

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January, 2025
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Cotton (Chairman), Bullock, Fellows, Greening, Hoyland and Scott
IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllrs. Burton and Moore, Mr. S. Smith (observing) and the Clerk.

It was agreed to accept Agenda Item 172.1 (accounts for payment) as amended and circulated before the meeting. Proposed: Cllr. Greening and seconded: Cllr. Fellows.

162. APOLOGIES

None.

163. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

164. DISPENSATIONS

None.

165. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

166. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2024 as an accurate record subject to the amendment of item 158.1, paragraph (a).

167. MATTERS ARISING

Information from the Clerk relating to matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and other items **was noted**. Discussion took place regarding the reply received in response to the Council's comments about the proposed car charging points at Butlers Mead. The following comments/observations were made:

- a) has a needs assessment been carried out?
- b) are these chargers the correct ones to install?
- c) what is the cost difference between 4 x 7KW and 1 x 50KW?
- d) it was considered unlikely that tourists or passing traffic would make use of the 7KW chargers because of they are so slow. However, with faster chargers, these could be advertised and encourage passers-by to stop for lunch/use the local shop etc.

Clerk to reply to Marcus Perrin, copy to Cllr. Moore.

168. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's report circulated before the meeting **was noted**.

169. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Detailed below are the main issues raised/discussed:

- a) **Access to the toilet block, Blakeney** – it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr. Richard Webb to request that he arranges a meeting with Mr. Turley, Cllr.

Cotton and himself to discuss access to the building and to the defibrillator. It was noted that 'Assets' will be handled by District Cllr. Sid Phelps in future.

- b) **Licensing – Kings Head** – it was noted that neither the Parish Council nor the District Councillors had received notification of a Licensing Application.
- c) **A48 Closure, 17th – 28th February** – concern was expressed regarding this closure and the question 'what was planned as an alternative to the No. 23 bus?'

170. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following planning application was considered:

170.1 P1513/24/FUL & P1514/24/LBC - Cider House, Stanilene, Hitchings, Blakeney
Change of use of first floor from ancillary store to one bedroom holiday let.
Following discussion, it was agreed that there were no objections to this application.

171. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

171.1 Footpaths

- a) receipt of the reports from the PROW Officer for works completed in October, November and December 2024 **was noted.**
- b) noted that 'Fix My Street' can also be used to report overgrown footpaths.
- c) the bent footpath signpost has been reported. It was agreed that the dog waste bin should be removed temporarily until the post is replaced.
- d) It was agreed to re-send the letter regarding maintenance of the footpath running between the cemetery and land owned by Chosen Care Ltd.

171.2 Planning – National Government Update – receipt of this information from GAPTC **was noted.**

1172. FINANCE

172.1 The following accounts detailed below were **approved** for payment.
Proposed: Cllr. Greening; seconded: Cllr. Scott.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
24/52	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£45.50
24/53	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay for December Reimbursement of fee for Freeola Domain	LGA 1972 s.112	£602.96 £10.32
24/54	BACS	Waterplus	Water supply 14/12 – 14/01	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£15.10
24/55	BACS	Tindle Newspapers	Tender Advert – Maintenance/grass cutting contract	LGA 1972 s.214	£144.00
24/56	DD	Freeola	Quarterly Web Hosting (January – March)	LGA 1972 s.112	£21.96
24/57	BACS	Rise & Shine	Bus shelter cleaning x 5	LGA 1972 s. 214	£100.00
				TOTAL:	£939.84

172.2 Christmas Tree/Event

The receipts for expenditure relating to this event were received and consideration given to the level of reimbursement to be made. Following discussion, **it was agreed**:

- a) To reimburse Mr. Howse for the lights and food being a total of £133.37.
Proposed: Cllr. Fellows and seconded: Cllr. Greening; supported by all.
- b) To request the original receipts prior to payment.
- c) To invite Mr. Howse to the October, 2025 meeting to discuss the arrangements/funding for the event in advance.

172.3 Financial Position – End of 3rd Quarter

The bank reconciliation and receipts & payments information as at 31st December, 2024 was received and **accepted**.

172.4 Financial Checks – Cllrs. Greening and Cotton had carried out the required checks before the meeting for the receipts and payments to 31st December, 2024 and found all to be in order.

172.5 Cemetery Tree Works

A quotation for the tree works required at the Cemetery was received. It was agreed that a second quotation should be obtained. In the meantime, Cllr. Bullock volunteered to clear the tree that has fallen over a gravestone. It was agreed that he should be reimbursed for any out of pocket expenses, e.g., fuel.

172.6 Hedge Laying Quotes and Timescales

An overview of the quotations received together with timings to complete the work by end of March 2025 and photos of previous projects was considered. Both quotations were similar but as timing was key in order to complete the project prior to the end of March, **it was agreed** to appoint the Green Gardener to carry out this work at a total cost of £1,371, as they were able to start in February.

173. BUDGET – 2025/2026

The updated budget for 2025/2026 was considered. **It was agreed** that, for the first time in several years, the precept figure to be submitted to FoDDC would need to be increased by 10%, i.e., £18,326 from £16,660. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Cotton and agreed unanimously.

174. CYCLE SHELTER

Following the award to the Council of the Active Travel Grant for the installation of a cycle shelter adjacent to Butlers Mead car park, the next steps were discussed as follows:

- a) To confirm permission to install the cycle shelter on FoDDC land.
- b) Cllr. Hoyland to forward the link to order the shelter.
- c) Cllr. Bullock to mark out the area for the concrete pad.

175. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

175.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – Cllr. Bullock reported that he had not received a reply from Nathan Choat to his e-mail of several weeks ago. Cllr. Hoyland said that she would forward a list of works to Councillors via the Clerk.

175.2 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – as previously mentioned, Cllr. Bullock would clear the fallen tree from the gravestone. It was noted that there are many plastic flowers still present despite the sign at the entrance requesting them not to be used. Clerk to ask the Groundskeeper to clear the moss from the top path.

175.3 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – the Clerk had received a complaint that the defibrillator box could not be opened or was stiff to open. Cllr. Fellows checked the defibrillator box and found it to be in working order.

175.4 Snow Warden & Flooding - Cllr. Scott reported that during the recent bad weather she had spread salt to help elderly neighbours and at various locations. It was noted that Highways would need to recover a number of grit bins where they have slid into a ditch.

175.5 Emergency Plan – Clerk to provide a copy of the emergency plan that was created several years ago.

176. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

Cllr. Bullock and Scott were thanked for planting daffodil bulbs. It was noted that the large tractors were eroding the hedgerows where daffodils had been planted in previous years.

177. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

First Aid/Defibrillator training – awaiting dates for venue.

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

Tree inspections and maintenance.

Rubble left on Awre Village Green.

178. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2025	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
17 th February	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	7 th February
17 th March	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Centre	7 th March
14 th April	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	4 th April
T.B.C.	Annual Parish	Awre Village Hall	
19 th May	Annual PC	Awre Village Hall	9 th May
16 th June	Parish Council	To be confirmed	6 th June
21 st July	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	11 th July
18 th August	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	8 th August
15 th September	Parish Council	To be confirmed	5 th September
20 th October	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	10 th October
17 th November	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	7 th November
15 th December	Parish Council	To be confirmed	5 th December

Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.