

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th May, 2025
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllrs. Burton and Moore, representatives from Eden Renewables (ER) – Ross Wolhuter, Owen Pike, Helen Jeffry, Sophy Fernley-Whittingstall, Jeremy Killen, and the Clerk.

12. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence received from Cllr. Smith was accepted.

20.6 P0498/25/FUL - Land North East Of, Poulton Court Farm, Awre

Erection of solar farm with up to 40MWac of export capacity, comprising the installation of solar photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure including substation, inverter and transformer stations, customer cabin, spare parts container, maintenance tracks, fencing, security cameras, landscape planting, swales and associated works.

It was agreed to bring this item forward on the agenda. An update was provided regarding this planning application by the representatives from ER, mainly:

- a) Changes to the layout/design noted; southern fields removed.
- b) Construction traffic routes – noted that passing places may need to be enhanced and as such Highways would be consulted.
- c) ER acknowledged the response from the ecologist and would be constructing a management plan with an environmental assessment.
- d) ER proposed to connect to the planned battery storage via an underground trench, 1m wide, provided permission was granted by landowner(s).
- e) Visibility, screening and drainage were questioned, and it was suggested that markers would be useful to identify where the site is planned to be located.
- f) ER were happy to organise a site visit for the Parish Council.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. Hoyland and Fellows – item 20.3 Planning.

14. DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Fellows requested a dispensation to speak to item 20.3 which was granted.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2025 as an accurate record. Proposed: Cllr. Hoyland; seconded: Cllr. Greening and agreed by all.

17. 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) **191.3 Cemetery – top hedge.** Despite numerous attempts to obtain an additional 2 quotations for the work, this has proved impossible. Clerk to seek advice from GAPTC regarding how to proceed.
- b) **205.7 Motocross Dates** – it was noted that the field had been replanted which explained by the organiser had not replied regarding a request for dates.
- c) **206.2 Recreation Centre, Tree Works** - Clerk to follow this up regarding the dangerous tree that needs attention to prevent it falling and damaging several graves.
- d) **Annual Walkabout** – Clerk to send around a doodle poll to find a suitable date in July.

18. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland gave a verbal report to the meeting which was noted.

19. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

District Cllr. Burton highlighted the Forest of Dean Active Travel consultation and encouraged everyone to send their comments in. Cllr. Bullock expressed concern that it was not possible to get to any of the drop-in sessions by bus. Also, the lack of verge cutting meant that it was not safe to walk or cycle along the local lanes.

District Cllr. Moore said that he would forward any useful material relating to Local Government Devolution and suggested that the Council should write to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

20. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following decisions taken by e-mail **were ratified**:

20.1 P0383/25/FUL – Railway Gates, Pitching Green, Blakeney

Change of use of part of agricultural land to residential use for parking and construction of new boundary stone wall. (Retrospective)

No observations or objections.

20.2 P0469/25/TCA - Ludlow House, Church Square, Blakeney

Eucalyptus in rear garden along boundary wall line (T1 on sketch plan), remove to ground level due to proximity to garden wall and house. Tree is outgrowing its space.

No observations or objections.

The following planning applications were considered:

20.3 P0395/25/FUL - Prospect House, Hitchings, Blakeney

Erection of an outbuilding to be used as additional accommodation incidental to the use of Prospect House. Cllr. Hoyland left the meeting at this point while this application was considered and returned following the decision.

No observations or objections.

- 20.4 P0470/25/FUL - 1 Little Box Cottages, Awre, Newnham**
Erection of a double garage with associated works.
During discussion, concern was expressed about the significant amount of built form currently within the curtilage. It was also noted that the existing outside lighting was excessive, often creating a hazard to motorists.
- 20.5 P0377/25/FUL - Poulton Court Farm, Awre, Newnham**
Erection of an agricultural building to cover an existing manure pit.
No observations or objections.
- 20.6 P0498/25/FUL - Land Northeast Of, Poulton Court Farm, Awre**
Erection of solar farm with up to 40MWac of export capacity, comprising the installation of solar photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure including substation, inverter and transformer stations, customer cabin, spare parts container, maintenance tracks, fencing, security cameras, landscape planting, swales and associated works.
It was agreed to defer consideration of this application to a later meeting when all the specialist reports were available.
- 20.7 P0499/25/FUL & P0500/25/LBC - The Old Post Office , Church Square, Blakeney** - Listed building consent for the installation of wood burner, window upgrades and replacements, removal of Small Brick Chimney, repainting front elevation. Dropped kerb and creation of off-road parking with alterations to railings.
Following discussion, it was agreed that: The Old Post Office is located at the historic centre of the village and as such is part of the street scene which is particular to Blakeney. The railings are part of this feature and to remove them, introducing car parking to the otherwise unaltered street frontage would be detrimental and set a poor precedent. The Council therefore objected to removing the railings and parking a car directly in front of this property. In addition, the Council objected to the rear windows being replaced with plastic; these should be timber.
- 20.8 P0325/25/LBC - 12 Church Square, Blakeney**
Listed building consent for replacement of 4no. rear windows and 1no. external door to rear (garden) elevation.
No observations or objections.
- 20.9 APP/P1615/W/25/3363461 - P1333/24/FUL - Old Church Rooms, Church Way, Blakeney** – it was noted that this application had gone to appeal.

21. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

- 21.1 Tree Works – Nibley Green and Post Office Green**
It was noted that these works were scheduled for Tuesday, 27th May, 2025 and also that one or two trees looked as though they had survived Fireblight. Clerk to request a quote for works to the Millend trees.
- 21.2 Devolution**
Consideration was given regarding how to respond to the questionnaire from GAPTC regarding this subject. Clerk to circulate the link to the questionnaire and collate responses and forward on behalf of the Council.
- 21.3 Forest of Dean Active Travel** – discussed at agenda item 19.
- 21.4 New Road Telephone Box/Defibrillator**
Correspondence regarding this project was received. It was confirmed that the defibrillator for this telephone box would be the same as the Council's others in order to simplify maintenance/purchase of consumables.

Cllr. Scott confirmed that she would chase the quote for sandblasting the box in Blakeney as well as the one in Awre.

22. FINANCE

22.1 The accounts detailed below were approved for payment.

Proposed: Cllr. Cotton, seconded Cllr. Scott and approved unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
25/11	DD	Freeola quarterly charge	E-mail Provision 26/04 – 25/07/2025	LGA 1972 s.112	£8.64
25/12	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£46.80
25/13	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay	LGA 1972 s.112	£602.96
25/14	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to toilets 14/04 – 14/05/25	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£14.96
25/15	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Grass Cutting 16/04, 30/04,13/05/2025	LGA 1972 s.124	£1375.00
25/16	BACS	Zurich Municipal	Insurance – 01/06/2025 – 31/05/2026	LGA 1972 s.111	£731.94
				TOTAL:	£2,780.30

22.2 **Waterplus** invoice was not available for the April meeting, but it was agreed that the Clerk should pay it once received. It was noted that a payment was made for £15.25 as agreed.

22.3 End of Financial Year 2024/2025

The figures (bank reconciliation and receipts & payments) for the year ended 31st March, 2025 were accepted.

22.4 Final Accounts 2024/2025

The final accounts for 2024/2025 were received and approved.

Proposed: Cllr. Greening; seconded: Cllr. Scott and agreed unanimously.

22.5 Training

A request from Cllr. Smith to attend an online GAPTC training course – Being a Better Councillor, Part 1 (11th June) and Part 2 (18th June) - total cost: £90 was approved. Proposed: Cllr. Cotton; seconded: Cllr. Scott, all agreed.

23. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITS

The Clerk provided an update on progress and timescales for both these audits. The external audit fee of £210 to be paid to PFK Littlejohn upon completion was approved.

24. PARISH GROUNDSKEEPER

As the contractor had failed to respond to attempts to contact him, it was agreed to contact the second placed contractor.

25. SALTMARSH RESTORATION PROJECT

The update for May 2025 provided by WWT together with the 'round up' of the two meetings held in the community was received and noted. In response to the suggestion that a Councillor represent the Parish Council at future community meetings, it was agreed that this would not be appropriate since the Council must remain impartial given that at some point a planning application would be submitted for consideration.

26. CYCLE SHELTER

It was noted that all the parts had been delivered to the Clerk's address. It was noted that Mr. Dunlop would be installing the shelter.

27. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

27.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – noted that the visibility splays had been cut.

27.2 Footpaths – noted receipt of two reports from the PRow Officer. Concern was expressed regarding forestry works that had left tracks destroyed and timber had been dropped into the brook.

27.3 Cemetery & Grass Cutting – noted that the cemetery and other green areas all looked tidy. The fence bordering the footpath to the playing fields was in need of repair. It was decided to wait for the response from Chosen Care.

28. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

28.1 Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting – Cllr. Hoyland said that she would provide biscuits, and the Clerk would provide tea, coffee and milk.

28.2 It was noted that the gate to Clarks Pool Meadow had been chained and locked due to misuse by dog owners.

29. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

First Aid/Defibrillator training – Clerk to book a date.

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 and the brook walls alongside Collins Garden and Post Office Green – doodle poll to be sent around to find a suitable date.

30. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2025	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
21 st May	Annual Parish	Awre Village Hall	n/a
16th June	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Club	6th June

21st July	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	11th July
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
19 th January	Parish Council	T.B.C	9 th January
16 th February	Parish Council	T.B.C.	6 th February
16 th March	Parish Council	T.B.C.	6 th March

Meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.