

# Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2023  
at Blakeney Youth Centre at 7.00 p.m.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** District Cllr. Burton and one member of the public.

**66. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. Fellows and Trimble and District Cllr. Moore were accepted.

**67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

74.5 Planning - P0628/23/FUL – Cllr. Hoyland.

74.4 Planning – P0839/23/FUL – Cllr. Greening.

**68. DISPENSATIONS**

None requested.

**69. PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public present at the time of this agenda item, although the current licensee of the Cock Inn public house arrived in time for planning item 74.2.

**70. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**It was resolved** to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 as an accurate record.

**71. MATTERS ARISING**

Information from the Clerk relating to matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and other items **was noted**.

**72. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Councillor Hoyland highlighted the following points of interest:

- a) **New Road Parking** – she had met with Mr. Choat recently and pointed out the hedge that is obstructing the pathway, parking causing an obstruction by DNA and the old shop, now flats. Vehicles trying to join New Road were faced with a dangerous situation, having to turn blindly into oncoming traffic from either direction. Mr. Choat said that ‘H’ lines could be installed but without a TRO it would not be possible to enforce. The first course of action would be to speak to owners of the vehicles causing the obstructions and ask for an 8m stretch to be left clear.

**It was agreed** to discuss speed limits/TRO’s for Blakeney as a whole at the next meeting. The Council to consider either, (i) Highway’s verbal proposal that the Parish Council develop a plan seeking to introduce a 20 MPH limit for the A48 and surrounding roads around Blakeney, or, (ii) other traffic calming measures around the roads of Blakeney including the A48.

- b) **Gigaclear** – Mr. Choat said that he would talk to the GC manager regarding clearing up after themselves and it was suggested that the Council provide a list of areas to be made good.
- c) **Clarks Lane** – it was reported that nothing could be done with this. Cllr. Cotton said that he would pursue this matter.

### 73. **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Burton reported on the following matters:

- a) The Northern Quarter is being reviewed.
- b) A net zero carbon toolkit has been issued and will apply to planning applications.
- c) Five Acres – contract for design and build in place.
- d) The motion regarding motocross proposed by Cllr. Packer, during her time in office, has now been approved. Cllr. Burton is working with officers to ensure that organisers of events give notice to the Parish Council and local residents and observe noise restrictions. Cllrs. raised their concerns regarding:
  - noise levels which, although intermittent, were definitely above acceptable levels.
  - although not confirmed, dates had been published on the organiser's website. Cllr. Burton to follow up as it looked as though there may be an event on 23<sup>rd</sup> August.
  - safety and marshalling of the footpath during events which is a statutory requirement. Cllr. Hoyland said she would contact Mr. Wheeler, PROW Officer, to ask whether he is able to attend and monitor.

### 74. **PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The following planning applications were considered:

#### **74.1 P0910/23/FUL – Myrtle Cottage, Blakeney Hill Road, Blakeney**

Erection of extension and alterations including single storey oak framed garden room. No observations or objections.

#### **74.2 P0860/23/FUL – Cock Inn Cottage, Nibley Hill, Blakeney**

Change of use and conversion of public house to dwelling with associated works.

Consideration was given to the representation in person by the current Licensee and the issues raised by the local objections received, including those by CAMRA. The Council agreed that it would prefer that the property remain as a public house in line with Core Strategy Policy 8, in respect to the loss of a community asset. This is the last public house in the village which is not subject to a change of use approval by the Planning Officers. The Council seek to retain a public house within the community and wish to be guided by input from the Conservation Officer as this is a Grade II listed building and the consideration of the Planning Officer.

#### **74.3 P0865/23/FUL & P0866/23/LBC – White Birch Manor, Branches Road, Awre**

Change of use of White Birch Manor (formerly Field House) from residential dwelling and a self-catering tourism unit to self-catering tourism without any alterations to the building together with the change of use and conversion of an existing outbuilding known as Long Barn from self-catering tourism unit to

a residential unit. No observations or objections. No observations or objections.

**74.4 P0839/23/FUL – Land at Severn Valley Touring, Awre, GL14 1EJ**

Addition of 3 no. shepherd's huts with porch and hardstanding including an additional 3 no. pitches. (Retrospective.) (Cllr. Greening left the meeting for this item.) No observations or objections.

**74.5 P0628/23/FUL – Land near Chapel Cottage, Blakeney Hill, Blakeney**

Change of use of land to tourism and erection of a tourism Cabin. (Cllr. Hoyland left the meeting for this item.)

The Council considered this application and required an accurate description of the proposal and how it responds to the topography of the site.

Information is also required regarding drainage, parking, the structure of the building and a business plan.

**74.6 P1115/23/TCA – Craddox, Awre**

Remove 1 x standard Holly tree situated to the side of the house, in order to install a pond and seating area in its place. A replacement tree will be planted in the rear garden. No observations or objections.

**75. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION**

**75.1 Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Inquiry**

An invitation to the Council to contribute to this inquiry regarding dealing with the Development Management Department (Planning) - good or otherwise. It was agreed to delegate this to Cllr. Fellows with his specialist knowledge.

**75.2 Footpath DAW 119** (Minute 61(a) 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 refers.)

The Title Deed GR291981 dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2006 which seemed to indicate that the PROW is not owned by the Council, was considered. It was agreed to find out whether the footpath is on the title deed for the Yew Tree Inn.

**75.3 PROW – Summary of Completed Issues Forest of Dean area – July 2023.**

The summary provided by the PROW Officer was noted. Clerk to send a request to the PROW Officer to replace signage to paths DAW44 and 51 in line with other footpath signage replacements which were highlighted in his report.

