

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on 15th February, 2021
at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr. Packer and the Clerk.

154. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from County Cllr. Boyles **were accepted.**

155. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Greening – item 162.7 (Planning)

156. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

157. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

158. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt, as a true record, the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 18th January, 2021.

159. MATTERS ARISING

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

159.1 Flower Planters in Blakeney

- a) The cost of this year's floral display would be considered at the next meeting and it was noted that prices had been frozen from last year.
- b) The watering equipment has been returned to the Parish Council as Will Hale is no longer able to provide this service. Therefore, the Council will need to find someone else to do this.

159.2 Electricity Supply to the Toilets

The Council will be asked to consider, at the next meeting, quotations from a few suppliers in order to approve a lower tariff for the electricity supply to the toilets.

160. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The report from Cllr. Boyles had been circulated prior to the meeting and **was noted.** Cllr. Fellows informed the meeting that he had contacted Cllr. Boyles regarding the excessive amount of water overflowing onto the carriageway just before the entrance to Wenchford, which had been dangerous when frozen. Cllr. Bullock confirmed that this was on a Forestry Commission list of works to be cleared.

161. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- i) Elections will be going ahead in May.
- ii) An increase in Council Tax is being proposed; up to the limit without having to hold a referendum.
- lii) FoDDC has received funds from the Government for COVID related issues, such as keeping the leisure centres ticking over.

162. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To consider the following Planning Applications received:

162.1 P0085/21/FUL – Swallow Barn, Etloe, Blakeney

Conversion of existing live/work unit to residential use.
No observations or objections.

162.2 P0146/21/TCA – 21, Butlers Mead, Blakeney

Goat Willow – full removal.
No objections but Councillors reflected that they would like a replacement tree planted.

162.3 & 4 P1304/20/FUL & P1305/20/LBC - Field House, Branches Road, Awre

Change of use of White Birch Manor (formerly Field House) from a single-family dwelling house to single dwelling house and a self-catering tourism unit without any alterations to the building together with the conversion of an existing outbuilding known as Long Barn to a self-catering tourism unit.

Having reviewed the planning application Councillors commented on the following:

- i) Given the minimal extent of the alteration to the building there was little concern in respect of the physical works proposed. There was however some concern regarding the proposed use. The applicant's website indicated that the intention is to offer 'self-catering' accommodation for 'up to 12 guests' whilst also offering more significant events, namely in the form of weddings. The two most significant concerns were noise (impact of neighbouring residential property) and traffic/trip generation, particularly given the limited highway infrastructure from and to the A48.
- ii) In its current form, the layout was somewhat unconventional and was clearly designed to accommodate large parties rather than a small family. On the basis that 12 couples could reasonably be accommodated it was not clear how the car parking arrangements would work.
- iii) The Council wished to be assured that any activity that takes place outside of that consented as part of this application would be unauthorised as no such consent is in place for the activities currently being advertised on the applicant's website? Furthermore, confirmation was required that the Enforcement Team would consider this a breach in planning terms.

162.5 P0177/21/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 discussion, no observations were made, or objections raised as it was felt that the decision rests with the FoDDC at this stage of the process.

162.6 P0231/21/TCA – Manchester House, Church Square, Blakeney

Lilac Tree full removal. Bay Tree 25% reduction in height. No objections.

162.7 P2156/20/PQ3PA - Guy Hall Farm, Northington Lane, Awre

Prior Approval for the change of use of agricultural buildings to No. 5 dwellings and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

Councillors agreed that not much vision/thought had been applied to this application for residential dwellings particularly given the proximity to a listed building. It was felt that the development should complement the existing building and/or be of architectural interest. It was also noted that the qualifications of the person carrying out the bat survey were not detailed.

162.8 P0156/21/FUL - Aronda, Blakeney Hill, Blakeney

Proposed replacement garage.

Following discussion, the Council expressed concern at the change of location and the increase in size and height of the proposed replacement garage given that it is in a prominent location. It was also felt that the building needed more windows to make it more aesthetically pleasing.

163. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

163.1 Right to Regenerate

NALC is seeking the views of member Councils in order to inform its own response to MHCLG. This correspondence was noted as there is no redundant public land in the Parish.

163.2 HM Land Registry

A survey request from NALC regarding land ownership was received. Response deadline 26th February, 2021. It was agreed that Cllr. Fellows and the Clerk would complete the survey.

