

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

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

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

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

170. APOLOGIES

None received.

171. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Greening – item 179.5 (Awre Village Green)

172. DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Greening requested and was granted a dispensation to speak to the above item.

173. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

174. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt, as a true record, the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 15th February, 2021.

175. MATTERS ARISING

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

175.1 Grass Cutting Contract – 2021/2024 – contact has been issued and a signed copy to be returned from the contractor.

175.2 Highways – awaiting feedback from Mr. Watkins re. overgrown hedges and flooding at Millend.

175.3 Removal of fallen tree damaging Cemetery wall – an e-mail had been received from a Village Hall representative to confirm that the Environment Agency had cleared the brook.

175.4 TPO/TCA Works – noted that Clive Reynolds had passed this to an officer for a response.

175.5 Census 2021 – posters had been placed on the Council noticeboards and handed in to the Post Office and village shop along with information leaflets.

175.6 Royal British Legion (RBL) Donation – it was noted that the Clerk had made contact with the local branch of the RBL but had not received a reply regarding payment of the Council's donation. **It was agreed** that this should now be made to the national office.

176. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The report from Cllr. Boyles had been circulated prior to the meeting and **was noted**. In addition, Cllr. Boyles mentioned that cases of COVID-19 continued to fall and that there was a good supply of vaccines in the county which meant that over 45's would

start to be contacted at the end of the week. A lateral flow testing site was now open in Cinderford with the capacity to test 500 persons per day.

177. 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 raised:

- i) The large increase in Council Tax which was up to the limit without having to hold a referendum. Cllr. Packer explained that the reduction in Government funding to local Councils meant that FoDDC was facing a £1M shortfall. There was however, a 'hardship fund' for Council Tax relief.
- ii) Cllr. Boyles mentioned that the Forest of Dean is classified as a Tier 1 area and as such there was £20M available for projects to grow the economy. He would keep the Council updated on this.

178. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following Planning Applications received were considered:

178.1 P0368/21/TCA – Mill Cottage, Millend, Blakeney

Cypress full removal. No observations or objections.

178.2 1 Yew Tree Cottage, Awre Road, Blakeney

Erection of a single storey rear extension, two storey side extension and associated alterations. No observations or objections.

179. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

179.1 Public Rights of Way and the Significance of 2026

Correspondence regarding a change in legislation which means that unrecorded rights of way may be lost **was noted**. Cllr. Cotton said that he would talk to GAPTC regarding what approach should be taken. Cllr. Johnson suggested that this might be something to put on the Council's Facebook page.

179.2 Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (FoDDC)

Final date for responses is 9th May, 2021 – **noted**.

179.3 Gloucestershire NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme

Correspondence received regarding raising awareness of this Programme which could be placed on the Council's website and Facebook page.

179.4 Blakeney Weir Eel Pass

To note the works planned to clean out the eel pass and also the request to discuss with the Council its ongoing care and maintenance. Cllr. Ware said that he would get in touch with Foresters' Forest and report back to the next meeting. Cllr. Johnson volunteered to help with the eel pass.

179.5 Severn Cider - Village Green, Awre

Correspondence received from Severn Cider regarding the upkeep of the Village Green, Awre was considered. Following lengthy discussion, the following **was agreed**:

- i) The Council does not wish to have stones placed along the verge.
- ii) The Council does not want any planting to take place on its land.
- iii) That Severn Cider re-instate the areas that have been altered/damaged and that the plantings are removed from the gateway.

180. FINANCE

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

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
20/56	BACS	Cllr. G. Bullock	Chainsaw work at Cemetery. Time – no charge. Cost of oil/petrol.	LGA 1972 s.214	£30.00
20/57	1229	FoDDC	Garden Waste Licence – Cemetery	LGA 1972 s.112	£42.00
20/58	BACS	GAPTC	Training – Cllr. Johnson Being a Better Cllr. 18.02.2021	LGA 1972 s.111	£25.00
20/59	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's Pay February	LGA 1972 s.112	£497.62
20/60	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Zoom monthly subscription	LGA 1972 s.112	£14.39
20/61	BACS	Ursula Deighton	a) Clerk's Office Allowance @ £4/week (6 months) b) Telephone, I/T @ £10/month (6 months)	LGA 1972 s.112	£104.00 £60.00
20/62	BACS	Highbury Garden	Grass Cutting	LGA 1972 s.214	£210.00
				TOTAL:	£983.01

180.2 Contract Prices for Electricity Supply to the Public Conveniences, Blakeney
Defer to next meeting. Cllr. Cotton to consult with GAPTC regarding the benefits/timescales for the potential use of the same energy supplier for Councils in Gloucestershire.

