

# Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2024  
at the Village Hall, Awre at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Cotton (Chairman), Fellows, Greening and Hoyland.

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

**67. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. Scott, Trimble, Bullock & Johnson were accepted.

**68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**69. DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**70. PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public present.

**71. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 as an accurate record.

**72. MATTERS ARISING**

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

**73. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Cllr. Hoyland gave a verbal report to the meeting as follows:

- a) Roads – she had recently met with Nathan Choat and agreed a list of actions.
- b) Hedges – a flail cutter was due in the Autumn paid for from C. Cllr. Hoyland's budget. She said she would let Cllr. Fellows know when this was scheduled to happen so that they could agree what needed to be done.
- c) Cllr. Cotton expressed concern that many grit bins are hidden.
- d) Claim for Grass Cutting from GCC – it was suggested that the Clerk contact Dave Tingle, the Clerk for Newnham-on-Severn regarding the process for this.
- e) Lydney Junction – it was noted that new signage was planned for this junction in September.

**74. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

- a) Plusterwine Farm – D. Cllr. Burton reported that the Case Officer had requested more information and it was noted that the Planning Committee would be considering this application; possibly in October.
- b) The Council would like to know how much the electric refuse vehicles had cost. D. Cllr. Burton said that D. Cllr. Moore would be able to answer that question.

## 75. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following applications were considered:

### 75.1 P0294/24/FUL - Plusterwine House, Station Road, Woolaston, GL15 6PN

Proposal - Extension of an existing Anaerobic Digestion Plant and associated infrastructure.

It was noted that Woolaston Parish Council had raised a concerns on behalf of parishioners including noise, dust and that the blast zone had been extended. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Council needed to know what acreage would be fed into the biodigester; what volume of digestate would be transferred to Awre, i.e., how many litres per tanker and how many tankers per day and when? Clerk to draft a response.

### 75.2 P0802/24/PQ3PA - Little Hagloe Barn, Etloe, Blakeney

Prior approval for the conversion of an agricultural barn to provide a single dwelling and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. No observations or objections.

### 75.3 P0844/24/FUL - Fedden Myrtle Cottage, Blakeney Hill Road, Blakeney

Erection of a single storey side extension with terrace and raised platform parking area for two cars.

The Parish Council considered this application and agreed that the extension to the dwelling was modest and therefore agreed to support this. With regard to the parking area, this was not supported. There were a number of points of concern as follows:

- The 'forestry track' indicated on the plan is a path not a track. It has not been used as a vehicular access for many years, if at all.
- The application proposes to hard surface the track but this appears to be outside of the red line boundary of the application.
- If consented, the access would eliminate the informal parking area at the junction with Blakeney Hill Road. Where will this parking be displaced to?
- No existing or proposed levels have been provided. The track is particularly steep; however the parking area is drawn as flat. How would this space interact with the exiting track. Would the levels of the track be altered?
- How would vehicles turn to enter and exit in a forward gear?
- If consented, cars emerging from the track would have little or no visibility onto Blakeney Hill Road.
- Presumably the track belongs to Forestry England. Have they been consulted?

Finally, it was noted that the property benefits from access to the south, however this area appears not to be within the red line of the boundary nor indicated with a blue line as property within the same ownership.

The Council suggests the Case Officer visit the site prior to determining the application.

### 75.4 P0895/24/FUL - Honeycott, Brains Green, Blakeney

Erection of a detached annex with shared drainage and power to provide accommodation for a family member.

Following consideration, the Council agreed that it would like to details of the arrangements for storm and foul drainage?

**75.5 P0872/24/FUL & P0873/24/LBC - Underdean House, Newnham Road, Blakeney**

Alterations to existing outbuildings to create annexe/holiday let within the curtilage of a Grade II listed building.

Consideration was given to this application and it was agreed to pass on the comment regarding the additional vehicular access/movements that would result from this proposal.

**75.6 P0807/24/ADV - 6 High Street, Blakeney, GL15 4DY**

Installation of fascia signage ACM panels with acrylic POD and Illumination x 1, full colour printed ACM panels x 3, window vinyl full colour printed x 1, sliver lockable poster case.

No observations or objections.

**76. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION**

**76.1 Himalayan Balsam (HB)** – a message was received indirectly regarding HB growing alongside Forge Brook. Although the Council does not have a policy, it endeavours to clear HB from the Cemetery. It was suggested that the Recreation Centre be spoken to and the owner of the land upstream.

**76.2 Councillor Advocacy Scheme Engagement Survey** – receipt of information regarding this survey was noted. Cllr. Cotton represents this Council on this scheme and said that he would provide feedback when received.

**76.3 Community Resilience Event (11/09/2024)** – the invitation to this event which is being held via MS Teams would be attended by Cllr. Cotton.

**76.4 Transport HUB Consultation** – correspondence from GAPTC with a link to this survey which closes on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2024 was noted.

