

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th November, 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. Moore and the Clerk.

124. REVISED AGENDA

The revised agenda as circulated on 15th November, 2024 **was accepted.**

125. APOLOGIES

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

126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was made by Cllr. Greening in relation to the items regarding Motocross (132(b) and 134.1.

127. DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Greening did not require a dispensation to speak unless absolutely necessary.

128. PUBLIC FORUM

The member of the public confirmed he did not wish to speak and was in attendance to observe.

129. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October, 2024 as an accurate record.

130. MATTERS ARISING

Information from the Clerk relating to matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and other items **was noted.** With regard to **First Aid/Defibrillator Training**, **it was agreed** that the Clerk should organise a face-to-face awareness session at a cost of £175.00. Cllr. Scott to suggest some dates to progress this matter. Proposed: Cllr. Cotton; seconded: Cllr. Fellows and **approved** unanimously.

131. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's gave a verbal report to the meeting and highlighted the following points:

- a) Anti-social behaviour – efforts were being made to try to get services engaged in this issue rather than just being aware.
- b) Cllr. Bullock commented that 'The Robin' does not come down to Awre: County Cllr. Hoyland to chase.
- c) Nathan Choat had been written to regarding the residents e-mail received regarding the state of the roads around Etloe.

- d) Questions had been asked at Full Council regarding the soil/overgrowth on the roadside along the A48. The responses had been that the County Council did not have the resources.
- e) It was noted that although the drains were supposed to have been rodded, this had not been done. The recent work carried out by Bullow at the bottom of Sparks' Hill did not represent value-for-money.

132. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

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

- a) An update regarding access to the toilet block had been circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting. Cllr. Cotton asked for sight of the legal advice that the District Council had received as this hadn't been passed on to the Council. It was suggested that a site meeting with Mr. Richard Webb, would be useful to discuss re-instatement of access, otherwise the lease could be deemed null and void without this.
- b) Motocross at Awre – District Cllr. Burton is following this up.
- c) Removal of Planning Notices – forward letter regarding this to District Cllr. Moore.

133. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

133.1 The decision taken by e-mail due to time constraints; no observations or objections for planning application:

P1337/24/TCA - Dean Camp Cottage, Awre Road, Blakeney

Hazel (H1) - Crown reduction of one third **was ratified.**

133.2 P0294/24/FUL - Plusterwine House, Station Road, Woolaston

It was noted that this application was considered at the Development Management Committee on 12th November, 2024 and it had been resolved to consent it.

133.3 P1298/24/FUL - Kings Head, High Street, Blakeney

Change of use of land for the temporary installation of a mobile double-deck playbus within garden area.

The Council considered this application and made the following observations:

- a) with reference to the siting of the bus, overlooking will be an issue from the upper deck.
- b) the bus will be sited within a conservation area and adjacent to a Grade II listed building, therefore, the Council has questioned whether it is appropriate for the setting.
- c) the size of the bus as depicted in the plans was queried as it seems not to be drawn to scale making the bus seem smaller than it is.
- d) there is tree drawn on the plan which does not exist.
- e) ultimately, it is for the Conservation Officer to judge whether the benefit of the proposal outweighs the 'cost' to the aesthetics of the setting.

134. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

134.1 Motocross - a number of e-mails were received regarding the recent event held at Awre without any prior notification. Without timely communication, local businesses had lost money. District Cllr. Burton had been informed and was following this up.

134.2 Etloe Lanes & Railway Embankment

An e-mail had been received from a resident regarding the state of the lanes around Etloe which had been forwarded to Nathan Choat. Clerk to forward the this e-mail to Network Rail.

