

# Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2023  
at the Village Hall, Awre at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Cotton (Chairman), Bullock, Fellows, Greening, Harley, Hoyland, Johnson and Scott.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk.

## 158. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from District Cllr. Packer were accepted.

## 159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Greening – 166.2 – Land at Severn Valley Touring and with Cllr. Scott declared an interest in item 166.5 – Planning Appeal GL14 1EL.

## 160. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

## 161. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

## 162. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**It was resolved** to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 as an accurate record.

## 163. MATTERS ARISING

Information from the Clerk relating to matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and other items was noted. The following points were highlighted:

(a) **P1372/22/FUL – 23, Church Way** – granted permission and noted that a condition had been applied to the permission for the railings to be removed.

(b) **Late Planning Applications** – it was agreed that the following planning applications that had arrived too late for inclusion on the agenda would be considered via e-mail given the short timescale for response.

**P1742/22/FUL – Orchard Lea, Lensbrook** – erection of replacement two storey dwelling with associated works. Demolition of bungalow.

**P1755/22/FUL – 1, Little Box Cottages, Awre** – the change of use of an existing residential outbuilding to a three bedroomed self-contained unit of holiday accommodation.

Clerk to notify the response deadline.

(c) **Gigaclear** – noted that the signed contract had been returned and that payment would be made in due course.

(d) **Memorial Inscription** – advice was sought regarding how to proceed in a matter that had been brought to the Council's attention on two previous occasions given that the Clerk had not been able to gain approval from the owner of the grave for an additional inscription. It was agreed to notify the stonemasons that the addition to the memorial may proceed on the basis of

the latest proof provided which allowed equal space for all names, but at no risk to the Parish Council should the owner object at a later date.

**164. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Councillor Hoyland's report which was circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

**165. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

District Cllr. Packer's report which was circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

**166. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The following Planning Applications were considered:

**166.1 P1650/22/FUL – 1 The Rocks, Brains Green, Blakeney**

Erection of single storey side extension to dwelling and replacement outbuilding/workshop and associated works. (Resubmission)

No observations or objections.

**166.2 P1536/22/FUL - Land at Severn Valley Touring, Awre, GL14 1EJ**

Erection of a live-work unit, comprising 3-bed dwelling for site managers, and a shop, provision of parking and landscaping enhancements.

Cllr. Greening left the meeting while this application was considered.

Councillors concluded that its previous comments were still appropriate as it was clear that this scheme would be of benefit to both visitors and the wider community as a focal point. However, the Council wished to reiterate its previous requirement; that the occupancy of the live/work unit is tied to the business use of the Severn Valley Touring site. If in the future, the touring site is closed, the use of the live/work unit should be referred back to FoDDC Planning Department.

**166.3 P1637/22/FUL - Barn at The Hawfield, Newnham Road, Blakeney**

Conversion of Barn to residential use with associated landscaping, parking and works.

The principal of the change of use was supported, however the Council considered the preservation of the character and setting of the barn to be a significant concern. As such it considered that the size of the domestic curtilage detailed on the proposed plans to be excessive and suggested that this was pulled back to be much closer to the barn. If the boundary of the garden were to be planted with hedgerows to complement the existing field boundaries the Council felt this would lessen the impact and preserve the character of the open countryside.

**166.4 P0001/23/TCA - Awre House, Awre Road, Blakeney**

Willow on roadside next to utilities pole - remove to ground level, due to fouling on pole and obstructing vision.

It was agreed that there were no objections but it was suggested that the soft landscaping should be reinstated.

**166.5 Planning Appeal – Land off Northington Lane, Awre, GL14 1EL**

It was noted that an appeal had been made following the refusal of permission for a battery storage facility at this site. All representations regarding the original application would be considered by the Inspector when determining the appeal.

## 167. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

### 167.1 Parish.UK Network

An invitation to confirm the Council's contact details on the PARISH.UK Network was considered. It was noted that this site was a replication of GOV.UK and as such this invitation would be ignored.

### 167.2 FOD Dementia Action Alliance

The launch of the Music Memory Café, Lydney was noted. This would be taking place every month starting on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 and it was agreed to publicise this on the Council's Facebook page.