**77. FINANCE**

**77.1** The following accounts were approved for payment. Proposed: Cllr. Cotton, seconded: Cllr. Greening and supported unanimously.

| Inv. Ref. | Chq. No./ BACS | Payee                    | Purpose   | Auth                              | Amount           |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 24/27     | BACS           | Merlin Waste             | Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.                         | Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6          | £45.50           |
| 24/28     | BACS           | Ursula Deighton          | Clerk's pay   | LGA 1972 s.112                    | £580.15          |
| 24/29     | BACS           | WaterPlus                | Water supply to toilets<br>14/06 – 14/07/2024<br>14/07 – 29/07/2024 | Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142 | £14.63<br>£15.10 |
| 24/30     | DD             | Freeola                  | Quarterly E-mail provision  | LGA 1972 s.111                    | £8.35            |
| 24/31     | BACS           | Rise & Shine             | Bus Shelter Cleaning  | LGA 1972 s. 214                   | £80.00           |
| 24/32     | BACS           | Highbury Garden Services | Grass cutting etc.<br>23/07 & 05/08/2024                            | LGA 1972 s.214                    | £755.00          |
|           |                |                          |   | <b>TOTAL:</b>                     | <b>£1,498.73</b> |

**77.2 Groundskeeper**

a) The decision taken by e-mail to award Square One Services the contract for Groundkeeper at a rate of £15/hour plus VAT (to be reclaimed) plus approved out of pocket expenses (e.g. materials) was **ratified by Council**. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Cotton and supported unanimously.

- b) **Weed killing options** – to consider the use of weedkiller by Square One Services (licence held) as follows:
- i) Glyphosate based product £11.50/20L (non-biodegradable)
  - ii) Vinegar based product £19.00/20L (biodegradable).
- Following discussion **it was agreed, with one objection**, to approve the use of glyphosate but only where absolutely essential and for any large dead debris to be cleared.

**77.3 Highways Reimbursement** – consideration was given to the suggestion to invoice Highways at 4p/m<sup>2</sup> x 2 cuts annually for areas cut by the Council's contractor. Cllr. Fellows said that he could provide maps to be forwarded to Nathan Choat to confirm that the areas are Highways assets.

**77.4 Poppy Wreaths** – approval was given for the order of 2 poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday at a cost of £25 each.

## **78. NEW ROAD DEFIBRILLATOR**

Following providing an update regarding the Parish Council purchasing the defibrillator in order to reclaim the VAT, a number of questions/suggestions have been raised:

- a) Will the PC funds go into Mrs. Steel's fundraising page or vice versa? And what needs to be done to make this happen? *Clerk to contact Community Heartbeat Trust to check the process.*
- b) Will the Council decide which defibrillator to buy? *Yes.*
  - c) Mrs. Steel knows an electrician who lives locally (on New Road) who could be asked for a quote to connect the supply to the defibrillator. *Clerk to contact BT to request permission to install a defibrillator to the exterior of the phone box.*
- d) Installation of a plaque to recognise the fundraising efforts/collaboration etc. *The Council is happy for the group to organise a plaque.*

## **79. VILLAGE CENTRE TELEPHONE BOX**

It was noted that Mr. Harley had replaced the vandalised panels using the polycarbonate glazing taken out of the New Road box to secure the one in the village centre to be weather tight. Clerk to pass on the Council's thanks to Mr. Harley.

## **80. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Cllr. Cotton had reviewed a number of procedures and suggested that the Clerk use Newland Parish Council's as a basis for this Council's policy.

## **81. PARISH WALKABOUT**

Clerk to circulate dates via Doodle Poll.

## **82. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

### **82.1 Highways & Parish Council Land**

Cllr. Hoyland presented data from the speed camera which highlighted that the 85<sup>th</sup> %ile was 38 mph over a period of 90 days recorded. Cllr. Fellows suggested that it would be interesting to see the data from the CSV file. The ultimate goal would be to send information to Community Speedwatch.

It was noted that drainage works were scheduled for the A48 between the Haie Estate entrance and Sparks Hill. Cllr. Greening asked whether the grass would be removed from the edge of the carriageway and Cllr. Hoyland said that she would ask.

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

Cllr. Fellows reported that he and Cllr. Bullock had found that the footpath along the river was overgrown and impassable and would confirm the DAW number so that it can be reported.

**82.3 Emergency Plan – Cllr. Cotton informed the meeting that he would link in with the FoDDC’s plan.**

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

None

**84. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Affordable Housing (once an update is received)

First Aid/Defibrillator training

Proposal to improve the appearance of the area around the war memorial at Awre

Tree inspections and maintenance

Rubble left on Awre Village Green

**85. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

| Dates<br>2024/2025         | Meeting        | Venue<br>Time: 7.00 p.m. | Agenda items &<br>Dispensation<br>requests by: |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>2024</b>                |                |                          |  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> September | Parish Council | Blakeney Youth<br>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<br>Centre | 6 <sup>th</sup> December                       |
| <b>2025</b>                |                |                          |  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> January   | Parish Council | T.B.C.                   | 10 <sup>th</sup> January                       |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> February  | Parish Council | T.B.C.                   | 7 <sup>th</sup> February                       |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> March     | Parish Council | T.B.C.                   | 7 <sup>th</sup> March                          |

**Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.**