

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th May, 2024
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public and the Clerk.

12. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence received from Cllr. Hoyland **was accepted**.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

14. DISPENSATIONS

None.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public were in attendance to discuss plans to install a defibrillator on the outside of the New Road telephone box and to request funding.

Fundraising had been taking place and to date around £1,100 has been raised. The Chairman explained that there was a process to be followed in order to progress this project as follows:

- i) more information regarding the shortfall in funding was required.
- ii) the Council would need to contact BT regarding the power supply.
- iii) the Council agreed in principle that it could take ownership of the defibrillator and be responsible for the ongoing management, e.g., regular checking, replacement of sundries after deployment. Although not budgeted for, additional funds could be ringfenced for this purpose. Costings/shortfall in funding to be considered at the June meeting.

16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April, 2024 as an accurate record.

17. MATTERS ARISING

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

18. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's report circulated prior to the meeting **was noted**. Concern was expressed regarding the lateness of the visibility cuts and the potential risk to the safety of residents. Cinderford Road was mentioned in particular with regards to overgrown verges and it was suggested that the County Cllr. be asked about GCC contributing to local councils to cut the verges.

19. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr. Burton's report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. A number of matters needed to be raised with the District Cllrs. as follows:

- i) the District Council's position regarding planning enforcement.
- ii) access to the toilet block/defibrillator.
- iii) the recycling bin that was located by the Youth Centre but has been removed but the sign is still there.

20. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following planning applications were considered:

20.1 P0408/24/FUL - Land At, Nibley Mill Farm, Nibley Hill, Blakeney

Erection of a dwelling.

Following discussion, it was agreed that this application was acceptable from the point of view of design, size and siting which is modest given its location. However, Cllrs. noted that it is not within the settlement boundary and as such it is incumbent on the local authority to take a view on planning balance. The Council felt that a detailed landscaping scheme should be provided either before the application is determined or via condition which would ensure the site is screened, particularly from the west/rear of the site.

20.2 P0374/24/OUT - The Lowfields, Church Way, Blakeney

Outline application for the erection of a single self/custom build dwelling with all matters reserved.

Following consideration, Cllrs. agreed there was no objection to the principle of this outline application.

20.3 P0476/24/FUL - Valley View Lodges, Newnham Road, Blakeney

Removal of Condition 3 (occupancy for holiday purposes only) relating to planning permission P1633/20/FUL.

Following consideration, Cllrs. objected to this application for full time residential accommodation on the following grounds:

- that this is not a sustainable location for permanent dwellings,
- that the proposal constitutes development in open countryside.

20.4 P0518/24/FUL - Old Church Rooms, Church Way, Blakeney

Renovation of existing roof terrace.

Following discussion, the Council objected to this application on the following grounds:

- Planning permission has not been obtained previously therefore the description is incorrect. This should be an application to create a roof terrace and/or be retrospective.
- Councillors were also concerned with the potential for overlooking into adjacent private amenity spaces and agreed that this must not be allowed to impact on adjacent properties.

20.5 Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/P1615/W/24/3339466

Guy Hall Farm, Northington Lane, Awre, GL14 1EL – it was noted that an appeal has been made for the above site following a refusal of planning permission. It was agreed to submit the same comments as at application stage.

21. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

21.1 Blakeney School Eco-Schools Green Flag Award Support – a

request for volunteers to support for this project was received. It was suggested that details could be placed on the Facebook page.

21.2 Complaint received regarding the Cemetery grass cutting – correspondence from a resident was received. To be discussed later in the meeting.

21.3 Response Review Consultation – a letter from the Deputy Fire Officer regarding proposed changes to Cinderford Fire Station was noted and it was agreed that a representative should be invited to attend a meeting.

