

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on 19th April, 2021
at 7.00 p.m.

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

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

193. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. Muldrew were **accepted**.

194. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Cotton – Scrapyard, Clarks Lane

195. DISPENSATIONS

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

196. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

197. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 15th March, 2021.

198. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes for the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 7th April, 2021.

199. MATTERS ARISING

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

199.1 Highways – an update on progress regarding the issues reported over the last month had been received earlier in the day and circulated to Councillors.

199.2 Royal British Legion (RBL) Donation – the donation of £50 approved at the December meeting, had been sent to RBL and the thank you letter circulated.

199.3 Scrapyard at Clarks Lane – e-mail response from the landowner was circulated to Councillors. **It was agreed** to consider this matter under agenda item 208 - Minor Matters.

199.4 Preparing to Return to Face-to-Face Meetings – **it was agreed** to discuss this issue further under agenda item 208 - Minor Matters.

200. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The report from Cllr. Boyles had been circulated prior to the meeting and **was noted**. In response to a comment regarding the short deadline for the Levelling Up Fund, Cllr. Boyles said that he would prefer to see the bid submitted in the next round (September) to ensure the best chance of success by making sure the bid is as accurate as it can be. Cllr. Boyles was thanked for all the work he had carried out

and the support he had given the Council. The Chairman wished him good luck in the forthcoming election.

201. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

A report from District Councillor Packer, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, **was noted**. Cllr. Packer explained that the Forest of Dean is in a priority group for this round of the Levelling Up Fund bids and that grant deadlines did tend to be short.

202. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following Planning Applications received were considered:

202.1 P0351/21/FUL - Fir Tree House, Brains Green, Blakeney

Erection of a single storey side extension and replacement porch.

No observations or objections.

202.2 P0639/21/FUL – The Coach House, Newnham Road, Blakeney

Removal of condition (11) of planning permission P1633/20/FUL – (An onsite manager is not needed for the caravans.)

Following lengthy discussion Councillors unanimously **agreed to object** to the removal of this condition. If, however, it was decided to remove this condition, the Council stressed the importance of a management plan being in place to indicate how the site would be managed and how any issues, particularly those relating to anti-social behaviour would be addressed should they arise.

202.3 F/20/00388/STC - Street Trading Consent Variation – Peppers Perfect Pizza

To consider a proposed variation, to the Street Trading Consent granted in November 2020, to enable this trader to operate from the village hall car park once a month, starting from 7th May, 2021.

During discussion concerns were raised about the impact of vehicle movements along a narrow road, potential noise and litter issues. However, it was pointed out that orders were collected at booked time slots and experience at other venues showed that it was a well organised service. It was also noted that the Village Hall Committee had given permission for this to go ahead. Cllr. Ware proposed that the variation be accepted; seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **supported by all**.

203. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

203.1 GAPTC AGM – Call for Resolutions

An invitation from GAPTC to consider submitting a resolution for debate at the AGM due to be held on 24th July, 2021 was received. Resolutions required by Friday, 7th May, 2021 should be passed to the Clerk.

203.2 GAPTC Executive Committee – Zoom Meeting with a Senior Gloucestershire

Police Officer – any questions the Council would wish to be put to the Police must be forwarded to Cllr. Cotton by Friday, 30th April, 2021.

203.3 Levelling Up Fund

Correspondence regarding the Levelling Up Fund and the invitation for 'Expressions of Interest' to be submitted by 23rd April, 2021 **was noted**.

203.4 Viaduct Management Plan

Councillors considered correspondence regarding the old railway viaduct which included copies of letters sent to the three landowners from Tony

Gwynne, Senior Building Control Surveyor. Following discussion, the Council **agreed** that this heritage asset should be preserved. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows, seconded by Cllr. Bullock and supported unanimously.

204. FINANCE

204.1 Tindle Newspapers

It was resolved to ratify the payment made after the last meeting, with the agreement of the Chairman, owing to the receipt of a statement which highlighted that the invoice had not been received by the Clerk.

