

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th February, 2025
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Cotton (Chairman), Bullock, Fellows, Greening, Hoyland and Cllr. Smith (following his co-option to the Council).

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllrs. Burton and Moore and the Clerk.

It was agreed to move Agenda Item 183 (Co-option to the Council) after Item 186 (District Cllrs. Reports).

179. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence received from Cllr. Scott **was accepted.**

180. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

181. DISPENSATIONS

None.

182. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

183. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January, 2025 as an accurate record subject to the amendment of item 172.5.

184. MATTERS ARISING

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

- a) That the Robin bus service now included two stops in Awre and runs from 7.00 a.m. until 7.00 p.m., 5 days a week.
- b) That Cllr. Hoyland was due to meet with Nathan Chaot the next and would include the flooding issues leading to Awre Village.

185. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

186. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Discussion took place regarding the following points:

- a) The limited access to the defibrillator was raised again and it was noted that FoDDC were waiting for the updated Title to be published by Land Registry. It was noted that District Cllr. Phelps would take over responsibility for this matter in future.
- b) Noted that there is less than 2 years housing supply.
- c) 2025/2026 budget would be considered at Full Council the coming week.
- d) Noted that the Garden Waste Licence has increased to £59.00.

187. CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The co-option of Mr. Simon Smith to the Parish Council **was approved**.

188. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following planning applications were considered:

188.1 P0074/25/DISCON - Diddly Quercus Barn (Also Known As Barn At The Hawfield), Newnham Road, Blakeney

Discharge of Conditions 8 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan), 9 (Reasonable Avoidance Measures Statements), 10 (internal and external lighting) and 11 (Full Surface Water Drainage Scheme) relating to planning permission P1637/22/FUL. No observations or objections.

188.2 P0044/25/FUL - Pitching Green Cottage, Pitching Green, Blakeney

Removal of Condition 4 (retained in the ownership of occupants of Pitching Green Cottage and not sold off as a separate unit) relating to planning permission P1531/19/FUL to allow the holiday let to be run as a separate independent business.

This application was considered together with P0043/25/FUL detailed below. **It was agreed** to recommend that the Condition be changed so that whoever owns the cottage can manage the holiday accommodation. Concern was expressed that it would set a precedent to remove the condition thereby creating a new dwelling in open countryside. The Council also noted that the applicant uses financial matters to justify the acceptability of the proposal, however these should not outweigh planning policy.

188.3 P0043/25/FUL - Woodpecker Cottage Holiday Let, Dean Forest Retreats, Pitching Green, Blakeney

Variation of Condition 1 (occupancy restriction and tie to Pitching Green Cottage) and removal of Condition 2 (annexe occupancy restriction to Pitching Green Cottage) relating to planning permission P0655/15/COU to allow the holiday let to be run as a separate independent business and remove the annexe use.

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

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

The Council considered the additional information provided and suggested that the play bus should be subject to a condition that it be removed if its use ceases at some point in the future.

188.5 P0023/25/PREAPP Butlers Mead – Pre-application for the installation of the Cycle Shelter at this location.

- a) Deed of Tenancy at Will to be applied for. Cllr. Fellows to forward a plan of the site to the Clerk for onward submission to Estates.
- b) Clerk to check the timescale for delivery of the cycle shelter.

189. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

189.1 Application for Highways Act 1980 Section 26 Order - Blakeney Toilets Access

Dealt with earlier in the meeting at agenda item 187(a).

189.2 Hedge laying/Fence – the Council had been notified by the contractors that the wooden posts, now exposed during the hedge laying, either needed to be removed or replaced as many were rotten. It was agreed that they should be replaced as the fence was a boundary marker. Cllr. bullock said that he would help the hedge layers to clear the remainder of the cuttings as there was more than they had anticipated.

189.3 Letter from WWT – an invitation to visit sites of interest was noted; Clerk to circulate dates and liaise with WWT regarding organising this. The Council agreed that they would like to be kept informed of timescales and relevant information as the project progressed.

189.4 GAPTC – notice of Extraordinary General Meeting to take place via Zoom on 18th March, 2025 to adopt the following changes:

i) That GAPTC Transition to a Company Limited by Guarantee - *This change will modernise GAPTC’s legal structure and provide greater financial and operational security.*

ii) That GAPTC Formally changes its name to Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils (GALC) - *This new name better reflects the organisation’s role in representing all local councils across the county and is in line with other NALC-affiliated County Associations.*

The Council supported the proposed changes. Clerk to notify GAPTC.

189.5 GAPTC - The Gloucestershire Climate Change Community Fund – noted that this fund is open until Monday, 3rd March at 11am.

190. FINANCE

190.1 The accounts detailed below were approved for payment. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Greening and supported unanimously.

| Inv. Ref. | Chq. No./ BACS | Payee | Purpose | Auth | Amount |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 24/57 | BACS | Merlin Waste | Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins. Collection of New Rd. bin suspended temporarily. | Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6 | £30.33 |
| 24/58 | BACS | Ursula Deighton | Clerk’s pay for December | LGA 1972 s.112 | £602.96 |
| 24/59 | BACS | Waterplus | Water supply 14/01 – 14/02 | Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142 | £15.10 |
| 24/60 | DD | Freeola | Quarterly E-mail 26/01 – 25/04/2025 | LGA 1972 s.112 | £8.64 |
| | | | | TOTAL: | £657.03 |

190.2 Grass Cutting Contract – 2025-2027

The tenders were opened by Cllrs. Greening and Fellows in the presence of the Clerk. It was recommended that Contractor B (the current contractor) be appointed at the same rates as those charged in 2024.

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

191. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

191.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – a number of issues to be reported/resolved were noted as follows:

- a) Branches Road at the corner with Fieldhouse is a mess with a large puddle.
- b) Advice regarding the war memorial in Awre was still outstanding.
- c) A report regarding the wall along the brook from the weir to the Post Office was awaited. Cllr. Hoyland reported that the initial report she had received was for the wrong section of wall.

191.2 Footpaths/Public Rights of Way (PROW) – it was noted that residents had requested that the bridge over the brook, leading to the playing field, be opened up to allow easier access. Cllr. Hoyland had spoken to Jeff Wheeler regarding this. Councillors agreed this was a good idea.

191.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – Clerk to obtain another quote for the work to the trees in the cemetery and also contact TrunkArb by telephone rather than e-mail.

191.4 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – Clerk to contact Merlin Waste regarding the dog waste bin on New Road.

191.5 Emergency Plan – a copy of the Emergency Plan requested at the last meeting, which Cllr. Cotton had updated was received. Noted that the contact section needed to be updated. He suggested that the additional two documents could be placed on the website. Namely, “Are You Prepared?” (Gloucestershire Communities Prepared) and “Guidance for Pet Owners in an Emergency” (FoDDC).

192. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

192.1 Recusal – correspondence noted.

192.2 Etloe Roads – an e-mail from a resident regarding the roads around Etloe was discussed. Clerk to reply.

193. 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.

194. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 17th November | Parish Council | Awre Village Hall | 7th November |
| 15th December | Parish Council | To be confirmed | 5th December |

Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.