

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th June, 2023
at the Youth Centre, Blakeney at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public, District Cllrs. Burton and Moore and the Clerk.

28. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Johnson's apology for absence was accepted.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 37.1 Funding request from Blakeney Youth Club – Cllr. Hoyland
- 37.4 Motocross at Awre – Cllrs. Greening and Scott

30. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

31. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Truman, Severn Valley Scramble Club, was one of the members of the public in attendance, together with the landowner Mr. Awre. Mr. Truman reported that the event planned for the coming weekend had been cancelled. He provided information about the club and how it worked regarding venues/timing of races. He said the club wished to work with local residents since it would be unacceptable to close the footpath for six months. It was suggested that events should be advertised well in advance via social media, local shops and an e-mail to the Clerk would be useful.

32. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meetings held in May 2023 as an accurate record as detailed below:

- 32.1 Annual Parish Council meeting held on 15th May, 2023.
- 32.2 Parish Council meeting held on 15th May, 2023.

33. MATTERS ARISING

Information from the Clerk relating to matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and other items **was noted** including the date for the Annual Parish Council Walkabout – Thursday, 29th June at 6.30 p.m.

34. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor Hoyland highlighted the main points from her report which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

35. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Chairman suggested that a written report in advance of meetings would be useful moving forward. Cllr. Moore reported that his responsibilities included

finance, recycling and that he was a member of the Licensing Committee. Cllr. Burton had nothing further to add to his report given at the last meeting.

36. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

It was noted that no applications had been received in time to be placed on the agenda. However, P0628/23/FUL had been received too late to be added to the agenda and so it was agreed that the Clerk should seek comments via e-mail. However, it was noted that more information would be required in order to consider the application fairly.

37. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

37.1 Funding request from Blakeney Youth Club

A request for £500 to fund training for volunteers to ensure the safety of children whilst attending sessions at the Club was considered. It was agreed that this request would be considered in October along with any other applications for funding.

37.2 Dean Forest Beekeepers – this group is looking for small parcel of land to rent. It was agreed that this could be placed on the Council’s Facebook page. A member of the public asked for this information to be forwarded to him. Clerk to action.

37.3 Climate Adaptation & Resilience Project – the invitation to participate in this project was considered. Cllrs. Harley, Hoyland and Scott expressed an interest. Clerk to notify the organiser.

37.4 Motocross at Awre – e-mailed correspondence regarding this matter was noted.

38. FINANCE

38.1 The following payments made since the last meeting **were ratified**:

(i) **APC Ref: 23/17 - to Zurich Insurance Company Ltd.** £864.86 for the renewal of the Council’s insurance policy.
(Minute no. 9 of 15/15/2023 refers.)

(ii) **APC Ref: 23/18 – reimbursement to the Clerk** of debit card payment to X2 Connect Ltd. - £131.93 (including carriage and VAT) for the paint for the New Road telephone box.
(Minute no. 221(c) of 17/04/2023 refers.)

38.2 The accounts detailed below **were approved** for payment. Proposed by Cllr. Fellows, seconded by Cllr. Scott and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
23/19	BACS	M E Services (Formerly Merlin Waste)	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£42.25
23/20	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk’s pay for May	LGA 1972 s.112	£543.29
23/21	BACS	Waterplus	Water supply 04/05/23 - 04/06/23	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£14.60
23/22	BACS	Mrs. S. M. Fowler	Internal Audit	LGA 1972 s.111	£90.00

23/23	BACS	Hancox Ltd.	Eel Pass Cleaning	LGA1972 s.214	£1,116.00
23/24	BACS	Cllr. Johnson	Reimbursement for wildflower area signs.	LGA1972 s.214	£62.00
23/25	BACS	Community Heartbeat Trust	Replacement pads for defibrillator.	Public Health Act 1963 s.234	£80.34
23/26	BACS	GAPTC	Being a Better Councillor Course – Cllr. Harley was unable to attend.	LGA 1972 s.111	£25.00
23/27	BACS	Farm & Country Agric. Suppliers	Compost and plants for the tubs at Awre.	LGA1972 s.214 PCA 1957 s.1	£67.53
				TOTAL:	£2,041.01

38.3 Annual Audit – 2022/2023

38.3(a) **It was resolved** to approve the Annual Internal Audit Report.

38.3(b) **It was resolved** to approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) and that the Chairman and Clerk/RFO sign this document.

38.3(c) **It was resolved** that the Chairman sign the Accounting Statements (Section 2).

38.3(d) **It was resolved** that the Certificate of Exemption be signed by the Chairman and Clerk/RFO.

39. BUS STOP RENOVATION

Councillors considered a proposal from Cllr. Harley to renovate the Council's two brick-built bus shelters. **Stage 1** with the estimated costs **was approved** and **it was agreed** that the project could be started as follows:

- a) Paint the interior brickwork with white masonry paint, exterior grade.
Estimated Cost: £30
- b) Procure a broom for cleaning purposes and a hook to hang it on and install – it was agreed that this was not a good idea.
Estimated Cost: £15
- c) Restore rainwater goods where applicable.
Estimated Cost: £10

40. AWRE TELEPHONE BOX REPAIR

Cllr. Scott presented an estimation of costs for the renovation of the telephone box at Awre. The estimated cost for this project was £616.70 including carriage but excluding VAT. Cllr. Scott said that she would be happy to link up with the New Road Group and Blakeney Hill too. The costs as presented were proposed by Cllr. Harley, seconded by Cllr. Greening and **approved** by all.

41. SPEED LIMITS – Cllr. Hoyland

A verbal proposal received from the Highways Manager regarding speed limits was detailed by Cllr. Hoyland. Mr. Choat was seeking expressions of interest from Parish Councils along the A48 to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to reduce the speed limit down to 20mph through Alvington, Aylburton, Blakeney, Newnham-on-Severn and Westbury-on-Severn. The County Councillors along this route would be responsible for payment of the scheme. Councillors agreed that they would like to see the proposal in full.

42. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

42.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – the following points requiring action were raised:

(a) Cllr. Hoyland reported that safety cuts had been carried out on the verges with a full cut scheduled for August. She was also going to allocate funds for a tractor and flail to carry out work in September.

(b) Cllr. Fellows commented that highways should be as wide as the tarmac. Currently service vehicles either refuse to use the lanes around Blakeney Hill or get stuck. He agreed to send photographs to County Cllr. Hoyland.

(c) A number of issues were raised again, Cllr. Hoyland and the Clerk agreed to liaise regarding updating the list of highways works that require action.

42.2 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – Collins Garden was due to be strimmed around the border next week and the signs erected.

42.4 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance

(a) It was noted that the plaque was missing from the Jubilee bench on Nibley Green.

(b) Cllr. Bullock reported that the roof on the Lychgate had been repaired and requested £50 to cover the costs; this was agreed. (Ref. 23/28.)

(c) Oak Barrels – Cllr. Fellows said that he would talk to Cllr. Johnson regarding these. It was noted that watering of the 3 oak barrels would continue to be an issue.

43. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

Cllr. Fellows reported that Barbara Pond from GRCC had been in touch regarding affordable housing. Cllrs. Bullock, Hoyland and Cotton expressed an interest in joining with Cllr. Fellows to consider this matter further.

44. 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.

Tree inspections and maintenance.

Nibley Green Wildflowers.

Telephone Box Working Group.

45. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2023	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
17 th July	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	7 th July
21 st August	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Centre	11 th August
18 th September	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	8 th September
16 th October	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Centre	6 th October

20 th November	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	10 th November
18 th December	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Centre	8 th December

46. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

It was resolved to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted'

Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.