

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st October, 2024
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public, District Cllr. Burton and the Clerk.

106. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. Johnson and District Cllr. Moore.
were accepted.

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

108. DISPENSATIONS

None.

109. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Dunlop informed the meeting that there was no transport from Awre to Blakeney to enable children to catch the school bus from Blakeney. She had been in contact with Cllrs. Hoyland and Bullock about installing a bike shelter in Blakeney so that children could cycle in and leave their bikes safely. It was noted that the shelter could be used by others who wished to cycle.

It was agreed to bring item 117 – **Active Travel Grant Scheme** – forward.
Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Greening and supported unanimously.

Cllr. Hoyland reported that of the sites considered, the favourite was the land adjacent to the Butlers Mead car park which is owned by FoDDC. Therefore, permission would need to be sought from FoDDC as well as conservation area consent. It was planned to apply to the Active Travel Grant Scheme which required 20% match funding from the Parish Council. During discussion, it was agreed that a wooden shelter, without sides (for security reasons) would be the most aesthetic option. Cllr. Hoyland to forward the draft application to the Clerk for completion and submission.

The approximate costs were outlined as follows:

£4,732 for the shelter

£1,500 for a concrete pad

£6,232 approximate total. Therefore, the match funding required would be £1250 - £1,300 depending on final figures. This figure was proposed by Cllr. Bullock; seconded by Cllr. Greening and **was approved.**

110. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September, 2024 as an accurate record.

111. MATTERS ARISING

Information from the Clerk relating to matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and other items **was noted**. One item highlighted was that access to the toilet block had been further restricted making it difficult to get to the side door and to the defibrillator. District Cllr. Moore to chase.

112. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's report which was circulated prior to the meeting **was noted**.

113. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

District Cllr. Burton's report which was circulated prior to the meeting **was noted**. The following points were highlighted:

- a) 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. It was confirmed that the focus was on the Rivers Wye and Severn.
- b) planning reinforcement – noted that the contact details of a senior officer regarding enforcement was still awaited.
- c) Cllr. Hoyland reported that she had spoken to Mr. Choat regarding the walls along the brook and he was going to speak to the person responsible for assets.

114. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

114.1 P1207/24/FUL – Wisteria, Awre Road, Blakeney

Erection of two storey rear extension and internal alterations to existing detached cottage. Following consideration, the Council observed that the works are close to the boundary, involve digging a hole and building a retaining wall a storey high. Therefore, the Councillors agreed that it is essential that engineering details are provided.

114.2 P1222/24/FUL - 1, Furnace Valley, Blakeney

Erection of replacement garage. Demolition of existing garage. Details of this application were circulated after the agenda had been released due to its late arrival. No observations or objections.

115. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

115.1 Permission for Grave Alterations

A request to make alterations to a gravestone and to the removeable memorial **was approved**.

116. FINANCE

116.1 The invoiced detailed below were approved for payment. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Scott and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
24/36	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£45.50
24/37	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay for September Office Allowance (6mths)	LGA 1972 s.112	£580.15 £104.00

			Telephone, I/T (6 mths)		£60.00
24/38	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Grass cutting etc.	LGA 1972 s.214	£795.00
24/39	DD	Freeola	Web Hosting (Sept – Dec)	LGA 1972 s.112	£21.96
24/40	BACS	Waterplus	Water supply 14/09 – 14/10	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£14.63
				TOTAL:	£1,621.24

116.2 Financial Position – End of 2nd Quarter

The bank reconciliation and receipts & payments information as at 30th September, 2024 was received and noted.

116.3 Financial Checks – Cllrs. Greening and Cotton confirmed that they had carried out the quarterly checks and all was in order

116.4 Annual Donations

The following requests received were considered and **approved**.

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

- a) **Blakeney Duck Race** – annual sponsorship of £50.
- b) **St. Andrew’s Parochial Church Council** – a request for a donation towards the upkeep of the village clock and maintenance of the graveyard.
- c) **All Saints’ Church, Blakeney** – a request for a donation toward the servicing of the village clock.

Detailed below are the amounts allocated in 2023. The budget figure for Grants is £1,110.

Donations made to:	Amount granted 2023	Amount requested 2024
All Saints' Church, Blakeney	No request rec'd.	£228
Blakeney Youth Club	£395	/
Blakeney Duck Race	£50.00	£50.00
Awre Village Hall	£191	/
St. Andrew's Church, Awre	£475.00	£475
	£1,111.00	£753

116.5 King Alfred Daffodils

The purchase of King Alfred Daffodils at a cost of £40 + VAT/25kg was approved.

117. ACTIVE TRAVEL GRANT SCHEME

Dealt with under agenda item 109.

118. CEMETERY HEDGES

Following discussion **it was agreed**:

- a) Contractor details to be supplied to the Clerk for the replacement of the top hedge and the job spec to be finalised.

- b) Contractor details to be supplied to the Clerk for the laying of the hedge adjacent to the footpath. It was also suggested that the Hedge laying Association and Conservations Volunteers could also be contacted.

It was also agreed that the Yew tree needed to be trimmed and the Holly tree next to it removed.

119. CHRISTMAS TREE

Cllr. Hoyland reported that Jamie Howse proposed to install a Christmas tree donated by Mrs. Winter as per last year at Collins Garden. In addition to having lights on the Christmas tree, he would like to add warm lights to the trees behind the Post Office. He was also planning to have mulled wine and carols at the Church. The tree would be removed by twelfth night. The event would be publicised on social media and posters, and he intended to get in touch with the school too. Cllr. Scott said that she would pass on the cost of the Awre village lights to Cllr. Hoyland.

120. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

120.1 Highways & Parish Council Land

(a) Cllr. Bullock reported that following the A48 works carried out recently, the issue of flooding towards Awre had not been resolved. It was noted that the chutes had not been cleaned which contributed to the issue. Cllr. Cotton asked whether it would be possible for the Council to see the list of works scheduled since the drain at Clarks Lane still had not been cleared. It was noted that the contract for Highways works was going to 'scrutiny'.

(b) Cllr. Fellows reminded the meeting that the two Blakeney Red trees needed to be cut down and burnt on site.

(c) Cllr. Fellows mentioned a patch of land that is not on Highways map and Cllr. Bullock suggested that the Council approach Mr. Adams to cut it. Location to be clarified.

120.2 Footpaths/Public Rights of Way (PROW) – noted that the closure along the River Severn embankment was still in place with a diversion route.

120.3 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – noted that the defibrillators were **working at both sites.**

120.4 Snow Warden & Flooding - Cllr. Scott reported that she had passed on this year's rates to the snow plough operator. Clerk to chase the delivery of salt. It was noted that 'Fix My Street' could be used to report any grit bins that need topping up.

121. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

121.1 First Aid/Defibrillator Training still to be organised. Clerk to contact Community Heartbeat for some dates.

122. 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

123. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2024/2025	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
2024			
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

Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.