

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th July, 2023
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Cotton (Chairman), Bullock, Fellows, Greening, Harley, Hoyland, Johnson and Trimble (following her co-option to the Council)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Trimble for agenda item 57, District Cllr. Burton and the Clerk.

49. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Scott's apology for absence was accepted.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

58.1 Planning - P0669/23/FUL – Cllr. Harley.

51. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

52. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

53. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June, 2023 as an accurate record subject to the following amendment to Minute 37 – Declarations of Interest.

“37.1 Funding request from Blakeney Youth Club – Cllr. Hoyland as a volunteer.”

54. MATTERS ARISING

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

55. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor Hoyland apologised for not providing her report in advance of the meeting. She highlighted the main points from her report as follows:

- a) a motion to include **Carbon Counting** for large projects, proposed by the Green Party, had been carried.
- b) **Foster Care Poster** – it was agreed that this could be displayed on the notice boards.
- c) **Verge Cutting** – Cllr. Hoyland confirmed that she had brought this up several times before and would see if it was possible to escalate this beyond the authority of the Highways Manager. It was noted that GCC would not chase landowners to enforce the cutting of overgrown hedges.
- d) Sewage Discharge at Railway Cottages was reported; Cllr. Cotton to forward contact details to Cllr. Hoyland.

56. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Council noted the list that had been circulated, prior to the meeting, of the areas District Cllrs. Burton and Moore had been focussing on since the last meeting. In addition, the issue of suspension of bin collection services was raised. County Cllr. Hoyland said that she would share information with District Cllr. Burton regarding actions already taken. During a discussion regarding blanket road closures, it was noted that water companies do have the power to close roads in order to deal with emergencies.

57. CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following consideration, it was agreed to co-opt Miriam Trimble to the Parish Council. Cllr. Trimble signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office after the meeting.

58. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

58.1 P0669/23/FUL – 2, Hillview, New Road, Blakeney

Change of use of garden cabin/home office to annexe accommodation ancillary to main dwelling. Noted a re-consultation. No observations or objections.

58.2 P0798/23/LBC – The Old Police Station, Church Square, Blakeney

Listed building consent for the Internal work to rear hall/ games room consisting of the Replacement of 2 no. external doors to rear hall, removal of modern stud wall, new timber floor, removal of existing stair, new compliant stair and installation of log burner with internal flue and new kitchen. No observations or objections.

59. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

59.1 Rotary & Dean Scribblers FoD Young People’s Writing Competition

It was agreed to place a poster on the notice boards and add to Facebook as well as circulating to the school, youth club and both village halls.

59.2 Communications Training

An invitation to online training on 10th August, 2023 from 6.00 p.m. ‘til 7.00 p.m. was received. The Chairman suggested that if anyone attending felt that the training was not useful, GAPTC could be approached.

59.3 Speed Survey Training

Cllr. Hoyland informed the Council that the Road Safety Group for New Road had booked speed survey training for the 29th July at 3.00 pm. which will cover a survey on Nibley Hill too. If any Councillor is interested in joining in, please let Cllr. Hoyland know.

59.4 Free workshops for adult community groups, youth and school groups - First aid and wellbeing topics

It was agreed to place these posters on the notice boards and add to Facebook as well as circulating to the youth club, both village halls and Blakeney Hill Growers.

59.5 20MPH ZONES VS LIMITS - What can your council effectively do?

An invitation to join a **one-hour virtual** session to discuss what powers Parish and Town Councils have to control speeding motorists to be held on 24th July, 6.00 -7.00 p.m. was received and noted.

60. FINANCE

60.1 The following payments made since the last meeting were ratified:

- (i) **APC Ref: 23/28 – Cllr. Bullock** – reimbursement of expenditure regarding repair of lychgate roof. (Minute no. 42.4(b) of 19/06/23 refers.)
- (ii) **APC Ref: 23/30 – Mr. D. Biddlecombe** £717.52 for the purchase of items for the refurbishment of the telephone box at Awre. (Minute no. 40 of 19/06/2023 refers.) Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Scott regarding timescales for this project.

60.2 The following accounts were approved for payment. Proposed by Cllr. Fellows, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and approved unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
23/31	BACS	M E Services (Formerly Merlin Waste)	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£42.25
23/32	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay for June	LGA 1972 s.112	£543.29
23/33	BACS	Waterplus	Water supply 04/06/23 - 04/07/23 (meter reading provided.)	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£44.94
23/34	BACS	Rise & Shine	Bus Shelter Cleaning	LGA 1972 s.214	£80.00
23/35	BACS	Freeola	Website Hosting	LGA 1972 s.112	£21.06
23/36	BACS	Parish Online	Annual Subscription	LGA 1972 s.112	£120.00
23/37	BACS	Highbury Garden & Lawn Care Services	Paths, banks & grass cuts – 12/06, 26/06 & 11/07 PO Green & bus stops – 26/06	LGA 1972 s.214	£824.00
				TOTAL:	£1,675.54

60.3 Financial Checks for Q1 2023/2024

Cllrs. Greening and Cotton confirmed that they had carried out the checks for Q1 and found a clear audit trail.

