested.

**94. PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public had requested to attend the meeting.

**95. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**It was resolved** to adopt, as a true record, the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020.

**96. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk's report circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting **was noted.**

**97. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

The report from Cllr. Boyles had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The following points were discussed further:

**97.1 New Road Closure** – following an open-air meeting with Brian Watkins and local residents, it was agreed to install a vehicle counter to record traffic density; to repair all potholes on Blakeney Hill and to improve signage. Beyond these measures, there was nothing else that could be done until the area of the landslip has been stable for several months and this would continue to be monitored.

**97.2 A new town for the Forest of Dean** – Councillors had been circulated with a statement from Churcham Parish Council following the inclusion of Churcham, as a potential site for a new town, in a FoDDC document which looked at a number of preferred options. Concern was expressed about the infrastructure to support new developments. Cllr. Boyles said that a reassurance had been given that no location had been settled on yet to build the new town and that no development would take place without the infrastructure being in place first. He urged the Council to take the opportunity to comment when the time came as the new town could be located anywhere in the Forest of Dean.

**98. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

A report from District Councillor Packer, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, **was noted**. Cllr. Packer also mentioned that FoDDC had been allocated funds from the Local Authority COVID-19 Compliance and Enforcement Grant. These funds would be used to enable Street Wardens and Environmental Health Officers to work to promote, support and encourage good COVID secure practices and enforce regulations. Cllr. Packer to send details of this to the Clerk for onward circulation.

**99. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The following planning applications were considered:

**99.1 P1304/20/FUL & P1305/20/LBC – Field House, Branches Road, Awre**

Listed building consent for mixed use development comprising of residential and holiday accommodation including the conversion of outbuilding. This application was deferred from the last meeting but as there was still no clear information available **it was agreed** to defer again. Clerk to contact the Case Officer.

**99.2 APP/P1615/W/20/3256182 - P1854/19/FUL - Martins Field, Awre**

**It was noted** that a letter had been sent to the Planning Inspectorate regarding this appeal for change of use of land for the erection of a Live/Work unit associated with the Caravan Touring Site.

**99.3 P1622/20/TCA – Glenville Cottage, Millend, Blakeney**

Removal of x 4 Ash trees and x 1 Ash branch.

Cllrs. observed that the land where these trees are located is outside the ownership of the person making the application. **No objections raised.**

**99.4 P1632/20/TCA – Highmead House, High Street, Blakeney**

Removal of x 2 Apple trees and x 1 Eucalyptus tree at Highmead House.

**It was noted** that the reason for removal had not been provided and **it was agreed** to suggested that the applicant consider planting replacements.

**99.5 APP/P1615/D/20/3258356 – P0453/20/FUL – Flossies Cottage, Viney Hill**

It was noted that an appeal has been made following a refusal of planning permission for change of use of land to provide additional residential curtilage including the erection of annexe accommodation with solar panel array to be used in association with the main dwelling.

**It was agreed**, that as no changes had been made to this application, the Council's initial comments were still valid. Clerk to write to the Planning Inspectorate.

**100. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION**

**100.1 Ground Maintenance Works** – the Council had received two e-mails from the same resident regarding the unkempt nature of Blakeney with weeds growing alongside pathways into and out of the village.

It was acknowledged that although Highways is responsible for the upkeep of the areas concerned, there had been general neglect over the last few years. During discussion, the following points were made:

- i) The Council had paid for DT Gardening Services to carry out some clearance/tidying work to areas in the centre of the village which was a great improvement.

- ii) **It was agreed** that the Council would look at alternative ways of ensuring weed clearance is carried out and maintained throughout the year. A number of options and the potential costs associated with this work would be considered as part of the budgeting and precept setting process during November and December.

**100.2 Heritage Plaques** – correspondence was considered regarding the possible installation of a heritage plaque on a house in Brains Green in memory of John Sandford Buck, a local artist (1896-1988). Following discussion, **it was agreed** to contact Mr. Buck to advise him that he should contact English Heritage and to offer support if the Council is able to help in any way.

**100.3 GAPTC – Latest news and training updates** - circulated to all Councillors and noted.

**100.4 Blocked Drains** – reported to Cllr. Greening by a local resident. This matter had been forwarded to Cllr. Boyles and Brian Watkins for action.

