

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on 14th December, 2020
at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr. Packer, Mr. T. Bull (Severn Cider) and the Clerk.

122. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. Johnson, Ware and County/District Cllr. Boyles were accepted.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Greening – item 133.

124. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

125. PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Tom Bull, representing Severn Cider, to the meeting. The Chairman proposed that agenda item 133 – Awre Village Green – be brought forward. This was supported unanimously.

Mr. Bull explained that Severn Cider had been awarded a grant to repair access to the business premises, the deadline for which was the end of January, 2021. The intention was to install a concrete driveway which included crossing the Village Green. Work had already started on this project but had been halted.

The Chairman reminded Mr. Bull that the Village Green is owned by the Parish Council and as such there should have been a dialogue regarding the planned work. He pointed out that since there are a number of access points across the Village Green, there was no dispute over these. However, the Parish Council needed to understand whether planning permission is required for works in excess of 5²m which this scheme would be.

Following discussion, it was agreed that:

- i) the surface of the Village Green cannot be changed.
- ii) an impermeable surface, i.e., concrete is not acceptable to the Council.
- iii) the access could be repaired as far as the 'green' side of the ditch and it was suggested that if Severn Cider could install a pipe in the culvert on the boundary line that would be appreciated.
- iv) in conclusion, the correct process must be followed and FoDDC contacted by Severn Cider regarding the necessity for planning permission.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Bull for attending the meeting.

126. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

127. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk's report circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting was noted. The Clerk highlighted the following additional points:

127.1 Invoice – Electricity Supply to Public Conveniences, Blakeney

Npower had provided an invoice which included a 'late payment fee' of £140. A refund has been requested and authorised by npower.

127.2 Nibley Green – Pears.

The Clerk reported that a cheque had been received from Severn Cider for £67.13 for the pears collected from Nibley Green (959kgs at £70/tonne).

128. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The report from Cllr. Boyles had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

129. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

A report from District Councillor Packer, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was noted. In addition, the following points were highlighted:

- i) In future pre-applications would have to be paid for.
- ii) Cllr. Packer to forward a link to Councillors, via the Clerk, regarding a bypass for Chepstow.
- iii) Plusterwine House – tractor movements – P1764/20/FUL (retrospective).
It was agreed to have a separate meeting regarding this in order to formulate a representation to FoDDC. Clerk to check the deadline for responses.

130. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following planning applications were considered:

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

N.B. Deferred from last meeting. Since there was still no new information/clarification regarding this application, the Clerk was asked to contact the Case Officer to find out what is happening.

130.2 P1853/20/FUL & P1854/20/LBC – Stretfield, Newnham Road, Blakeney

Consent for the conversion of former cart store to lounge, along with reinstatement of historic openings. Removal of existing chimney. Installation of timber cladding to gable. Repairs to original timber frame.
No observations or objections.

130.3 P1749/20/FUL – The Waterfalls, Brook Street, Blakeney

Erection of a two-storey rear extension with associated works.
No observations or objections.

130.4 P1812/20/PQ3PA – Forge Farm, Brains Green, Blakeney

Prior Approval for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. Following consideration, it was concluded that it was up to the District Council to decide whether this application was in line with policy.

130.5 APP/P1615/C/20/3254650 – Severn View Farm, Gatcombe, Blakeney

An appeal has been made against an Enforcement Notice issued by the Forest of Dean District Council and is to be determined on the basis of a hearing. Deadline for representations is 23rd December, 2020. Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Fellows regarding the Council's representation to the Planning Inspectorate.

131. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

131.1 Entrance to Butts Lane - Complaint re. Parking

Members had been circulated with the response from the Local Highways Manager. Details of the complaint regarding parking in the bus stop would be passed to the Civil Enforcement Team. It was noted that any additional road markings would require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which could cost up to £10,000 and take at least 12 months to implement. The Council recognised this as a long-standing issue with no obvious solution as it was felt that people wishing to visit the shop or Post Office would continue to park as currently irrespective of yellow lines and may end up causing problems elsewhere. **It was agreed** that Councillors should meet with Mr. Watkins on site to see if a solution could be found.

131.2 Dangerous Stiles – the Clerk had reported a number of damaged/dangerous stiles to the PROW Officer. His reply, which set out the correct procedure for reporting such issues, had been circulated to Councillors and to the resident who had made the complaint. It was acknowledged that landowners are responsible for the upkeep/repair to stiles.

131.3 Road Repairs – Awre Road – the Council had received correspondence and photographs from a parishioner regarding the ‘poor standard of workmanship’ of the recent road repairs. Councillors were surprised that the teams carrying out the work were self-regulating and that there was no Clerk of Works to oversee the standard of work carried out. Concern was expressed that excess tarmac had been thrown onto banks; tarmac had been dumped into the stream; some potholes remained unrepaired; joints had not been sealed and the railway bridge had been made worse. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Boyles should be notified that the standard of the road repairs was unsatisfactory.

131.4 GAPTC Newsletter – December 2020

Receipt of the latest newsletter was noted.

132. FINANCE

132.1 It was resolved to authorise the following accounts for payment. Proposed by Cllr. Allen, seconded by Cllr. Cotton and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
20/46	BACS	Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services	Grass Cutting – Cemetery Last cut of the year	LGA 1972 s.214	£150.00
20/47	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's Pay November	LGA 1972 s.112	£497.62
20/48	BACS	Community Heartbeat Trust	To correct the underpayment made against invoice 20/27.	Public Health Act 1936 s234	£0.60
				TOTAL:	£648.22

132.2 Donation to Royal British Legion

It was resolved to approve the proposal to donate £50.00 to the Royal British Legion in lieu of the remembrance wreath that the Parish Council normally buys. Proposed by Cllr. Cotton, seconded by Cllr. Fellows and supported unanimously.

132.3 Budget –2021/2022

It was resolved to approve:

- i) the updated budget for 2021/2022.
- ii) the precept figure of £16,660 for 2021/2022.

Proposed by Cllr. Allen, seconded by Cllr. Cotton and supported unanimously.

132.4 Grass Cutting Tender

It was agreed to advertise the grass cutting tender in January via the Parish Council notice boards, Facebook and The Forester with a view to approving a contractor at the February meeting.

133. AWRE VILLAGE GREEN

Considered earlier in the meeting under item 125.

134. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

134.1 Assets & Maintenance

Cllr. Greening informed members that they were planning to renovate the bench on the Village Green over Christmas.

134.2 Snow Warden – Cllr. Cotton notified the Council that there may be some damaged grit bins following the recent hedge cutting and that he would check these and report back.

134.3 Amenities – it was noted that the front toilet area needed to be tidied up so that the de-icing salt could be stored there.

135. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING ITEMS RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

None received.

136. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

January

- Quote for replacement locks for toilet block.
- Red Hart at Awre.

137. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that future meetings would be held via the medium of Zoom until safe to resume face-to-face meetings.

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

Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.