

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th February, 2023
at the Blakeney Youth Centre at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr. Packer, a member of the public and the Clerk.

175. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. Bullock were accepted.

176. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

177. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

178. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Beddis was attending on behalf of his mother. He complained about flooding on Awre Road which affected his mother's property. County Cllr. Hoyland said that she would meet Mr. Beddis to review the issue, take some photographs and refer it to Highways.

179. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January, 2023 as an accurate record.

180. 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) Gigaclear – the one-off payment for works across Nibley Green had been received.
- b) Community Speed Watch Fund application had been submitted.
- c) Election Toolkit circulated and key dates noted for the May elections.
- d) Pensions Regulator – re-declaration of compliance submitted to The Pensions Regulator to confirm no members of staff in the pension scheme.
- e) VAT refund (2021/2022) of £526.48 claimed.
- f) Allotment Enquiry referred to Blakeney Hill Growers as the Council is unable to assist individuals with this matter.

181. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor Hoyland highlighted some points from her report and said that she would circulate it after the meeting.

182. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Councillor Packer's report, circulated prior to the meeting, was noted.

183. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To consider the following Planning Applications received:

183.1 P0065/23/FUL – Orchard Bungalow, New Road, Blakeney

No observations or objections to this revised application.

183.2 P0074/23/LBC – Brays Court, Woodend Lane, Awre

No observations or objections as minor changes.

183.3 P1727/22/FUL – Daniels Farm, Chicknalls Lane, Blakeney

Councillors accepted and supported the principle of this application.

However comment was made regarding the impact on the landscape and the proximity to Forest of Dean Bat Site SAC.

183.4 P0080/23/LBC – The Old Police Station, Church Square, Blakeney

Councillors agreed that the external render should be lime rather than sand cement.

183.5 P0038/23/FUL - Former Garden of The Kings Head, High Street, Blakeney

It was agreed that more information was required in order to assess the application and reach a decision, as follows:

- Elevations should also detail the adjacent Grade II listed Kings Head. To not consider the proposal in context is misleading.
- Quality of accommodation on the 2nd floor is compromised by the lack of head height.
- Parking spaces to frontage. As the plan is not drawn using a topographic survey the depth of the parking bays is not correctly drawn. The space between the wall and the back edge of the public highway is not sufficient to enable cars to park and not obstruct the footway. Spaces should be 4.8m minimum with additional over-run as the bays are bounded by the stone wall.
- The previously approved drawings for alterations to the Kings Head and the development of apartments above detailed cycle and bin storage within the red line of this application. Where will this now be located?
- The site is within Flood Zone 3. A proper Flood Risk Assessment should be undertaken.
- Should a Noise Impact Assessment not be a requirement of this application? The Kings Head has a licence until 1.00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday and the site is bounded by the A48 and Dean Mowers, both of which are potential noise sources which could impact on the living conditions of the occupants.
- All green space is to be removed. What enhancements are proposed to compensate for its loss?

184. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

184.1 New Road Telephone Box

An e-mail detailing items required for the renovation of this telephone box was received. Clerk to provide a quote regarding costs for approval at the next meeting. With regard to ownership of the land, Cllr. Hoyland said she would contact the Forest Ranger and Cllr. Cotton also offered to contact the Forestry England Officer who had previously assisted on another land ownership matter.

184.2 Elections Act 2022 – Voter ID new requirement when voting in person on 4th May, 2023

This new requirement was noted. It was agreed to add this information to the Council's Facebook page.

184.3 Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)

Noted the deadline of 31st March, 2023 for the submission of suggested sites.

184.4 Tree Inspections and Maintenance

Information from GAPTC regarding this matter was received. Cllr. Fellows said that he would read through it and come back to the meeting with any action that needed to be taken.

184.5 Canopy

Councillors considered a request to write a letter of support for Canopy's application for funding. Cllr. Hoyland volunteered to draft the letter and forward to the Clerk.

184.6 GAPTC February Newsletter

The content of the February newsletter was noted.

