

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March, 2025
at Blakeney Youth Centre at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Cotton (Chairman), Bullock, Fellows, Greening, Hoyland, Scott and Smith.
IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. R. Wolhuter, Eden Renewables' Head of Development, and the Clerk.

195. LIGHTWOOD PROPOSED SOLAR FARM

Mr. Wolhuter, Eden Renewables' Head of Development provided comprehensive details of this proposed development. Questions were raised regarding, visibility/screening of the site, construction traffic particularly bearing in mind the minor nature of the roads, protection of key species of birds and their habitats. It was noted that the planning application may be submitted in April, 2025.

196. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence received from District Cllr. Burton **was accepted.**

197. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

198. DISPENSATIONS

None.

199. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

200. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February, 2025 as an accurate record.

201. 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) **Chosen Care** had failed to respond once again to the letter sent regarding the footpath adjacent to the Cemetery. The Chairman suggested to send another letter via 'recorded delivery'.
- b) **Cemetery top path** – the Clerk reported that she had contacted the contractor twice regarding this path and resuming work around the village but had not received a reply. Agenda item for the next meeting.
- c) **Grass Cutting Contract 2025-2027** – noted that the contract had been signed and returned together with proof of insurance and risk assessment.

202. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's verbal report to the meeting **was noted.**

203. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

No reports received.

204. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

204.1 P0262/25/TCA - Sydenham House, High Street, Blakeney

T1 - Yew tree situated adjacent to property and sunroom, reduce in height by approximately 50% to a point level with second floor windowsills. Reduce lateral branches to the south by two thirds, creating a framework to allow regeneration. Lightly trim lower canopy back from building. Reason - outgrown situation. No observations or objections.

204.2 The following points were also noted:

- a) Environment Agency will be releasing updated flood mapping shortly which may expand the zones.
- b) The response from FoDDC is awaited (28/03/2025) following a request by WWT to ascertain whether a formal Environmental Impact Assessment need to be undertaken as part of the planning application.
- c) The play bus currently parked outside the Kings Head is awaiting installation in the garden.
- d) Valley View Appeal dismissed.

205. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

205.1 Cycle Parking for Parish Councils – information was received about 'Park that Bike' project which provides cycle parking/storage for free, to be installed on private premises only. Clerk to forward to the Youth Club, Village Halls Blakeney and Awre.

205.2 Shared Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Proposal – correspondence from the Chair of Aylburton Parish Council requesting that this Council join Aylburton PC and potentially other Councils to submit a joint TRO application was considered but no decision was made.

205.3 New Road Telephone Box and Defibrillator – e-mail received regarding this project. Clerk to notify the resident that the defibrillator will be ordered from and fitted by Community Heartbeat as part of the contract with BT once the restoration is completed.

205.4 Dog Waste Bin, New Road – the location of this bin was discussed as it was not possible to install it on the footpath signpost. Noted that the contractor had a spare post that the bin could be attached to at the same site.

205.5 Saltmarsh Restoration Project – the update from WWT was considered. Cllr. Greening clarified that the positive feedback mentioned in the report related to her visit to Slimbridge. The following points were also raised:

- a) Community Forum – noted that any Councillor attending would be as an observer.
- b) WWT are looking for a car parking site outside the village.
- c) Concern was expressed regarding the safety of the footpath once the wall is breached, and it was agreed that access needed to be maintained.
- d) It was confirmed that the Council welcomed regular updates and was happy for notices to be placed on the notice board.

- 205.6 Public Conveniences, Blakeney** – the Council noted that the new owner of the Kings Head had approached FoDDC expressing an interest in purchasing the public conveniences. It was proposed to organise a meeting between all parties. The Clerk was asked to remind FoDDC of the length of the lease and reiterate that access to the defibrillator remains severely restricted. Cllr. Hoyland raised the question of the water bill for the toilets as requested by a parishioner. The Council consider that the water bill is a relatively small cost per annum for a building that is leased at a peppercorn rent, used for storage and as a location for the defibrillator.
- 205.7 Motocross Dates** – Clerk to request accurate dates from the organiser as previously agreed. Communication regarding any cancellations to requested in order to ensure that local businesses do not lose bookings.

