

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th September, 2023
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr. Burton and 5 members of the public and the Clerk.

81. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence received from District Cllr. Moore was accepted.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

83. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

84. PUBLIC FORUM

The members of the public raised the following points regarding speeding traffic/visibility on New Road:

- although the level of traffic was probably consistent, the volume of parked cars had increased thereby giving rise to serious visibility and access issues.
- residents did not feel safe when crossing New Road at certain points.
- Visibility at the junctions of Furnace Valley and Clarkes Lane is poor. Of particular concern is the bottleneck caused by parked cars adjacent to the lower lane opposite the telephone box.
- residents had received training and were collecting data using a mobile speed camera.
- suggested solutions were to introduce a 20 mph speed limit together with traffic calming measures.

The Chairman thanked the residents for attending the meeting and said that the Council would consider options for New Road along with other traffic routes in the Parish and ultimately, the decision would rest with Gloucestershire County Council.

85. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 21st August, 2023 as an accurate record.

86. MATTERS ARISING

Information from the Clerk relating to matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and other items **was noted**, in particular:

- a) the application for change of use of the Cock Inn to a residential dwelling had been withdrawn; a commercial viability assessment had been requested.
- b) Footpath DAW 119 was not part of the title deeds for the cemetery. Cllr. Fellows said that he would download the title deed for the Yew Tree Inn for clarification.
- c) "What 3 words" location to be notified to Forestry England following a complaint of dog fouling on one of their footpaths.

- d) 27 bales of hay were produced at Nibley Green but the quality was substandard owing to weather conditions and therefore only suitable for bedding; price to be agreed.

87. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

88. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr. Burton gave a verbal report regarding his main areas of focus together with an overview of those of District Cllr. Moore. In particular, the following issues were discussed:

- a) Motocross at Awre – Democratic Services (FoDDC) will be publicising the new motocross code of conduct. It was suggested that if marshals are not present at an event this would be a matter to report direct to the Health & Safety Executive. Also, the Environmental Health Officer could be contacted again as the noise levels had not previously been recorded over a long enough period of time. It was noted that there are phone apps that available that could be used to record noise levels.
- b) Cllr. Burton was asked to find out what the position is regarding bonfires and enforcement.

89. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following planning application was considered:

89.1 P1153/23/TCA – Oakdean, High Street, Blakeney

T1 - Ash fell due to pushing wall and presence of as dieback. T2 – Cherry fell due to severe dieback and large cavity in trunk. Replanting – customer will be advised to replant with 2 x fruit trees or ornamental trees. Details to be confirmed. It was noted that there is no mechanism to enforce replanting. No observations or objections.

90. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

90.1 GCC Letter to Landowners

Council considered the draft letter, supplied by GCC Highways, to landowners whose hedges are obstructing the carriageway/footway and agreed the following:

- a) to supply landowner names and addresses to GCC Highways.
- b) to publicise the guidance provided by GCC on the Council's Facebook page and on the notice boards.
- c) provide photographic evidence to County Cllr. Hoyland to enable her to submit a question to the full Council regarding the County Council's policy on hedge cutting.

91. FINANCE

91.1 The following accounts **were approved** for payment.

Proposed: Cllr. Johnso, seconded: Cllr. Scott and supported by all.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
23/44	BACS	M E Services	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£42.25
23/45	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay for August	LGA 1972 s.112	£543.29
23/46	BACS	Waterplus	Water supply 04/08/23 - 04/09/23	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£14.60
23/47	BACS	Image Signs & Print Ltd.	Production and installation of cemetery sign.	LGA 1972 s.111	£150.00
23/48	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Reimbursement of annual Microsoft subscription.	LGA 1972 s.111	£147.91
23/49	BACS	Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services	Cemetery grass cuts, paths & banks 04/09 and 18/09 and PO Green 22/08.	LGA 1972 s.214	£532.00
				TOTAL:	£1,430.05

92. GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT 2024 - 2026

It was agreed to defer this item to the October meeting. It was noted that some parishes employ a 'handyperson' to weed and generally keep their village tidy.

