

# Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2024  
at the Village Hall, Awre at 7.00 p.m.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** District Cllr. Moore and the Clerk.

**49. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence received from Cllr. Johnson was accepted.

**50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**51. DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 as an accurate record.

The Clerk was asked to pass on the Council's thanks to the Garden Club for planting the two barrels and tidying the area adjacent to the bench. Cllr. Hoyland said that she would remove the old barrel by the Post Office so that it could be replaced in the Autumn.

The Chairman asked that the Clerk's request that item 61, Complaints Procedure, be deferred to the August meeting. This was agreed.

**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 Cllr. Hoyland's report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. It was reported that following communications with County Cllr. Morris and Highways, the response was not satisfactory given that the grass cutting schedule last year meant the verges were not cut until September. Clerk to chase. Concern was also expressed regarding the tree canopy obscuring signs; Clarks Lane (near bridge/BT box), drain remains blocked and now overgrown making it liable to cause flooding; issues reported on 'Fix My Street' often resulted in a 'no problem found' response.

**56. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

**56.1 Enforcement Issues** - District Cllr. Moore said that he would find out if Case Officers checked whether planning conditions had been met although he felt that the resources were possibly not there to do so.

**56.2 Access to Toilet Block** – Clerk to forward the background information for this issue to Cllr. Moore as soon as possible.

**56.3 Recycling Bin – Cinderford Road** – it was noted that this bin (adjacent to the Youth Centre) had been removed because of an excess of ‘non-target’ material and possibly some commercial waste. Cllr. Cotton asked that the sign be removed as well as the location detailed on the FoDDC website.

**57. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**57.1 P0294/24/FUL – Plusterwine House, Station Road, Woolaston, Lydney**  
Extension of an existing Anaerobic Digestion Plant and associated infrastructure.

The Council had not been consulted on this application even though there was a direct impact on the Parish with transportation of digestate to/from a site in Awre. **It was agreed** that the application should reference this fact and also clearly indicate where the material for the digester is coming from and where it is being transported to and the resulting volumes. The impact on road users and residents alike was significant as well as the damage to the small lanes made by the large tractors and tankers transporting digestate for storage. **It was agreed** to share the Council’s concerns with District Cllr. Burton and ask that he ‘call in’ this application.

**58. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION**

**58.1 Blakeney Garden Club** – it was noted that the two tubs on the High Street, near Church Square had been planted and looked pretty. The Clerk was asked to thank the Club for their work in tidying the area as well as the planting.

**58.2 Blakeney Hill Telephone Box Proposal** – the proposal for the renovation of this telephone box was accepted. It was noted that the installation of a defibrillator would be considered in the future. The Clerk was asked to remind the group that the electricity supply may be live and that precautions must be taken because of the leaded paint. Clerk to also check whether the New Road group have any spare paint left.

**58.3 Forest of Dean District Council - Draft Local Plan 2021-2041, Consultation**  
It was noted that the consultation period had now commenced and is due to end on 19/08/24 at 11:59 p.m. Cllrs. to respond individually if they wished to do so.

**58.4 Canopy** – Clerk to notify the group that requests for funding are considered in October and perhaps it would be a good opportunity to evaluate how the project had worked this year and apply for funding for 2025.

**58.5 Network Rail – Severn Estuary Resilience Programme** – two e-mails of complaint regarding these works were noted. The Clerk had referred them on to Network Rail for action/response.

**59. FINANCE**

**59.1** The following accounts were approved for payment. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows, seconded: Cllr. Scott and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
24/20	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£45.50
24/21	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay	LGA 1972 s.112	£580.15
24/22	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to toilets 14/05 – 14/06/2024	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£15.10
24/23	DD	Freeola	Quarterly Web Hosting	LGA 1972 s.111	£21.96
24/24	BACS	Geosphere Ltd.	Parish Online Subscription	LGA 1972 s.112	£120.00
24/25	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Work carried out to bring the grass/hedge cutting under control. Routine grass cutting 18/06 & 01/07/2024	LGA 1972 s.214	£900.00 £675.00
24/26	BACS	Farm & Country Store	Supply of plants, compost, fertiliser for Awre planters	LGA1972 s.214 PCA 1957 s.1	£59.75
				<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£2,417.46</b>

**59.2 Cemetery Fees**

The ringfencing of £1,322 paid to the Council in April that should have been received before the year end was approved. These funds to be allocated towards the cemetery grass cutting for 2024/2025.

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

**59.3 Financial Checks for Q1 2024/25**

Cllrs. Greening and Cotton confirmed that the quarterly checks had been carried out and all was found to be in order.

**59.4 Bank Reconciliation for Q1 2024/25**

The bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 was received and accepted.

**59.5 Budget & Reserves 2024/2025**

The updated budget and allocated reserves for 2024/2025 was approved with one minor amendment to the reserves to accommodate the appointment of a groundskeeper.

Proposed: Cllr. Cotton; seconded by Cllr. Scott and supported unanimously.

**59.6 Direct Debits**

The list of direct debits scheduled for payment during the current financial year was approved.

Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded by Cllr. Scott and supported unanimously.

**60. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The updated Council Financial Regulations were received and accepted.  
Proposed: Cllr. Greening; seconded by Cllr. Cotton.

**61. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Deferred, as agreed at agenda item 53.

**62. GROUNDSKEEPER**

The Council received an update regarding the appointment to this position and agreed dates and times to suggest to the contractors.

**63. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**63.1 Highways & Parish Council Land**

Cllr. Hoyland reported that she had an ongoing list open with the Highways Manager of which drains were a priority and would forward a copy to the Clerk for circulation.

**63.2 Footpaths/Public Rights of Way (PROW)**

The update report from Jeff Wheeler, PROW Officer was noted.

**63.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting**

a) **Collins Garden** – Cllr. Hoyland said that she would pull the ragwort from Collins Garden, and it was noted that it was due a cut and collect soon.

b) **Nibley Green BioBlitz** – Cllr. Hoyland also reported that the BioBlitz would be taking place on Nibley Green on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> August. This would provide a baseline count for the Biodiversity Policy. Details to be promoted on the Council's Facebook page and on the notice boards.

c) **Nibley Green Mowing** – Cllr. Hoyland said that she would contact Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to see if Nibley Green could be included in the same contract as Clarks Pool Meadow.

**63.4 Snow Warden & Flooding** - Cllr. Scott reported that she had updated the Winter Action Plan. The Clerk said that she would find the salt spreader that is stored at Purlieu Farm. It was noted that Awre was on a secondary route which meant that sometimes the roads were not gritted. Cllr. Hoyland asked that she be kept informed when this happened.

**64. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK**

64.1 Cllr. Greening expressed concern regarding the speed of vehicles travelling between Branches Corner and the village.

64.2 Affordable Housing – update circulated.

64.3 War memorial at Awre – noted that some designs for a circular area around the memorial would be forwarded to Highways.

64.4 Defibrillator training – Clerk to contact Community Heartbeat.

**65. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Affordable Housing

First Aid/Defibrillator training

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

**66. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

<b>Dates 2024/2025</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Agenda items &amp; Dispensation requests by:</b>
<b>2024</b>			
19 <sup>th</sup> August	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	9 <sup>th</sup> August
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Centre	6 <sup>th</sup> September
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	11 <sup>th</sup> October
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	8 <sup>th</sup> November
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Centre	6 <sup>th</sup> December

**Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.**