60.4 Bank Reconciliation for Q1 2023/24

The Bank Reconciliation and Receipts and Payments as at 30th June, 2023 were received and accepted.

61. ANNUAL PARISH WALKABOUT

The notes from the annual parish walkabout, circulated prior to the meeting were received. In addition, the following points were mentioned:

- a) the overgrown footpath from the playing field to the chip shop, reported by a resident. Cllr. Hoyland confirmed that she had reported this.
- b) ownership of the footpath that runs from the stream alongside the cemetery. To be clarified.

62. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

62.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – discussion focussed on the following areas:

- a) an update regarding drains – Cllrs. Hoyland and Bullock to liaise further with the Highways Manager.
- b) concern was expressed at the danger caused by the overgrown hedge at Box Tree Cottage. Cllr. Hoyland said that she would talk to the lengthsman. It was noted that Highways would not contact residents regarding their responsibility to keep hedges trimmed.
- c) Cllr. Hoyland and the Clerk to liaise regarding a list of jobs reported to Highways and the progress to date.
- d) Blakeney Red pears on Nibley Green – Clerk to contact the two local cider producers.

62.2 Footpaths – Clerk to contact Jeff Wheeler regarding an update of works carried out in the Parish.

62.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting

- a) Collins Garden – Cllr. Johnson reported that the area alongside the railings had been strimmed and the wooden signs installed. Whilst carrying out the work she had been approached in an aggressive manner by a resident to complain about the look of the area. Cllr. Cotton informed the meeting that he had received views from several residents living opposite Collins Garden who were complaining about the unkempt state. However, there had also been positive feedback regarding the increased sighting of birds and insects in the area. It was noted that it would take 3 years for the wildflowers to replace the grass. Rosie Kelsall from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust was happy with how the area was progressing. It was agreed that weather permitting, the area would be cut as soon as possible using scythes/strimmer and the cuttings left for a few days to enable the seeds to drop and then be cleared away. It was also agreed to keep an area around the edge of the garden trimmed and to add this to the grass cutting tender which was to be considered at the September meeting.
- b) Cemetery - replacement fence and hedge in order to create a new boundary. Cllrs. Fellows and Johnson to draft a tender document to be issued to interested contractors.
- c) Cllr. Johnson confirmed that Post Office Green would be cut once a month.
- d) Nibley Green grass cutting – Cllr. Johnson confirmed that she had requested quotations from two contractors but only one had replied to date. In the absence of a second quote for mowing this area, Meadow Blade Services (MBS) was accepted for this job at a cost of £250 + VAT to cut the grass, collect and leave in a pile at the edge of the site.

Post Meeting Note (PMN):

Cllr. Johnson received the second quote as follows:

Ensors Grove Farm (EGF) - £300 + VAT to mow and bale into small two string bales. Councillors were consulted via e-mail owing to the time sensitive nature of this item. Cllr. Johnson proposed and Cllr. Cotton

seconded the acceptance of EGF's quote as the site would be left tidy with the grass being baled. To be ratified at the August meeting.

62.4 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance

Cllr. Harley reported that he had found some paint for the inside of the bus stop opposite the New Road junction so there would be no cost to the Council.

63. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

63.1 Sharing of information re. roadworks bulletins – following discussion, it was agreed that it would be too onerous a task to provide this information weekly for inclusion on the notice boards and so a link would be provided on the Council's website.

63.2 E-mail re. telephone box sandblasting in situ – it was agreed to ask for examples of this company's work. Cllr. Hoyland mentioned the telephone box on Blakeney Hill, and it was agreed that this could be done at a later date.

63.3 Grit Bins – it was confirmed that there is no list/map detailing the locations of grit bins. All Councillors were asked to let Cllr. Hoyland have the details of any bins that need to be replaced.

63.4 Self-watering Planters – it was agreed that the cost of this type of planter should be investigated.

63.5 War Memorial, Awre – Cllr. Bullock suggested contacting Highways regarding improving this area.

63.6 Highways to be contacted regarding clearing the brook as there is now a large amount of undergrowth.

64. 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.

65. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2023/2024

Dates 2023	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
21 st August	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Centre	11 th August
18 th September	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	8 th September
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

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