

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th March, 2023
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk.

196. APOLOGIES

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

197. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

198. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

199. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

200. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February, 2023 as an accurate record.

201. 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) (Item 178) Cllr. Hoyland confirmed that she had met with the residents and had reported the issue to Highways and would provide them with an update.
- (b) (Item 184.1) Cllr. Hoyland reported that the land around the telephone box is not owned by Forestry England. Highways to be contacted.

202. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor Hoyland highlighted the main points from her report which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. A number of issues were raised including the blocked drains on the A48 at the bottom of Sparks' Hill and also the ongoing issues on Blakeney Hill.

203. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

204. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following Planning Applications received were considered:

204.1 P0170/23/FUL– The Old Police Station, Church Square, Blakeney

Internal work to rear hall/ games room consisting of the removal of modern stud wall, new insulation and floor screen, removal of existing stair, new compliant stair and installation of log burner and new kitchen. External work

consisting of removal of cracked front elevation render and re-rendering and replacement of 2 no. external doors to rear hall with fixed panel windows.
No observations or objections.

204.2 P0171/23/FUL – 6 High Street, Blakeney, GL15 4DY

Proposed first floor extension to rear of Flat above high street shop with associated works. No observations or objections.

204.3 P1544/22/FUL & P1545/22/LBC – Brays Court, Woodend Lane, Awre, Newnham

Erection of porch, reinstatement of canopy over door, replacement of rainwater goods and some windows. Re-rendering in part and repairs and redecoration. (Part Retrospective) No observations or objections.

205. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

205.1 Prospective Allotment – to note the e-mail received regarding this matter.

“Thank you for taking the time think about and help us in the instance. We've joined the Growers and have found some land to grow on, via a contact they had. So, thank you for the advice and help.”

205.2 Donated Whips – Cllrs. Hoyland and Johnson reported had they had cleared undergrowth and weeds from around the whips planted last year. Clerk to forward photos to Gloucestershire County Council.

206. FINANCE

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

Proposed: Cllr. Cotton; seconded: Cllr. Greening and supported unanimously.

Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
22/76	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£39.00
22/77	BACS	Greenbarnes Ltd.	Oak Notice Board	LGA 1972 s.111	£1,173.20
22/78	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's Pay February Office Allowance (6mths) Telephone, I/T (6mths)	LGA 1972 s.112	£543.29 £60.00 £104.00
22/79	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to toilets 04/02 – 04/03/23	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£10.06
22/80	BACS	Blakeney Youth Centre	Room Hire 12 hrs @£7.50 – t.b.c.*	LGA 1972 s.214	£90.00
22/81	BACS	Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services	Cemetery grass cutting 21/02 & 06/03/23	Public Health Act 1963 s.234	£472.00
				TOTAL:	£2,491.55

* Council approved the payment to Blakeney Youth Centre provided the amount was confirmed as being correct.

207. TELEPHONE BOX RENOVATION – NEW ROAD

The following costs associated with the renovation of the telephone box on New Road were approved.

2.5L red paint (K2, K6, K8)	£40.50
2.5L primer (if required)	£33.20
Cup Handle	<u>£26.24</u>
	<u>£99.94</u>

Plus, VAT and Carriage

The matter of replacing the damaged windowpane was considered but it was agreed to look for an alternative solution given the difficulty of replacing the windowpanes without breaking the surround.

208. BUDGET RESERVES 2023-2024

Councillors considered and approved the allocation of reserves for the coming financial year as set out in Appendix 1 to the minutes.

209. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

209.1 Highways & Parish Council Land

- (a) **Parish Council Land** – Cllr. Fellows reported that, in response to a query raised by a resident, he had extensively researched the history of the parcel of land in question. He confirmed that it has never been part of the village green owned by the County Council and registered under VG86 in 1969. The village green was transferred to the Parish Council in 1997 and registered with Land Registry in 2015. The boundary of the village green is the same now as it was in the 1960's. In response to a question, it was confirmed that there is no right of access across the village green to this parcel of land.
- (b) **Highways** – a number of points were raised as follows:
 - i) drains on Awre Road had been cleared.
 - ii) the work carried on Hitchings had not worked.
 - iii) parking around the village including on the pavements; outside the shop, on the footway in front of the Kings Head, Cinderford Road (outside workshop) and Two Rivers parking bays, Newnham Road. Cllr. Hoyland said that she would seek advice from GCC Highways.

209.2 Footpaths

The report from the PROW Officer of works carried out had been circulated to Councillors and it was noted that the Severn Way footpath is much improved. County Cllr. Hoyland reported that she had allocated £10,000 for additional maintenance work. Cllrs. Hoyland and Bullock agreed to meet regarding blocked drains etc.

209.3 Cemetery and Grass Cutting

Cllrs. Johnson and Hoyland had cleared the grass and weeds from around the whips planted last year and taken photographs which the Clerk was asked to pass on to GCC as requested.

Cllrs. Johnson, Fellows and Bullock agreed to meet to put together a specification for the work to be carried out on the top hedge.

209.4 Assets, Amenities and Maintenance

- (a) **Nibley Green** - Cllr. Johnson reported that she was exploring the possibility of any grants available for the maintenance of this area. She has also e-mailed the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group and would see if she could get an idea of how much the mowing of Clarks Pool Meadow cost.
- (b) **Cemetery Sign** – Cllrs. Johnson and Fellows to liaise regarding the artwork for this sign.
- (c) **Notice Board** – the Clerk reported that work on the new notice board would start in April.

210. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

210.1 Grant to Playground

Following discussion, the Council agreed that the contribution made towards the playground fence could be reallocated to the basket swing as it had not been possible for the organisers to obtain sufficient funding for the fence.

210.2 Eel Pass

It was noted that the eel pass had not been cleaned and it was agreed to ask advice regarding this in case it was too late to carry out this work. Cllr. Hoyland said that she would reactivate the volunteer group.

211. 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.
Bench and flower tubs.
Chip shop wall to be made good; Clerk to speak to the owner.
Bus Stops – future plans.

212. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed that this meeting should be held at Awre Village Hall after the election in May. Date to be decided by doodle poll; Clerk to circulate.

213. 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

Clerk to circulate the dates for future meetings with the next agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.