

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

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

PRESENT: Cllrs. Cotton (Chairman), Bullock, Fellows, Harley & Hoyland.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr. Moore and the Clerk.

135. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. Greening, Johnson, Scott and Trimble and District Cllr. Burton were accepted.

136. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 144.1 – Forest Food Forum (April 2024) - declared by Cllr. Hoyland at the point of discussion as she is involved with the organisation of this event.

137. DISPENSATIONS

None.

138. PUBLIC FORUM

No-one in attendance.

139. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

140. MATTERS ARISING

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

141. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

142. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Cllr. Moore report circulated prior to the meeting was noted in particular the following:

- a) the trialling in urban areas of the fully electric recycling collection vehicle. However, given the size of the vehicle, it is not suitable for rural areas.
- b) that jar and bottle lids can be recycled although many residents may not know this yet.

143. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To consider the following Planning Applications received:

143.1 P1545/23/LBC - Drakes House, Gatcombe, Blakeney

Listed building consent for repairs and alterations to dwelling to include removal of cement render on interior and exterior walls, repairs to drainage system, alteration of existing floors, opening up of historic fireplace and re-rendering masonry surface with lime products.

Councillors felt that this application had clearly been well considered and raised no objections.

143.2 P1570/23/PR3PA – Guy Hall Farm, Northington Lane, Awre

Prior approval for change of use from agricultural barn to flexible commercial use within Class E comprising an indoor electric bike track.

Councillors considered this application and observed that there would be a significant increase in the number of vehicular movements to and from this site.

143.3 P1614/23/TCA – 14 Butlers Mead, Blakeney

Fell 1 x Pine tree in front garden of 14 Butlers Mead, due to proximity to main drains, casting excessive shade on the property, and branches overhanging the adjacent road. Re-submission of application previously granted permission in 2018 under P0459/18/TCA that has now expired.

No observations or objections.

143.4 P1622/23/TCA – Legg Barn, Church Square, Blakeney

T1. Willow, pollard to approximately 6m in order to prevent failure and retain tree in a manageable size as part of a long-term management programme. T2. Willow (in poor condition and previously had large branch failure) fell in order to prevent further failure.

No observations or objections.

144. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

144.1 Forest Food Forum – April, 2024

Information regarding this event was received and it was agreed that the Council should register an expression of interest.

144.2 GAPTC – Response to the Biodiversity Duty

Cllr. Hoyland volunteered to work through the model Biodiversity Policy from GAPTC and make it relevant to the Council except for the planning side of the policy. To be passed on to Councillors for consideration.

145. FINANCE

145.1 The accounts detailed below **were approved** for payment. Proposed: Cllr. Hoyland; seconded: Cllr. Fellows and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
23/63	BACS	M E Services	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£42.25
23/64	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay for November.	LGA 1972 s.112	£543.29
23/65	BACS	Waterplus	Water supply 04/11-04/12	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£14.13
23/66	BACS	Rise & Shine	Bus Shelter Cleaning	LGA 1972 s.214	£80.00
23/67	BACS	Tindle Newspapers	Tender Adverts – Grass cutting	LGA 1972 s.111	£96.00
23/68	BACS	Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services	Pre-winter tidy up at the Cemetery	LGA 1972 s.214	£500.00
				TOTAL:	£1,275.67

145.2 DRAFT BUDGET – 2024/2025

The financial position to date, the predicted outcome at year end and a draft budget for 2024/2025 were received.

Earlier in the year, the Council had considered employing someone to keep the villages tidy. Following discussion, it was agreed that funding for this would be provided from reserves in the first instance in order to assess success. Future years would then need to be funded by an increase in the precept.

The cost of dredging the brook would also need to be taken into consideration. Clerk to identify when it was last cleared and the cost to the Council which was shared 50:50 with Gloucestershire County Council.

Revised budget to be brought back to the January meeting.

146. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cllr. Fellows to provide an update at the January meeting as no further information had been received regarding the consultation event.

147. TELEPHONE BOX WORKING GROUP

Clerk to e-mail Councillors to receive expressions of interest from those wishing to contribute to the working group regarding the renovation, future use and maintenance of the Council owned telephone boxes. Cllr. Cotton reported that Cllr. Greening was happy to Chair the working group.

148. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

148.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – the following points were discussed/noted:

- a) the update regarding drains/standing water reported. Cllr. Bullock suggested that an engineering plan was needed to deal with the standing water along from the entrance to Oaklands, before the turning to Bullo. Cllr. Hoyland said that she would push for a sludge tanker to allocated to the Council for a day.
- b) The previous regular use by Gigaclear's heavy plant machinery has damaged the road surface of Clark's lane, which was previously highlighted to the Council. County Cllr. Hoyland said that she could put a question to the full County Council meeting in February regarding Gigaclear's responsibility/ agreement to contribute to the cost of repairing any damage caused.
- c) hedge cutting on Blakeney Hill – Cllr. Fellows pointed out that several areas had not been touched when the recent cut had taken place. It was agreed that Cllrs. Fellows and Hoyland would walk the area and agree a course of action. It was noted that Highways had agreed to write to residents on Blakeney Hill regarding their responsibility to keep their hedges trimmed.

148.2 Footpaths – noted that two new bridges had been installed between Awre and Purton and a blocked footpath reported. Up-to-date report awaited from PROW.

148.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – Cllr. Bullock said that he would have a look at the entrance and pathway that was reported.

148.4 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – Cllr. Fellows reported:

- a) that the Blakeney defibrillator had been deployed but not used. He had changed the battery. It was noted that it took 3 days for the defibrillator to be back in action; to be monitored and reported if this happens again.
- b) that access to the defibrillator is still impeded by the temporary fencing; to be reported to FoDDC Estates Department.
- c) that the water meter lid is broken.
- d) New Road telephone box - Cllr. Harley reported that the glazing and the door had been removed and that there was power which could be used for a defibrillator. He said he would report back to the January meeting.
- e) Cllrs. Bullock and Fellows to trim the Cherry Tree on Post Office Green.

149. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

149.1 Christmas Tree – Cllr. Cotton expressed the Council’s thanks to Mrs. Winter for the donation of the tree. Cllr Cotton suggested that either the Parish Council should fund the provision of a Christmas tree in future or plant one in Collins Garden. It was agreed to discuss this again in October.

150. 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.
Rubble left on Awre Village Green.

151. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2024	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
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.