Proposed: Cllr. Fellows and seconded by Cllr. Allen and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
20/63	BACS	Tindle Newspapers	Grass Cutting Contract Advert in The Forester	LGA 1972 s.111	£76.80
				TOTAL:	£76.80

204.2 Accounts for Payment

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
20/64	BACS	GAPTC	Annual Membership Subscription for 2021-2022	LGA 1972 s.214	£452.51
20/65	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to the toilets for 5/10/2020-05/04/2021	LGA 1972 s.112	£64.18
20/66	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's Pay March	LGA 1972 s.112	£497.62
20/67	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Zoom monthly subscription	LGA 1972 s.112	£14.39
20/68	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Grass cutting at the Cemetery	LGA 1972 s.112	£360.00
20/69	BACS	e-on Next	Electricity Supply to the Toilets 15/12/20-31/03/21		£132.51
				TOTAL:	£1521.21

204.3 Financial Checks – Cllrs. Greening and Cotton confirmed that they had seen the audit trail for the items they had selected and found them all to be satisfactory.

204.4 End of Financial Year 2020 - 2021

The figures for the year ended 31st March, 2021 **were received**, including the Bank Reconciliation and Receipts & Payments spreadsheets – month on month and a summary sheet.

204.5 Internal Auditor

The appointment of Mrs. Fowler as Internal Auditor to carry out the audit of the Parish Council's financial procedures and controls **was approved**.

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

205. DOG WASTE BINS

Councillors received a position paper regarding the siting/purchase of dog waste bins for Blakeney. The paper included photographs of potential sites and a review of these sites using the parameters set out by Mr. Watkins (Highways). During lengthy discussion, when opinions were expressed both for and against the purchase of dog waste bins, it was emphasised that the need had been highlighted by specific requests from residents concerned about this issue, including two offers to contribute towards the cost of purchase.

Cllr. Smith proposed “that three bins be purchased, final locations to be confirmed, to be placed in the vicinity of Millend, New Road and Clarke’s Pool Meadow.” This proposal was subject to approval by GCC Highways, GCC PROW Officer and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust regarding final positioning of bins.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Johnson. Voting was as follows – 5 for, 2 against and 1 abstention. Therefore, **the proposal was carried.**

206. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed to defer a decision regarding when to hold the Annual Parish meeting for parishioners, until the May meeting when a decision regarding the High Court challenge should be available.

207. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS (if any)

207.1 Highways – Cllr. Bullock highlighted a number of issues that were unresolved including, mud left on the roads by large tractors, the horrendous state of the roads adjacent to Gurshill and the drains around Awre that had been jetted but still remained a problem.

207.2 Footpaths – the response from GAPTC regarding ‘Public Rights of Way and the Significance of 2026’ had been circulated. Cllr. Ware said that he would look into this further and report back.

207.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – Cllr. Allen reported that the cemetery was looking tidy and that the hedge was growing back nicely. He had also contacted Alan Martin regarding the treatment of the Japanese Knotweed which was due to take place this year. Cllr. Fellows reported that the landslip was still causing concern and it was agreed to meet on 28th April to assess the damage.

207.4 Amenities – Cllr. Fellows reported that there were a number of brambles/weeds that needed to be cleared from outside the toilet block and that he would try to do this as soon as he was able.

208. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING ITEMS RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

208.1 Return to Face-to-Face Council Meetings – Councillors to consider options at the next meeting.

208.2 Retirement – The Chairman announced that the meeting tonight was to be Cllr. Allen’s last after serving for almost 7 years on the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked him for his contribution over the years in looking after the cemetery and the defibrillator.

208.3 Scrapyard at Clarks Lane – it was noted that Mr. Davis had expressed an interest in attending a meeting of the Parish Council. It was agreed to discuss the next steps at the May meeting in order to see an improvement on site.

208.4 External Works – to include:

- Installation of Mark’s bench and planters.
- Replacement of x1 barrel and planting of x2 on either side of the bench by the brook and renovation of the bench.
- Watering of all the hanging baskets and tubs.
- Repair/replacement of the bench on Millend.

209. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Quote for replacement locks for toilet block.
Electricity contract for public conveniences.
Proposal re. wildflower areas.

210. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2020/2021	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
To be agreed	Annual Parish Meeting	t.b.a.	
17 th May	Annual Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	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 8.32 p.m.