

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th September, 2024
at Blakeney Youth Centre at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr. Burton and the Clerk.

86. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. Greening, Johnson and Trimble **were accepted.**

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

88. DISPENSATIONS

None.

89. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

90. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 19th August, 2024 as an accurate record.

91. MATTERS ARISING

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

92. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's report which was circulated prior to the meeting **was noted.**
Clerk to publish the report on the notice boards.

93. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

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

The following points were highlighted:

- a) there was no news from District Cllr. Moore regarding the toilet block.
- b) with reference to the 'decline of the districts waterways', clarification was sought as to the definition of these waterways, i.e., the major rivers or far reaching, for example, Blackpool Brook.
- c) planning reinforcement – the contact details of a senior officer was requested in order to have a conversation regarding a number of issues.
- d) in response to a question as to how the electric vehicles were working, Cllr. Burton said that as far as he knew they were okay.

94. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

There were no planning applications to consider.

95. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

95.1 Thriving Communities – receipt of an invitation to attend an event on 4th November, 2024 organised by FoDDC to receive feedback on how to develop better two-way communication and engagement to support this concept was discussed. Cllrs. Scott and Hoyland expressed an interest but asked for more information regarding the event.

95.2 Website Accessibility Compliance AND .gov.uk Domains UPDATE
Information from GAPTC regarding new WCAG 2.2AA accessibility standards that come into force shortly was received. It was noted that the Council’s website and e-mail address is .org.uk which is acceptable.

95.3 Ash Dieback Project: Replanting Scheme 2024-25 Season
Correspondence regarding this scheme was considered but there were no sites that came to mind for replanting.

96. FINANCE

96.1 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
24/33	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£45.50
24/34	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk’s pay	LGA 1972 s.112	£580.15
24/35	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Grass cutting etc. 22/08 & 09/09/2024	LGA 1972 s.214	£725.00
24/36	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to toilets 14/08 – 14/09/2024	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£15.10
				TOTAL:	£1,365.75

96.2 Grass Cutting Contract – the Clerk was asked to provide a review of the expenditure for this contract for the November meeting.

97. NEW ROAD TELEPHONE BOX

a) Defibrillator – **it was noted** that as the funds had been donated to the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) they cannot be returned. However, the funds can be transferred to a new account that CHT will set up for the Parish Council within the Charity. Once the Council is ready to proceed CHT will send a link to place the order for the equipment.

b) BT Permission to Install a Defibrillator – **it was noted** that a new contract would need to be signed in order for the defibrillator to be installed inside the kiosk and not on the outside as first planned. Community Heartbeat Trust is BT’s recognised installer and so there would be no need for the Council to find an electrician.

b) Sandblasting – the Clerk informed the meeting that she had received the name and telephone number of the person who carried out the sandblasting together with the cost.

98. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The draft Complaints Procedure **was approved** subject to changing ‘he/she’ to ‘they/them’.

99. PARISH WALKABOUT

The Chairman provided details of the action required following the walkabout which took place on 9th September, 2024. Details of the decisions/actions provided in the report to be circulated following the meeting.

100. EEL PASS

The ongoing maintenance of the eel pass was discussed. It was noted that unlike the previous years, it had been cleaned by hand rather than by machine which may be why it is currently buried under silt. Moving forward, **it was agreed** that the last of the funding provided for cleaning should be used in the current financial year. A decision would then need to be made, based on evidence regarding value for money, whether to continue maintaining it or to remove it. Cllr. Hoyland said that she would talk to Rosie Kelsall and Sue Middleton regarding this matter.

101. REQUEST FOR AN EXTENDED ABSENCE

The request from Cllr. Trimble for approval for a domestic emergency absence from the Parish Council **was approved**. This would be reviewed after six months or if the last vacancy on the Council was filled prior to this deadline.

102. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

102.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – Cllr. Bullock reported that the ‘jettors’ had spent two days in the area. It was noted that work was due to commence on the A48 but it was not clear what this would entail; hopefully drainage.

102.2 Emergency Plan – Cllr. Cotton reported that he had attended an event regarding resilience in the community but as it was aimed at the Cotswolds and Wiltshire, there had been nothing to learn from the session.

103. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

None

104. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Purchase of daffodil bulbs as per previous years (October)

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

105. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2024/2025	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
2024			
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	Awre Village Hall	10 th January
17 th February	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	7 th February
17 th March	Parish Council	BYC - T.B.C.	7 th March
21st April	Parish Council	"	11th April
T.B.C.	Annual Parish	"	
19th May	Annual PC	"	9th May
16th June	Parish Council	"	6th June
21st July	Parish Council	"	11th July
18th August	Parish Council	"	8th August
15th September	Parish Council	"	5th September
20th October	Parish Council	"	10th October
17th November	Parish Council	"	7th November
15th December	Parish Council	"	5th December

Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.