163.3 GAPTC Newsletter and Training Update

Content noted.

163.4 Census 2021

Correspondence was received regarding the Census 2021. Clerk to forward any information received for the website or Facebook to Cllrs. Fellows and Johnson.

163.5 DigiBus

A request from the Project Manager of DigiBus regarding space to host DigiBus at some point during the year (commencing August 2021) or to make use of DigiBus to run workshops in the community was noted.

Following discussion, it was concluded that there were no suitable locations to host the DigiBus in the Parish.

163.6 Flooding in Millend

Correspondence and photographs had been received from a resident. These had been passed to Mr. Watkins. Clerk to chase feedback.

164. FINANCE

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

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
20/53	BACS	PJ & PD Adams	Vegetation management	LGA 1972 s.214	£420.30
20/54	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's Pay January	LGA 1972 s.112	£497.62
20/55	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Zoom monthly subscription	LGA 1972 s.112	£14.39
				TOTAL:	£932.31

164.2 Grass Cutting Contract – 2021/2024

Following a meeting via Zoom on 5th February, to open the three grass cutting tenders received by the Clerk, Cllr. Allen provided an overview of the quoted costs. He recommended to the Council that the tender submitted by Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services be authorised. Not only was this tender the lowest, but it was also recognised that the contractor knew the Cemetery and had provided a good service in the past.

165. DOG WASTE BINS

Councillors considered a discussion paper from the Clerk which was circulated prior to the meeting. The main points are detailed below:

- i) Possible locations are, opposite The Legion, at the end of New Road; close to the bench on Millend and Clarke's Pool Meadow.
- ii) Colour – red.
- iii) Without foot pedal operation.
- iv) Easy access for emptying required.
- v) Clerk to contact Mr. Watkins regarding possibility of attaching bins to existing signposts.

Cllr. Smith volunteered, with the help of Cllr. Cotton, to investigate where the bins could be placed.

166. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

166.1 Highways – Cllr. Bullock updated the meeting on a number of Highways matters that were to be dealt with shortly. In addition, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr. Watkins regarding seriously overgrown hedges along Loiterpin, Blakeney and at Prospect House, Awre.

166.2 Cemetery – it was agreed that Cllrs. Allen, Bullock and Fellows would meet with the grass cutting contractor to look over a number of areas in the Cemetery and decide how to proceed. The Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall Committee to request that a tree be removed as it is undermining a wall owned by the Council.

166.3 Planning

- i) **Enforcement issue – Scrapyard at Clarke’s Lane.** Cllr. Cotton reported that a resident had spoken to him regarding this site which the Parish Council had referred to the FoDDC Enforcement Team in April, 2019. Activity on site had apparently increased and was often outside ‘normal’ hours. Cllr. Packer informed the meeting that there was now a full Enforcement Team and so the service provided should improve although there was a backlog of cases to be dealt with. To be brought back to the next meeting.
- ii) **Tree Preservation Order (TPO) & Tree Conservation Area (TCA) Works – it was agreed** that the Clerk should write to Mr. Clive Reynolds regarding the documentation submitted for these applications which were most often not fit for purpose and meant that it was not easy for the Council to make meaningful decisions.

167. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING ITEMS RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

- i) **Fibre Roll out – Unregistered Land**
An e-mail received from a firm of Chartered Surveyors assisting Gigaclear with wayleave agreements regarding two parcels of unregistered land was noted. Clerk to reply.

168. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Quote for replacement locks for toilet block.
Electricity Contract.
Dog Waste Bins.
Flower Planters.

169. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2020/2021	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
15 th March	Parish Council	Via Zoom	5 th March
19 th April	Parish Council	Via Zoom	9 th April
April (?)	Annual Parish Meeting	t.b.a.	
17 th May	Annual Parish Council	t.b.a.	7 th May
21 st June	Parish Council	t.b.a.	11 th June
19 th July	Parish Council	t.b.a.	9 th July
16 th August	Parish Council	t.b.a.	6 th August
20 th September	Parish Council	t.b.a.	10 th September
18 th October	Parish Council	t.b.a.	8 th October
15 th November	Parish Council	t.b.a.	5 th November
13 th or 20 th Dec	Parish Council	t.b.a.	3 rd or 10 th December

Meeting closed at 8.35.