135. FINANCE

135.1 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
24/41	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£45.50
24/42	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay for October (New Pay Scales agreed) Back Dated Increase	LGA 1972 s.112	£602.96 £159.67
24/43	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Grass cutting etc.	LGA 1972 s.214	£470.00
24/44	DD	Freeola	E-mail quarterly charge 26/10/24-25/01/25	LGA 1972 s.112	£8.35
24/45	BACS	Waterplus	Water supply 14/10 – 14/11	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£15.10
24/46	BACS	Royal British Legion	Poppy wreaths x 2 @ £25 each	LGA 1972 s.137	£50.00
				TOTAL:	£1,351.58

136. ACTIVE TRAVEL GRANT SCHEME - Cllrs. Bullock and Hoyland

The application submitted and the revised figures **were noted**. Cllr. Hoyland said that she would check regarding planning permission as the shelter was to be sited in the conservation area.

137. CEMETERY HEDGES

- a) **Top Hedge/Fence** – two contractors had been recommended, namely, Uriel Peel and T. Jones & Son. Cllr. Fellows to forward the specification to the Clerk so that she can contact the contractors for a quotation.
- b) **Hedgelaying** – we have three names, 2 recommended and one from the National Hedgelaying Society, namely, Megan, Green Gardener, Andy Williams and Celine McCutcheon; plus an additional name – Alex Clayson. Clerk to contact these contractors and to clarify timeframe for the work and clearance of debris.

138. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

- a) **Review of Contract Costs** – **it was noted** that the total spend to date was £3,765, leaving a balance of £1,235.
- b) **Additional Work Required** – **it was agreed** that an additional cut could be carried out prior to Winter. The contractor is going to price up the work required to clear the fallen trees/vegetation for the Council to consider, including the Holly, Yew and Hazel trees. **It was noted** that a large tree had fallen from the playing field side of the brook.

- c) **Other Works Required** – a number of other trees required attention:
- the two Pear trees on Nibley Green
 - the tree by the Doctor’s Surgery. N.B. in the Conservation Area.
 - the trees on the green behind the Post Office.

139. GROUNDSKEEPER – TEMPORARY INCREASE IN HOURS

An increase in hours from 5-6 to 10 for the week commencing 18/11/2024 **was approved**. Clerk to contact the contractor to highlight the following areas requiring urgent attention:

- a) New Road to Clarks Lane Bridge
- b) Newnham Road pathway
- c) Bus stop at the top of Nibley – clean and disinfect.

140. SALTMARSH SCHEME (WWT)

Representatives from the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) gave a presentation to the Council before the meeting regarding the saltmarsh scheme for Awre. **It was agreed** that following the public meeting on the 6th December, the Council would need to meet with WWT again to discuss the implications/benefits of the scheme for the community.

141. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

141.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – Cllr. Bullock reported that he had been in contact with Mr. Clive Saunders regarding the flooding and used ‘fix mu street’. County Cllr. Hoyland confirmed that the extra hedge cut was still due to be carried out.

141.2 Footpaths/Public Rights of Way (PROW) – it was noted that the temporary footpath closure along the River Severn had been extended again.

141.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – Cllrs. Johnson and Greening – dealt with earlier in the meeting. It was noted that the Council had received compliments regarding the grass cutting.

141.4 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – Cllrs. Fellows and Scott confirmed that both defibrillators were in working order. It was noted, however, that the fence in front of the Blakeney Defibrillator was closer than before, thereby creating a greater obstruction.

141.5 Snow Warden & Flooding - Cllr. Scott confirmed that she would collect the de-icing salt as soon as possible.

142. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

142.1 Resignation - Cllrs. were informed of Cllr. Johnson’s wish to resign from the Council following the birth of her son and to hopefully return if there was a vacancy in the future.

143. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Affordable Housing – to be added to the December agenda.

First Aid/Defibrillator training – in progress.

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

Tree inspections and maintenance

Rubble left on Awre Village Green

144. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Venues for 2025 to be confirmed at December meeting.

Dates 2024/2025	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
2024			
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	Blakeney Youth Centre	7 th March
21st April	Parish Council	T.B.C.	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 8.55 p.m.