22. FINANCE

22.1 The following accounts for payment **were approved**. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Cotton and supported unanimously.

| Inv. Ref. | Chq. No./ BACS | Payee | Purpose | Auth | Amount |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 24/08 | DD | Freeola quarterly charge | Web hosting 26/03 – 25/06 2024 | LGA 1972 s.112 | £21.96 |
| 24/09 | BACS | Merlin Waste | Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins. | Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6 | £45.50 |
| 24/10 | BACS | Ursula Deighton | Clerk's pay | LGA 1972 s.112 | £580.15 |
| 24/11 | BACS | WaterPlus | Water supply to toilets 14/03 – 14/04/2024 | Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142 | £14.83 |
| 24/12 | BACS | Greenways Ground Mtncce | Cemetery grass cutting 16/04/2024 | LGA 1972 s.124 | £145.00 |
| 24/13 | DD | Freeola quarterly charge | E-mail 26/04 – 25/07/2024 | LGA 1972 s.112 | £8.35 |
| 24/14 | BACS | Zurich Municipal | Insurance – 01/06/2024 – 31/05/2025 | LGA 1972 s.111 | £882.42 |
| | | | | TOTAL: | £1,698.21 |

22.2 Internal Audit 2023/2024

It was agreed to appoint GAPTC to conduct an internal audit for the Council following the unavailability of Mrs. Fowler due to illness. The cost for this audit will be £180.00.

22.3 Grass Cutting Contract 2024-2026

The complainant had been spoken to and informed that Cllrs. would be meeting with the contractor to discuss how to remedy the poor workmanship. Following on from this meeting when the contractor admitted that the cemetery looked awful, he had

agreed to work over the weekend in order to put things right. Cllrs. discussed progress to date with the contract and it was agreed that the work was unsatisfactory with some areas specified in the contract not having been started/completed. It was agreed to extend the probationary period by one month in order to meet with the contractor again. However, it was acknowledged that confidence had been destroyed and the Clerk was asked to explore the process of replacing the contractor.

23. PARISH COUNCIL TELEPHONE BOXES

23.1 New Road – discussed earlier in the meeting.

23.2 Blakeney Hill – following discussion, the Council agreed that it would need some more information regarding the plans for its telephone box on Blakeney Hill, e.g., what work is planned and when? Noted that paint and other items will need to be purchased from a specialist supplier. The Council would like clarification regarding what was being requested in terms of funding. The Council will need to seek BT's permission to use the power supply. Further discussion will be needed regarding the ongoing management of a defibrillator, e.g., regular checks in addition to those when it has been activated, the purchase of supplies etc.

23.3 Post Office Green – noted that several of the door and windowpanes had been smashed.

24. MOTOCROSS

It was agreed to refer this matter to District Cllr. Burton to see if is able to clarify which dates in the calendar are actual events and which are practice sessions.

25. YEW TREE INN FOOTPATH

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Chosen Care again regarding clearance and maintenance of the footpath that runs alongside the cemetery hedge.

26. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

No update available.

27. GROUNDSKEEPER

Cllrs. Cotton and Trimble volunteered to help the Clerk to agree the 'job specification' for this role which will be circulated to Councillors for final approval.

28. FIRST AID/DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

It was agreed to revisit this matter if/when there were new defibrillators installed in the Parish.

29. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

29.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – Cllr. Bullock reported that he would continue to chase the Highways Manager regarding the drains.

29.2 Footpaths/Public Rights of Way – noted that no update had been received from the PROW Officer.

30. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

30.1 Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting were confirmed.

31. 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.
 Rubble left on Awre Village Green

32. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

| Dates 2024/2025 | Meeting | Venue Time: 7.00 p.m. | Agenda items & Dispensation requests by: |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 2024 | | | |
| 22 nd May | Annual Parish Mtg. | Blakeney Youth Centre | N/A |
| 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 |
| 2025 | | | |
| 20 th January | Parish Council | T.B.C. | 10 th January |
| 17 th February | Parish Council | T.B.C. | 7 th February |
| 17 th March | Parish Council | T.B.C. | 7 th March |

Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.