185. FINANCE

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

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

| Ref. | Chq. N BACS | Payee | Purpose | Auth | Amount |
|-------|----------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 22/69 | BACS | Merlin Waste | Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins. | Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6 | £39.00* |
| 22/70 | DD | Freeola | EmailPro - quarterly charge | LGA 1972 s.112 | £7.20 |
| 22/71 | BACS | Ursula Deighton | Clerk's Pay January | LGA 1972 s.112 | £543.29 |
| 22/72 | BACS | GAPTC | Being a Better Cllr. Harley | LGA 1972 s.111 | £25.00 |
| 22/73 | BACS | WaterPlus | Water supply to toilets 04/12/22 – 04/01/23 | Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142 | £11.15 |
| 22/74 | BACS | Ecohab | Wildflower plugs and seeds. | LGA 1972 s.214 | £570.00 |
| 22/75 | BACS | Community Heartbeat | Replacement pads for defibrillator. | Public Health Act 1963 s.234 | £122.40 |
| 22/76 | BACS | PJ & PD Adams | Nibley Green grass cutting | LGA 1972 s.214 | £180.00 |
| | | | | TOTAL: | £1,498.04 |

* 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.

186. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Cllr. Harley provided an update regarding the data collected and agreed to continue to do so. It was noted that there were some days when the solar panel did not function owing to the lack of sunlight.

187. NEW ROAD/FURNACE VALLEY FOOTPATH

Cllrs. Hoyland & Harley had visited the site and spoken to the resident who had put up a sign, not to block the footpath, but for safety reasons as there is a large drop from the roadside to the steps. It was noted that it could be registered as a footpath but as it was

not a public right of way, it would not be maintained. Also, any steps installed would have to comply with current safety standards. Cllrs. Harley, Hoyland and Johnson agreed to work together to complete a form to register the footpath. It was recognised that it is important to establish ownership of the land and as such Cllr. Harley would look into buying title deeds.

188. NIBLEY GREEN WILDFLOWERS

Cllr. Johnson reminded members that the last survey carried out showed that certain species had either declined or were no longer present. She detailed the recommended management regime and said she would come back to the next meeting with a plan and costs. It was also suggested that it would be a good idea to install an information plaque and posts to protect the edges of the site.

189. FLOWER TUBS/PLANTERS

Deferred to the next meeting.

190. CEMETERY LYCHGATE – Cllr. Bullock

It was noted that Cllr. Bullock had been in touch with the person who carried out the work on the lychgate previously. Cost to be confirmed.

191. FUTURE of LOCAL COUNCILS – Cllr. Cotton

Receipt of this report was noted. To be brought back to a future meeting if agreed to be relevant.

192. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The proposal made by Cllr. Harley for the creation of a new Lead Councillor role for Climate Change and Sustainability was considered. It was agreed to add this to the agenda when there is something to be considered rather than a regular item each month.

192.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – Cllr. Hoyland reported that there were a number of areas that required attention that she was following up.

- a) the footpath from the A48 (beside the chip shop) to the recreation ground.
- b) Highways would be writing to the landowners along New Road regarding overgrown hedges.
- c) Highways to be contacted regarding clearing pavements; a job for the lengthsman.
- d) the issue of access to Blakeney Hill was raised regarding emergency service, refuse collection etc.

192.2 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – Cllr. Johnson reported that she was following up a lead regarding a quote for the work to the hedge. Cllr. Hoyland added that she also had details of a contact she could pass on.

193. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

193.1 Planting Project – Annual Update

The Clerk had received a request for an update and photographs of the planting in the Cemetery as the first anniversary of the project was approaching.

194. 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.

195. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

| Dates 2023 | Meeting | Venue Time: 7.00 p.m. | Agenda items & Dispensation requests by: |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 17 th April | Parish Council | Blakeney Youth Centre | 7 th April |
| 4 th May | Local Council Elections | n/a | n/a |
| 15 th May | Annual PC Mtg. following Election | Awre Village Hall | 5 th May |