

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th October, 2023

at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

(Relocated from Blakeney Youth Centre due to a double booking.)

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

It was agreed to add the following (late arrival) planning application to the agenda for consideration at item 108.3.

P1216/23/FUL - Guy Hall Farm, Northington Lane, Awre

Change of use from agricultural land, building and storage area to equestrian Sui Generis. (Retrospective)

100. APOLOGIES

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

101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. Greening and Scott – agenda item 108.3 – Planning.

Cllrs. Greening and Scott – agenda item 110.4(c) – Annual Donations.

Cllr. Greening – agenda item 110.4(d) – Annual Donations.

102. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

103. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

104. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September, 2023 as an accurate record.

105. 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 information provided regarding the employment of a handyman to be brought back to the December meeting to be considered as part of the budgeting process.
- b) it was noted that two poppy wreaths had been ordered as per 2022.

106. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

107. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr. Burton's report and information provided by District Cllr. Moore via e-mail and circulated to the Council were noted. A question was raised regarding the removal of planning notices as these were often left on display after a decision had been made. Clerk to ask Cllr. Burton to raise this matter with the planning department.

108. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following planning applications were considered:

108.1 P1152/23/FUL – Wych Hazel Cottage, Blakeney Hill, Blakeney

Erection of retaining walls, ground mounted solar panels, roof mounted solar panels, wind turbines, air source heat pump and detached plantroom.

Councillors considered this application and made the following observations:

a) A detailed specification for the turbine - height, width, installation position etc. is required and should be conditioned if not agreed prior to determination.

b) Concern that as the footing for the retaining wall is detailed below land outside of the applicants control, a pre-commencement condition is required for the retaining wall with full details of the engineering operations to be carried out.

c) Surprised that Ecologists have not been consulted regarding the impact on bats and birds given that the application relates to the installation of a wind turbine.

d) There is a listed building in the nearby vicinity and that the Council will be led by the Conservation Officer in this instance.

Overall, the Council supported the principle of the application with the proviso that conditions are applied.

108.2 P1256/23/LBC & P1270/23/FUL – Nibley House, Nibley Hill, Blakeney

Conversion of an existing building into an annex, games room and gym ancillary to Nibley House.

Councillors agreed with the principle of this application but agreed that they wouldn't expect to see plastic windows installed in a listed building.

108.3 P1216/23/FUL - Guy Hall Farm, Northington Lane, Awre

Change of use from agricultural land, building and storage area to equestrian Sui Generis. (Retrospective)

No observations or objections.

109. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

109.1 Local Lanes

Correspondence from a resident regarding the poor state of the lane from Etloe to Purton was received. County Cllr. Hoyland expected that this lane would be resurfaced during the current financial year.

110. FINANCE

110.1 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
23/50	BACS	M E Services	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£42.25
23/51	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay for September Office Allowance (6mths) Telephone, I/T (6 mths)	LGA 1972 s.112	£543.29 £104.00 £60.00
23/52	BACS	Waterplus	Water supply 04/08/23 - 04/09/23	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£14.13
23/53	BACS	Cllr. Fellows	Reimbursement of Land Registry search fee	LGA 1972 s.112	£6.00
23/54	BACS	Ensors Grove Farm	Nibley Green – mowing and baling	LGA 1972 s.111	£360.00
23/55	DD	Freeola	Website Hosting	LGA 1972 s.112	£21.06
23/56	BACS	Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services	Grass cutting	LGA 1972 s.214	£588.00
				TOTAL:	£1,738.73

110.2 Financial Position – End of 2nd Quarter

The bank reconciliation and receipts & payments information as at 30th September, 2023 was received and accepted.

110.3 Financial Checks – deferred to November meeting.

110.4 Annual Donations

The following requests for funding were considered:

- Blakeney Youth Club** – submitted to the June meeting. A retrospective request for £500 to fund training for volunteers to ensure the safety of children whilst attending sessions at the Club.
- Blakeney Duck Race** – annual sponsorship of £50.
- Awre Village Hall** – a request for funding of £191 to replace the lights that decorate the tree outside the village hall.
- St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council** – a request for a donation towards the upkeep of the clock and maintenance of the graveyard.

Following discussion, **it was agreed** to make the donations detailed below.

Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Bullock and supported by the majority of Councillors apart from two abstentions.

Donations made to:	Amount granted 2022	2023
All Saints' Church, Blakeney	£180.00	No request rec'd.
Blakeney Rec. Community Grp	£405.00	/
(a) Blakeney Youth Club	/	£395.00
(b) Blakeney Duck Race	£50.00	£50.00
(c) Awre Village Hall	/	£191.00
(d) St. Andrew's Church, Awre	£475.00	£475.00
	£1,110.00	£1,111.00

111. LAND ADJACENT TO CEMETERY

The Title Deed Plan for the land to the rear of Yew Tree Inn over which footpath DAW 119 crosses was received. Following discussion of the proposed options, **it was agreed** to write to Chosen Care Ltd. to ask whether they would be prepared to carry out maintenance of the path. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Cotton.

112. GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT 2024 - 2026

The contract specification for the tender was approved with the addition of a mown pathway to and around the benches on Nibley Green. It was agreed that an advert should be placed in The Forester, at a cost of approximately £100, depending on the size/number of words and in The Review for an additional £40. Both costs plus VAT. The advert would also be placed on the Council's Facebook page and on the notice boards. Tenders to be:

- returned to the Clerk by 5.00 p.m. on Friday 22nd December, 2023.
- opened by Cllrs. Fellows, Cllr. Johnson and the Clerk (date to be agreed post-Christmas).
- considered at the January, 2024 meeting.

113. HEDGE REPLACEMENT

The proposed tender specification for the replacement of the Cemetery hedge was considered and approved with the addition of an outline specification of materials.

114. BLAKENEY SPEED LIMITS

The proposal detailed below was discussed at length and **approved** with the amendment to (c) detailed in italics.

"This Council to request that GCC implement the following changes to speed limits in and around the village of Blakeney:

a) ***Blakeney Approach from Viney Hill (Nibley Junction)***

Downward revision of the speed limit encompassing the junction of the A48 and main road/Etloe Road from National Speed Limit to 50mph. Revision of existing 40mph limit adjacent to Nibley Cottage to 30mph.

b) ***Blakeney Village Core***

Revision of existing 30mph limit through the centre of the village between the Royal British Legion and the Old School to 20mph.

c) ***The Radial Routes (New Road, Cinderford Road, Awre Road, Mill End Road)***

Revision of existing 30mph limit to 20mph on these routes *with the addition of yellow lines from outside Blakeney Youth Centre to Highfield and white lines on New Road to mark out spaces to improve visibility. Blakeney Hill and Pitching Green to be added and signage reviewed.*"

Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Harley and supported unanimously.

It was noted that this proposal would result in two separate Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) which would have a 21-day consultation period which the Council would advertise.

115. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

115.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – Cllr. Hoyland said that she would ensure that the lengthsman liaise with Cllr. Bullock regarding all the Parish drains that require attention. There was discussion regarding how to monitor progress of Highways issues and it was suggested that Cllr. Hoyland copy the Clerk into communications with Nathan Choat with whom she had regular meetings.

115.2 Footpaths – noted that an update report on actions carried out had been received from the PROW Officer and circulated.

115.3 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance

a) Cllrs. Fellows reported that the **Blakeney defibrillator** had been deployed and the pads removed. These had been replaced together with a new battery. It was noted that the defibrillator is obstructed once again by the fence. The defibrillator at Awre is in working order.

b) **Self watering tubs for Blakeney** – Cllrs. Johnson and Scott were asked to liaise regarding these and report back to the December meeting when the 2024/25 budget would be considered.

c) **De-icing salt** – 11 bags had been delivered to the Clerk’s work address. Collection and relocation to be arranged.

115.4 Snow Warden & Flooding – Clerk to check snow plough operators.

116. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

116.1 Gloucestershire Councillor Advocate Scheme –Cllr. Cotton informed the Council that he had attended a meeting regarding this scheme which is being trialled in Gloucestershire. He had nominated himself as the Council’s representative and would report back as appropriate.

116.2 Awre Village Green – it was reported that rubble had been dumped on the Green and suggested that the Council should consider what to do regarding this.

117. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

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.

Affordable Housing Working Group

Rubble dumped on Awre Village Green

118. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2023	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
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 9.00 p.m.