180.3 Grass Cutting – Collins Garden and Post Office Green
The Council approved the continuation of the informal agreement with D.T. Garden Services for the provision of grass cutting in these two areas. Cost per cut to remain the same as 2020, i.e., £35/cut.

Cllr. Smith suggested creating some meadow/naturalised areas. It was generally felt that the grassed areas within the Village needed to be kept tidy as complaints had been received in the past regarding unkempt areas. Cllr. Smith agreed to bring a proposal to the next meeting for consideration.

180.4 Plantscape – installation of flower baskets for 2021
Council considered the quotation received from Plantscape for the installation of flower baskets in Blakeney. Prices frozen from 2020 as follows:

- a) x 10 planters = £670
- b) Carriage – deliver and collect = £100
- c) VAT = £154
- d) Total = £924.00

It was noted that at this point in time, the Council did not have anyone to water the planters this year. The Clerk was asked to find out the cut-off date

for ordering the planters and also to find out whether Lydney Town Council would provide a service to water the containers.

180.5 Parish Council Land – Telecom Installation Enquiry

To consider a request from Gigaclear regarding the proposed installation of fibre optic network across Awre Village Green. If the access agreement is approved, the Council will receive a one-off payment of £450.00.

It was agreed that Cllr. Fellows would raise the Council's queries regarding siting of the green box and making good the Village Green following the installation works.

181. DOG WASTE BINS

Following on from the decision taken at the November meeting to provide dog waste bins in Blakeney and the agreement reached at the last meeting regarding possible locations, colour and type, Councillors considered a paper provided by Cllr. Cotton and photographs taken by Cllr. Smith. Correspondence from Mr. Watkins regarding the siting of bins on existing posts was also noted.

Following lengthy discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- i) Cllr. Smith to re-photograph the suggested locations and forward to Cllrs. Fellows and Cotton.
- ii) Cllr. Fellows to produce a map showing the location of the bins.
- iii) Cllr. Cotton to check these locations against the notified Highways specifications.
- iv) Clerk to produce a final proposal for the next meeting, including:
 - Location map
 - Permissions required/granted
 - Spreadsheet to show initial cost (minus any donations received towards the purchase) and ongoing costs.

The proposal to be brought to Council in April would be considered and voted upon.

182. SCRAPYARD AT CLARKES LANE

Councillors had been circulated with photographs of this site in 2019 and in 2021 and following discussion, it was agreed that the Council should write to the owner of the site. **It was agreed** that this was the preferable course of action in the first instance. Clerk to draft a letter to send to Mr. Davis with a copy to the Enforcement Team.

183. PREPARING TO RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

It was noted that as per current regulations, from 7th May, 2021, the Council must resume face-to-face meetings unless otherwise advised by NALC prior to this date. Cllr. Greening confirmed that Awre village hall had been used under COVID secure guidelines. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should book this venue and that members of the public would be required to request to attend as has been the case with the meetings held via Zoom.

184. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS (if any)

- 184.1 Highways** – Cllr. Bullock reported that he had spoken to Mr. Clive Reynolds and had written to Cllr. Boyles to thank him for the work carried on the railway bridge although it could do with being raised another six inches or so.
- 184.2 Cemetery & Grass Cutting** – Cllr. Allen thanked Cllr. Bullock for the work carried out at the Cemetery recently.
- 184.3 Amenities** – Cllr. Fellows said that it would be useful to organise storage for the eel pass equipment in the front of the old toilet block.

185. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING ITEMS RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

- 185.1 Memorial Kerbset** – a request to remove a memorial kerbset and replace it with a headstone was **approved**.
- 185.2 Overhead Power Lines** – a request for access, by Birch Utilities, through the gate at the lower end of the cemetery was **approved**. Birch Utilities would be carrying out work to prune trees that are potentially a hazard to the overhead power lines that cross the bottom of the cemetery. Access would be required to tidy up any branches that may fall into the cemetery.

186. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Quote for replacement locks for toilet block.
Flower Planters
Final proposal for Dog Waste Bins
Electricity Contract for the Public Conveniences
Proposal re. wildflower areas

187. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.