93. WALKABOUT NOTES

The following actions were identified from the notes of the annual walkabout:

- a) removal of Millend Bench to be arranged.
- b) identify who had last painted the lych gate and when? (Clerk)
- c) Japanese Knotweed – contact contractor. (Clerk)
- d) Cllr. Johnson & Clerk to liaise regarding a date to carry out the 'topple test' of headstones.
- e) oak barrels x 3, Blakeney to be replaced; self-watering barrels to be explored. (Cllrs. Scott & Johnson)
- f) cost of pruning the trees on Post Office Green and the Walnut tree, Awre Village Green to be obtained. (Clerk)
- g) dredging/clearance of the brook required. Noted that last time this was done, the cost was shared with Highways.
- h) Costings requiring consideration at future meetings as follows:
 - a. Cemetery hedge removal; replacement of posts and fencing. Tender document to be submitted to a meeting for approval.

- b. Creation of a stile at the end of the track that runs alongside the top of the Cemetery.
- c. Internal maintenance of the toilet block.

94. BLAKENEY SPEED LIMITS

A discussion document together with a diagram indicating current and suggested future speed limits was presented by Cllr. Harley. This was following Highway's verbal proposal, detailed by County Cllr. Hoyland at a previous meeting, that the Parish Council develop a plan seeking to introduce a 20 mph limit for the A48 and roads around Blakeney, including a potential joint TRO with neighbouring A48 villages.

During lengthy discussion, the following main points were made:

- a) that Westbury-on-Severn, Alvington and Aylburton Parish Councils had requested a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to make the change to 20 mph.
- b) funding for this TRO would be covered by the County Cllrs.
- c) a review of the signage along the highway would be appreciated as there is an excess.
- d) other traffic calming measures around the roads of Blakeney including the A48 should be considered separately.
- e) Cllr. Hoyland was asked to find out the timeline for this project which would in turn dictate the approach taken by the Council, i.e., a working group or a proposal for consideration at a future Council meeting.

95. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- 95.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – drains still required attention and noted that only one side of Woodend Lane had been attended to.
- 95.2 Footpaths – noted that the wall along the footpath leading to the playing field had been repaired but the tree stump had been left in place.
- 95.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – Cllr. Johnson reported that the new sign had been installed at the Cemetery.
- 95.4 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – noted that the bus shelter was looking much lighter and brighter thanks to Cllr. Harley.
- 95.5 Snow Warden & Flooding – Clerk to confirm the details of the contractor for snow clearance.

96. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

- 96.1 It was agreed to advertise the grant process on the Council's Facebook page.
- 96.2 It was noted that an action plan had been drawn up for renovation of the telephone box at Awre. To be circulated once received.
- 96.3 Cllr. Bullock requested 25kg of King Alfred daffodils to be purchased.
- 96.4 Cllr. Johnson requested the purchase of crocus bulbs.

97. GRCC HOUSING NEEDS

Cllr. Fellows reported that Cara Loukes, GRCC, would like to visit the Parish to identify any potential sites. Dates to be provided to the Clerk to circulate a Doodle Poll to arrange this meeting.

98. 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.

99. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2023	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
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
2024			
15 th January	Parish Council	T.B.C.	5 th January
19 th February	Parish Council	"	9 th February
18 th March	Parish Council	"	8 th March
15 th April	Parish Council	"	5 th April
T.B.C.	Annual Parish	"	
20 th May	Annual PC	"	10 th May
17 th June	Parish Council	"	7 th June
15 th July	Parish Council	"	5 th July
19 th August	Parish Council	"	9 th August
16 th September	Parish Council	"	6 th September
21 st October	Parish Council	"	11 th October
18 th November	Parish Council	"	8 th November
16 th December	Parish Council	"	6 th December

Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.