Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th August, 2021
at 7.00 p.m. at Blakeney Youth Club.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Cotton (Chairman), Fellows, Greening and Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr. Hoyland, one member of the public and the Clerk.

66. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Parish Cllrs. Bullock and Johnson and District Cllrs. Boyles and Packer were **accepted.**

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 74.1 – Cllr. Smith.
Item 74.6 – Cllr. Cotton. It was agreed that the Vice Chairman would chair this item.

68. DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Smith to provide background information regarding the planning application.
Cllr. Cotton to provide a local overview for item 74.6.
Both the above dispensation requests **were approved.**

69. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public explained that the war memorial at Awre needed refurbishment to highlight the names that had become faded. He offered to get a quotation for the work for the Council to consider. In the meantime, the Clerk would look into ownership of the war memorials and place this item on the next agenda.

70. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July, 2021 as an accurate record.

71. MATTERS ARISING

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

(i) **Parish Council Vacancies** – it was suggested that perhaps it would be a good idea to put another post on Facebook regarding the two vacancies.

(ii) **Highways Issues** – it was noted that Mr. Stuart Budd was in post as of today and that a meeting should be organised with him to identify the many longstanding issues in the Parish. The Clerk mentioned that she had received a telephone call from a resident to complain that nothing had been done about a complaint he made a while ago. Mr. Watkins had been informed and responded and this passed on. It was suggested that residents should be encouraged to report issues via the GCC website as these seemed to receive a higher response rate.

(iii) **Burial in Blakeney Cemetery** – the husband and family of the deceased requested that she be buried in Blakeney cemetery. Although just outside the Parish boundary, it was noted that three close family members were

also buried there. The couple were married in Blakeney and up until three years ago regularly attended church in Blakeney. They had been involved with life in the village and her husband had helped to build the Youth Club. Following consideration, **it was agreed** to approve this request under exceptional circumstances on the grounds of there being a strong link with Blakeney.

iv) **Jubilee Bench – Awre Village Green.**
The Chairman thanked Cllr. Greening and her husband for renovating this bench; the finished result was excellent.

72. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

In addition to her report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, the following items were highlighted/discussed:

a) **Soudley Bridge** – work postponed until April 2022.

b) **New Road** – Councillor Hoyland was asked to clarify the start for the repair work as this was not clear. New Road should be a priority.

c) **Playground Project** – Cllr. Hoyland briefly outlined the status of the project and agreed to circulate details to the Council.

d) **Cycle Trail – Cannop/Beechenhurst –** visibility when crossing the road dangerous especially with young children.

73. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Packer's report circulated prior to the meeting was noted in particular the changes being made by Publica to the planning and enforcement service.

74. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following Planning Applications received were considered:

74.1 P1189/21/FUL – Gable Cottage, Furnace Valley, Blakeney
Erection of mobile stable block (retrospective)
It was agreed to make the following comments (a) Is the stable block truly mobile? If it is connected to mains services, e.g., water and electricity, then it is not moveable. (b) Given the positioning of this structure any opportunity to screen it, with hedging for example, has been eliminated as it is located on the boundary to the neighbouring property.

74.2 P1338/21/TCA – The Old School House, High Street, Blakeney
3 x Silver Birch - Crown reduction by 2 metres. 1 x Cherry - Crown reduction by 0.5 m. **No observations or objections.**

74.3 P0092/21/DISCON – Forge Farm, Brains Green, Blakeney
Discharge of conditions 03 (land contamination assessment), 05 (electric charging point) 06 (car parking bicycles facilities) relating to P0177/21/PQ3PA. **No observations or objections.**

74.4 P0945/21/FUL & P0977/21/LBC – The Kings Head, High Street, Blakeney
Conversion of Grade II former public house to 1 commercial unit and 2 holiday lets with associated works (Revised Scheme).

It was noted that the Conservation Officer's comments were not available on the website. Councillors had been circulated with a paper from Cllr. Fellows which it was agreed would form the basis of the Council's comments on this revised scheme.

74.5 P0091/21/DISCON – Flossies Cottage, Viney Hill, Lydney
Discharge of conditions 03 (external materials), 04 (biodiversity), 05 (surface water drainage) relating to planning permission P0453/20/FUL.
No observations or objections.

74.6 P0439/10/FUL – Building at Clarkes Lane, Blakeney
An update received from the Enforcement Team, FoDDC **was noted**. Concern was expressed that little had changed since the Enforcement Officer's visit. There was still a large volume of vehicles outside and an environmental issue regarding waste materials/chemicals as vehicles were being broken on site. The business operating on site was clearly in breach of the planning consent and had been for several years. **It was agreed** that the Enforcement Team should be contacted again to request an indication of timescale for compliance and to express concern that the Council is not being kept informed of visits and outcomes. Both District Cllrs. to be copied in to this correspondence.

75. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

75.1 Climate Action for the Forest of Dean.
It was agreed to reply individually to the Forest of Dean District Council's public consultation on its new draft Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2022-25 – response deadline is 7th September, 2021.

75.2 Housing Needs Survey – **it was noted** that Barbara Pond, Head of Operations and Business Development, GRCC, would be attending the September meeting to discuss the results of this survey. The final report will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

75.3 Cross Parish Communication Group
An invitation for the Council to join this Group was considered and **it was agreed** to request an indication of the Group's aims and objectives.

76. FINANCE

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

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
21/22	BACS	Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services	Grass Cutting at the Cemetery	LGA 1972 s.214	£430.00
21/23	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay for July	LGA 1972 s.112	£497.62
21/24	BACS	PlantScape	Summer Planting incl. Delivery	LGA 1972 s.214	£924.00

21/25	BACS	E-on Next	Electricity Supply 01/05 – 03/06/2021 - £37.76 01/07 – 31/07/2021 - £26.86	Public Health Act 1936 s.87	£64.62
21/26	BACS	Awre Village Hall	Hire of Hall for Meetings Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec.		£56.00
				TOTAL:	**£1,972.24**

77. DOG WASTE BINS

An update regarding the siting, fixing and costs for the three bins had been circulated prior to the meeting. Details as follows:

a) **New Road** bin to be sited on the existing footpath signpost.

b) **Millend bin** to be sited on the existing footpath signpost on the left-hand side of road leaving Blakeney.

c) **Clarkes Pool Meadow** - the bin will be outside the area on the right-hand side between the gate and the style in the fence and erected on a purpose installed post, not in the meadow itself.

d) **Costs are as follows:**
2 x Earth Anchor 45L red bins + lamp post mountings @ £184 = £368
1 x Earth Anchor 45L red bin - no fixings** £115 (normally £189 with a post)
Estimated Shipping - £35
VAT (which we can reclaim) £103.60
TOTAL - £621.60

e) **Installation Costs:**
£40-50 + **the cost of a new post which Merlin Waste will provide at cost as he has one available which is £74 + VAT (to be confirmed).

f) **Cost of emptying the bins:**
This has increased since we first started looking into this matter. The cost is now £5.50/per bin/fortnight due to the increased pressure on this service. The initial collection interval was priced at weekly and will be monitored to see if fortnightly is adequate. In September VAT will be applied to the charges but this can be reclaimed.
Therefore, the initial outlay to buy the bins and install them will be around £760 and the annual running costs £429 + VAT for fortnightly collections. This will double if the bins are well used and collections need to be weekly.

The details highlighted above were accepted as being in line with those already discussed and agreed in principle. Cllr. Fellow proposed that the bins be emptied fortnightly initially, to be reviewed after three months. This was seconded by Cllr. Cotton and **approved** by Council.

78. TRAFFIC SAFETY SYSTEM

Councillors noted that to upgrade the traffic safety sign so that data could be downloaded via Bluetooth, the cost would be £600 consisting of £350 for the retrofit with Bluetooth and £250 callout fee + VAT. It was agreed that the Clerk would see what information is contained on the USB data stick regarding downloading and analysing data from different devices.

79. TWINNING WITH BLAKENEY, NORFOLK – Cllr. Cotton

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Chairman of Blakeney, Norfolk about the possibility of twinning and highlighted that there was an historical link between the two. It was agreed that he should communicate with them and report back to a future meeting.

80. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

80.1 Highways – it was agreed that Cllrs. Bullock and Fellows would drive the new Highways Officer around the Parish to point out the issues that were long overdue for action.

80.2 Footpaths – it was noted that the Council had not seen the diversion behind the Village Hall; notify Jeff Wheeler, PROW Officer.

80.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – Cllr. Johnson had circulated a report of what she had discussed with the contractor, Tim. There were a number of issues raised in the report and it was suggested that proposals be brought back to a future meeting for discussion/agreement. During discussion, it was agreed that a notice should be placed on the bins to indicate that they are for use of cemetery clients only. Clerk to action.

80.4 Assets & Maintenance – It was noted that Cllr. Muldrew had tried to free the right-hand lock on the Blakeney notice board but had not been successful. It was agreed that the locks would need to be replaced.

80.5 Nibley Green – it was agreed that the Clerk should ask Darren Thomas to mow a pathway for access to the two benches on Nibley Green.

81. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

None received.

82. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Quote for replacement locks for toilet block.
Proposal re. wildflower areas.
Defibrillator training dates.

83. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2020/2021	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
18th October	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	8th October
15th November	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	5th November
13th or 20th Dec	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	3rd or 10th December