206. FINANCE

- 206.1** The following invoices were approved for payment. Proposed: Cllr. Greening, seconded: Cllr. Scott and supported unanimously.

| Inv. Ref. | Chq. No./ BACS | Payee | Purpose | Auth | Amount |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 24/61 | BACS | Merlin Waste | Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins. | Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6 | £30.33 |
| 24/62 | BACS | Ursula Deighton | Clerk's pay for February Office Allowance (6mths) Telephone, I/T (6mths) | LGA 1972 s.112 | £602.96 £60.00 £104.00 |
| 24/63 | BACS | Ursula Deighton | Reimbursement of Microsoft 365 Subs | LGA 1972 s.112 | £138.56 |
| 24/64 | BACS | Waterplus | Water supply 14/02 – 14/03 | Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142 | £13.65 |
| 24/65 | BACS | Blakeney Youth Club | Room bookings for total of 10 hrs @ £8.50 | LGA 1972 s.112 | £85.00 |
| 24/66 | BACS | Awre Village Hall | Room bookings for total of 17.5 hrs @ £7.00 | LGA 1972 s.112 | £122.50 |
| 24/67 | BACS | Hedgehog Hedgelaying | Laying of the Cemetery hedge - £80 added for extra clearing/disposing of brash. | LGA 1972 s.214 | £1,450.00 |
| 24/68 | BACS | Bike Dock Solutions | Cycle Shelter for Active Travel Grant | RTRA 1964 ss.57-60 | £3,926.40 |
| 24/69 | BACS | J.J & K.J. Davis | Installation of base for cycle shelter | RTRA 1964 ss.57-60 | £2,560.00 |
| 24/70 | BACS | Derek W Hancox | Cleaning of Blakeney Eel pass - final year of funding granted. | LGA 1972 s.214 | £1,350.00 |
| | | | | TOTAL: | £10,443.40 |

206.2 Cemetery Tree Works

The two quotations for the tree works required at the Cemetery were considered. The quotation from Forest & Wye Tree Services **was accepted** at a total cost of £1,535 (including £290 for the removal of a fallen tree from the opposite side of the brook). Proposed: Cllr. Greening; seconded: Cllr. Fellows and supported unanimously.

Cllr. Bullock raised a concern about the large multi-stemmed conifer tree on the recreation ground side that in part is leaning towards the cemetery and the gravestones below. There is a large old wound near the base of the multiple bark inclusions which means nearly all the maximum weight of the tree's sections are above this wound which will fail at some point. Normally "peace of mind" is a sensible approach in situations like this to protect any risk targets in the immediate area, i.e., gravestones. With this in mind has removal of the tree has been recommended. Clerk to contact the Sue Monteith.

207. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

207.1 Highways & Parish Council Land

- a) War Memorial in Awre, a decision needs to be made regarding what is wanted and this will be fed back to Highways.

207.2 Footpaths/Public Rights of Way (PROW) – Cllr. Fellows reported that he had been contacted regarding a temporary closure of an ancient right of way owned by the Parish Council. Clerk to circulate the correspondence to Council.

207.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – quotations would be sought for the repair of the boundary fence along the line of the newly laid hedge.

207.4 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – it was noted that the telephone box on Blakeney Hill was being painted. Cllr. Scott reported that she would contact the person who had sandblasted the New Road box with a view to sandblasting the one in Awre and possibly the one behind the Post Office.

208. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

None received.

209. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

First Aid/Defibrillator training – Clerk to book a date in May or June.

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

Inspection of the Cemetery wall along the brook to be carried out in the Summer.

210. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

| Dates 2025 | Meeting | Venue Time: 7.00 p.m. | Agenda items & Dispensation requests by: |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 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 | Blakeney Youth Club | 6 th June |
| 21 st July | Parish Council | Awre Village Hall | 11 th July |

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|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 18th August | Parish Council | Awre Village Hall | 8th August |
| 15th September | Parish Council | Blakeney Youth Club | 5th September |
| 20th October | Parish Council | Awre Village Hall | 10th October |
| 17th November | Parish Council | Awre Village Hall | 7th November |
| 15th December | Parish Council | Blakeney Youth Club | 5th December |

Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.