

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January, 2024
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr. Moore and the Clerk.

152. APOLOGIES

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

153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

154. DISPENSATIONS

None.

155. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public in attendance.

156. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

157. MATTERS ARISING

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

158. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's verbal report meeting was noted.

159. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Cllr. Burton's report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

160. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

No planning applications received for consideration.

161. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

161.1 Canopy – a proposal and funding request for a community project to be showcased at Blakeney Duck Race Festival on 24th August, 2024 was received. It was agreed to defer this matter until after the Duck Race Committee has met.

162. FINANCE

162.1 The accounts detailed below **were approved** for payment.

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

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
23/69	BACS	M E Services	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£42.25
23/70	BACS	Ursula Deighton	December pay incl. new payscale from 01/04/2023 Back dated increase from this date.	LGA 1972 s.112	£580.15 £306.00
23/71	BACS	Waterplus	Water supply 04/12-04/01	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£14.60
23/72	DD	Freeola	Quarterly Charge	LGA 1972 s.112	£21.06
23/73	BACS	Freeola	Domain Renewal	LGA 1972 s.112	£8.40
23/74	BACS	Awre Village Hall	Venue Hire – 2023/24 22.5hrs @ £7	LGA 1972 s.112	£157.50
23/75	BACS	Blakeney YC	Venue Hire – 2023/24 10hrs @ £8.50	LGA 1972 s.112	£85.00
23/76	BACS	Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator Supplies	Public Health Act 1963 s.234	£328.20
				TOTAL:	£1,543.16

162.2 Financial Position – End of 3rd Quarter

The bank reconciliation and receipts & payments information as at 31st December, 2023 indicating the position as at the end of the 3rd financial quarter **were accepted**.

162.3 Financial Checks – deferred to February meeting.

162.4 Grass Cutting Contract – 2024-2026

Cllr. Fellows reported that he and the Clerk had opened the two tenders that had been returned following the issue of five information packs. He provided an overview of the quoted costs and recommended to the Council that the tender submitted by Greenways Ground Maintenance be authorised as it provided value for money for the Parish. References had been sought from five Councils and there would be a three-month probationary period from the start of the works.

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

163. BUDGET – 2024/2025

The updated budget for 2024/2025 was considered and **approved**. **It was agreed** to submit a request to FoDDC for a precept of £16,660. **It was noted** that the Council had not increased the precept for several years.

Post Meeting Note (PMN): the precept was increased from £16,170 to £16,660 for the 2015/2016 financial year.)

164. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- a) **Preparation for Public Consultation** - Cllr. Fellows reported that he would be attending a meeting on 12th February with GRCC to discuss the display information which will be used at the public consultation event. Once this information is agreed, the event will be publicised on the notice boards and Facebook. Cllr. Hoyland said she would like to attend if her diary commitments allowed and would confirm with Cllr. Fellows.
- b) **Public Consultation Event** - due to be held on February 23rd (4.00 – 8.00 p.m.) and 24th (10 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.) at Blakeney Village Hall. Councillors were asked to check their availability to attend at some point during the two days to support GRCC.

165. TELEPHONE BOX WORKING GROUP

Cllr. Cotton suggested that the role of this Group would be to consider future usage and how to renovate the Council's telephone boxes, perhaps on a rolling programme etc.

166. RESIGNATION

The resignation of Cllr. Harley was received and consideration given to his offers of help/support in relation to continuing the work he has started on the bus stops and telephone box on New Road. **The Council agreed** that it was happy for him to continue with this support. With regard to the Council tablet, Cllr. Hoyland offered to ask Mr. Harley to show her how to download the data from the speed sign in order to build a picture of traffic movements for future reference; ideally every 8 weeks.

167. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

167.1 Highways & Parish Council Land

- a) **Biodiversity Policy** – Cllr. Hoyland suggested that the Council adopt the model policy provided by GAPTC at the February meeting. Thereafter, an action plan should be formulated as a basis for discussion.
- b) **Fix My Street App** – it was noted that using this app seemed to be working well and was a useful tool to report issues.
- c) **Issues to be reported to Highways:**
- Standing water/Blakeney Straights
 - Drains at the entrance to Awre Road, near Bullo
 - Standing water/damaged edge of road near Awre Village Hall
 - Vehicle damage to the area around Awre war memorial
 - Cinderford Road, pavement between Highfield and Blakeney Hill Road requires removal of dead leaves
 - Blakeney Hill hedges is an ongoing issue. Cllr. Fellows reported that he was compiling a list of landowner addresses.

167.2 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – the Chairman thanked Cllr. Bullock for clearing the moss from the pathways.

167.3 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – noted that one of the pear trees has been affected by Fireblight.

167.4 Snow Warden & Flooding – noted that Blackpool Brook is flowing well.

168. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

None received.

169. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Proposal to improve the appearance of the area around the war memorial at Awre;
Cllr. Scott to consult with the Village Hall Committee.

Bench and flower tubs.

Tree inspections and maintenance.

Nibley Green Wildflowers.

Rubble left on Awre Village Green; now a bramble patch that needs to be cleared.

170. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

It was noted that Awre Village Hall is booked on 20th and 21st May so the Council meeting could be moved to Wednesday, 22nd May as the Hall is available on that date. Cllr. Scott said that she would check whether the hall would be free in time for the meeting at 7.00 p.m. on 20th.

Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.