## 168. FINANCE

**168.1** The invoices detailed below **were approved** for payment.

Proposed: Cllr. Fellows, seconded: Cllr. Scott and supported unanimously.

Ref.	Chq. No./BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
22/64	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£39.00 *
22/65	DD	Freeola	Web hosting – quarterly charge	LGA 1972 s.112	£21.06
22/66	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's Pay December	LGA 1972 s.112	£543.29
22/67	BACS	GAPTC	Being a Better Cllr. P2 Cllr. Scott	LGA 1972 s.111	£25.00
22/68	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to toilets 04/12/22 – 04/01/23	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£11.14
				<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£639.49</b>

\* Cost per bin collection to rise from £6.00 to £6.50 from 01/04/2023 due to increasing costs in relation to disposal of waste, increasing employee costs and rising fuel costs.

Cllr. Hoyland reported that a resident had complained about the cost of electricity and water for the toilet block when this facility was not available. It was pointed out that the building was used for storage of Council property and housed the defibrillator.

### 168.2 Financial Position – End of 3rd Quarter

The bank reconciliation and receipts & payments information as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 was received. It was noted that there was little change since the last meeting when predicted figures to the end of December had been presented which showed that expenditure was on target at 75% of the budget.

**168.3 Financial Checks** – these were carried out by Cllrs. Greening and Cotton who confirmed that there was a clear audit trail.

**169. BUDGET – 2023/2024**

The updated draft budget for 2023/2024 was considered and **agreed**. Based on the budget figures **it was agreed** that the precept should remain as £16,660. Clerk to submit the Council's request to FoDDC.

Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Hoyland and supported unanimously.

Additional items to be allowed for were as follows:

Approx. £1,000 for refurbishment of the toilet block exterior.

Repair of the cemetery lych gate roof.

Replenish wildflowers on Nibley Green as these had been found to be in decline.

Replace the tub by the Post Office and add a plaque – planters to be researched (use the balance of the late Chairman, Mark Marshall's memorial fund for this purpose).

All the above to be costed and added to the final budget at year end.

**170. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH FUND**

**It was agreed** that the draft application completed by Cllr. Hoyland reflected the discussion/views from the last meeting and as such it was approved for submission.

Cllr. Hoyland and the Clerk to liaise.

**171. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**171.1 Highways & Parish Council Land** – a number of blocked drains were highlighted and Cllr. Hoyland said that she would continue to report these in her capacity as County Councillor. Cllr. Bullock said that he would provide details of another four drains that needed clearing. He also commented on the improvement made by removing the trees alongside the brook, opposite the school.

**171.2 Footpaths** – an e-mail received from a resident regarding access to the footpath from New Road across Furnace Valley was acknowledged. Following discussion, it was agreed that the access would be inspected once New Road had opened and would be reviewed at the next meeting. It was noted that the footpath, although used for many years, was not a registered Public Right of Way.

**171.3 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance** – Cllrs. Fellows and Scott reported both the Blakeney and Awre defibrillators had been deployed before Christmas. Noted that a new set of pads as well as a spare set had been ordered for Awre. Cllr. Cotton asked whether the list of key holders was up-to-date. Clerk to confirm.

**171.4 Snow Warden & Flooding** – Cllr. Cotton confirmed that the Council did not have a flood plan but that FoDDC had tried to find locations across the Forest where sand could be stored for residents to fill sand bags.

Cllr. Harley asked whether the Council would consider creating a Lead Councillor role for Climate Change & Sustainability; if so, he would like to volunteer. To be considered at the February meeting.

**172. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK**

None received.

**173. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Tender specification for removal of hedging/damaged fencing and replacement.  
Proposal to improve the appearance of the area around the war memorial at Awre.  
Telephone Box Working Group – resurrect.  
Prices to be obtained for the items specified at agenda item 169.

**174. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

<b>Dates 2023</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Agenda items &amp; Dispensation requests by:</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> February	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Centre	10 <sup>th</sup> February
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	10 <sup>th</sup> March
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Centre	7 <sup>th</sup> April
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Local Council Elections	n/a	n/a
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Annual PC Mtg. following Election	Awre Village Hall	5 <sup>th</sup> May

Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.