## 101. FINANCE

**101.1** The Council **agreed** to ratify the decision taken by e-mail to pay the following account. Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Greening and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
20/33	BACS	DT Gardening Services	Grass cutting at Collins Garden/PO Green and clearance of weeds/ivy etc.	LGA 1972 s.214	£220.00

**101.2 It was resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment.  
Proposed: Cllr. Cotton; seconded by Cllr. Allen and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
20/34	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's Pay September Back dated increase Office Allowance (6 months) Telephone, I/T (6 months)	LGA 1972 s.112	£497.62 £66.45 £104.00 £60.00
20/35	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Zoom Subscription	LGA 1972 s.112	£14.39
20/36	BACS	Rise & Shine	Bus shelter cleaning	LG(MP)A 1953 s.41(1)	£100.00
20/37	BACS	Farm & Country Store	2 x 25kg King Alfred Daffodils	Highways Act 1980 s.96	£75.34
20/38	BACS	Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services	Grass Cutting - Cemetery	LGA 1972 s.214	£550.00
20/39	BACS	Community Heartbeat	Adult Pads for Defibrillator, Awre Village Hall	Public Health Act 1936 s234	£97.20
20/40	BACS	GAPTC	Being a Better Councillor Training – Cllr. Smith	LGA 1972 s.111	£50.00

20/41	BACS	WaterPplus	Water supply to toilets 5 <sup>th</sup> April – 5 <sup>th</sup> July, 2020 5 <sup>th</sup> July – 5 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 – s.142	£30.72 £31.04
				<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ 1,676.76</b>

### 101.3 Financial Position – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

The bank reconciliation and receipts & payments information as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 **were noted**, including receipt of the second tranche of the precept bringing the total income to date to £17,763.53. Budget expenditure on track with 51% spent.

**101.4 Financial Checks** – Cllrs. Greening and Cotton confirmed that they had chosen two invoices each and been provided with the audit trail for which they were satisfied.

### 101.5 Annual Donations

The annual donations for the current financial year were considered and agreed as follows:

Donations made in 2019 to:	Amount granted 2019	Amount requested 2020
All Saints' Church, Blakeney	£180.00	£174.00 *
St. Andrew's Church, Awre	£475.00	£475.00
Blakeney Duck Race	£50.00	/
Cobalt	£50.00	£50.00
Blakeney Youth Club	£275.00	Not required
Lydney Dial-a-Ride	£50.00	/
SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association)	n/a	£100.00
	<b>£1,080.00</b>	<b>£799.00</b>

\* copy invoice provided with the agenda for maintenance of village clock.

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

## 102. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

**102.1 Highways** – Cllr. Bullock said that he had experienced difficulties with reporting highways issues such as erosion and potholes. Cllr. Fellows to forward a link to him for this purpose. Cllr. Ware expressed concern that highways maintenance appeared to be underfunded, yet capital projects were publicised on blue signs around the area. He agreed to draft a letter for the Clerk to forward to County Cllr. Boyles.

**102.2 Cemetery & Grass Cutting** – Cllr. Allen reported that the last hedge cut of the season had been carried out. As soon as the contractor has completed the major hedge cut along the top of the cemetery, he said that he would re-write the grass cutting contract and specification.

**102.3 Assets & Maintenance** – Cllr. Ware reported that the eel pass was a bit overgrown at the moment due to COVID-19 restrictions. With regards to the bench by the brook, Cllr. Greening said that her husband had not yet had time to sand it down. Cllr. Cotton mentioned that the bench at Millend

would possibly need to be replaced and that he would take a closer look to assess the damage.

**102.4 Amenities** – dog waste bins. Cllr. Johnson reported that a resident had offered to pay for a bin to be placed on Post Office Green. It was noted that Biffa empties the bins on the playing fields. Clerk to find out the purchase cost of bins and how much it will cost to empty them should the Council decide to install some.

**103. PARISH TELEPHONE BOXES WORKING GROUP**

Cllr. Cotton had circulated a note regarding the Working Group’s progress. Following discussion, **it was agreed** that the two main restoration projects should be carried out first using existing Council funds; one in a conservation area and one listed and requiring an application for works to be made. At a later date, funding could be sought from other sources depending on the future use of each box.

**104. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING ITEMS RECEIVED BY THE CLERK**

**104.1 Leaflets** - Cllr. Johnson had received a request for additional ‘Walk the Walk’ leaflets to be placed in the Post Office. Clerk to action.

**104.2 Parish Council Facebook** – Cllr. Fellows to action this so that Cllr. Johnson can post ‘news’ type items. There would be no comments and no advertising.

**105. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

November

- Draft Budget – 2020/2021
- Grass cutting contract – timetable of actions and including plans for the bus stops.

**106. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dates 2020/2021	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Parish Council	via Zoom	11 <sup>th</sup> December
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Parish Council	t.b.a.	8 <sup>th</sup> January
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Parish Council	t.b.a.	5 <sup>th</sup> February
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Parish Council	t.b.a.	5 <sup>th</sup> March
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Parish Council	t.b.a.	9 <sup>th</sup> April
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Annual Parish Council	t.b.a.	7 <sup>th</sup> May

Meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.