**75.4 Anti-social Behaviour – Community Payback**

A letter from the Home Office regarding the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan was discussed. It was agreed to respond with an expression of interest and also consult with District Cllr. Burton.

**75.5 Ash Dieback Project – Planting Scheme**

Clerk to pass on the response deadline for publication on Fb.

**76. FINANCE**

**76.1** The following decision made via e-mail since the last meeting:

**Nibley Green Grass Cutting/Baling [Minute ref. 62.3(d)]** – quote provided by Ensors Grove Farm accepted at a cost of £300 + VAT **was ratified**. Proposed: Cllr. Johnson, seconded: Cllr. Scott and supported unanimously.

**76.2** The following accounts **were approved** for payment.  
Proposed: Cllr. Scott, seconded: Cllr. Greening and supported by all.

| Inv. Ref. | Chq. No./ BACS | Payee                                | Purpose   | Auth                              | Amount           |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 23/38     | BACS           | M E Services (Formerly Merlin Waste) | Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.                           | Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6          | £42.25           |
| 23/39     | BACS           | Ursula Deighton                      | Clerk's pay for July  | LGA 1972 s.112                    | £543.29          |
| 23/40     | BACS           | Waterplus                            | Water supply 04/07/23 - 04/08/23                                      | Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142 | £14.60           |
| 23/41     | BACS           | Freeola – e-mail                     | Website Hosting   | LGA 1972 s.112                    | £7.92            |
| 23/42     | BACS           | FoDDC                                | Recharge of Election Costs  |                                   | £211.80          |
| 23/43     | BACS           | Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services | Cemetery grass cuts, paths & banks 04/08 and 21/08 and PO Green 04/08 | LGA 1972 s.214                    | £532.00          |
|           |                |                                      |   | <b>TOTAL:</b>                     | <b>£1,351.86</b> |

## 77. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

### 77.1 Highways & Parish Council Land

- a) Collins Garden had been scythed and mown.
- b) Hedges – it was suggested that the Council write to landowners regarding their responsibility to keep their hedges trimmed; Highways to provide a template. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting as it was felt by some that this was something GCC should do.
- c) Visibility Splays – the work carried out was appreciated but much more was needed.
- d) It was noted that the Awre war memorial had been tidied.
- e) It was agreed to check through highways items highlighted at meetings and check what has been completed and what not and to create a central record to be regularly updated.
- f) Cllr. Hoyland to remind Highways of the importance of clearing the brook.

**77.2 Cemetery & Grass Cutting** – Cllr. Johnson confirmed that she had created a Facebook post to provide information/photos regarding the Collins Garden wildflower area. Positive comments had been received. Cllr. Johnson and the Clerk to liaise regarding carrying out a 'topple test' on the cemetery headstones.

**77.3 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance** – Cllr. Harley reported that he had given the bus stop (opposite New Road) a coat of paint. Cllr. Johnson volunteered to help. It was noted that the foliage around the speed data sign needed to be trimmed.

**77.4 Snow Warden & Flooding** – Cllr. Scott said that she would forward the updated Winter Plan to the Clerk for submission to GCC Highways.

## 78. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

**78.1 Greenways Grounds Maintenance** – noted receipt of an e-mail from this company for future reference.

**78.2 GAPTC AGM** – Cllr. Cotton had attended this meeting and highlighted the following points of interest:

- a) NALC lobbied the Government regarding enabling councils to hold ‘hybrid’ meetings (sometimes via Zoom) but this has been refused.
- b) The CEO has resigned and a replacement appointed – the Clerk from Coleford Town Council.
- c) Recommended that Parish Council meetings are kept to 2 hours duration.

**78.3 Telephone Box Renovation** – working group to be set up.

**78.4 Flower Tubs** – Cllr. Scott to look into this.

**79. 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 – to be set up.  
 Grass Cutting Tender – September.  
 Affordable Housing Working Group.

**80. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

| Dates<br>2023              | Meeting        | Venue<br>Time: 7.00 p.m. | Agenda items &<br>Dispensation<br>requests by: |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| 18 <sup>th</sup> September | Parish Council | Awre Village Hall        | 8 <sup>th</sup> September                      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> October   | Parish Council | Blakeney Youth Centre    | 6 <sup>th</sup> October                        |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> November  | Parish Council | Awre Village Hall        | 10 <sup>th</sup> November                      |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> December  | Parish Council | Blakeney Youth Centre    | 8 <sup>th</sup> December                       |
| <b>2024</b>                |                |                          |  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> January   | Parish Council | T.B.C.                   | 5 <sup>th</sup> January                        |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> February  | Parish Council | “                        | 9 <sup>th</sup> February                       |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> March     | Parish Council | “                        | 8 <sup>th</sup> March                          |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> April     | Parish Council | “                        | 5 <sup>th</sup> April                          |
| T.B.C.                     | Annual Parish  | “                        |  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> May       | Annual PC      | “                        | 10 <sup>th</sup> May                           |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> June      | Parish Council | “                        | 7 <sup>th</sup> June                           |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> July      | Parish Council | “                        | 5 <sup>th</sup> July                           |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> August    | Parish Council | “                        | 9 <sup>th</sup> August                         |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> September | Parish Council | “                        | 6 <sup>th</sup> September                      |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> October   | Parish Council | “                        | 11 <sup>th</sup> October                       |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> November  | Parish Council | “                        | 8 <sup>th</sup> November                       |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December  | Parish Council | “                        | 6 <sup>th</sup> December                       |

**Meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.**