

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th June, 2025
at Blakeney Youth Centre at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr. Burton and the Clerk.

31. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. Scott and Smith and District Cllr. Moore were accepted.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

33. DISPENSATIONS

None.

34. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

35. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the following meetings as an accurate record:

35.1 Annual Parish Council meeting held on 19th May, 2025.

35.2 Parish Council meeting held on 19th May, 2025.

36. 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) **205.6 Public Conveniences, Blakeney** – Cllr. Fellows reported that due to the access issues creating an unsafe environment, the defibrillator had been taken offline so was currently not available for use in an emergency. Clerk to write to FoDDC, copy to Cllr. Phelps and the owner of the Kings Head.
- b) **207.3 Boundary Fence, Cemetery** – it was agreed that boundary markers for the hedge line adjacent to the footpath should be installed. Cllrs. Bullock and Hoyland to have a look at the fence which has fallen down along the boundary.

37. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's report to the meeting was noted. There was discussion regarding the flooding/drainage at the start of the lane to Awre from the layby off the A48 and the need for a permanent solution.

38. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr. Burton's report, circulated prior to the meeting was noted. He urged everyone to take part in the online consultation regarding active travel as it is a community driven project.

39. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

39.1 P0430/25/LBC - Guy Hall Cottage, Northington Lane, Awre

Listed building consent for the replacement of existing PVC windows with new timber-framed windows.

The Council were supportive of the proposal to replace the PVC windows with wooden ones.

39.2 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.

The Council were happy to approve this application following the removal of the parking bay.

39.3 P0470/25/FUL - 1 Little Box Cottages Awre Newnham

AMENDED DESCRIPTION Change of use of a small parcel of agricultural land to an enlarged residential curtilage and the erection of a double garage with associated works.

No observations.

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

Cllr. Fellows provided an update regarding the ecological reports still to be carried out and submitted to FoDDC.

40. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

40.1 Severn Estuary Railway Works

Following a number of complaints received from residents regarding the volume of traffic and disruption caused by contractors to Network Rail, Cllr. Hoyland reported that she had been in contact with Nathan Choat, who in turn had contacted Network Rail. It was noted that Network Rail were planning to see the residents affected by these works in person.

40.2 Footpath adjoining Yew Tree Inn

The response received from Chosen Care was noted and it was agreed that the Clerk should ask for a meeting to discuss the shared boundary and installing permanent marker posts.

40.3 Groundskeeper

Following discussion it was agreed to appoint Dean Rural Contracts (DRC) for a trial period for the duration of the current season. DRC would be able to work one day every 2 or 3 weeks according to his existing schedule.

40.4 Annual Internal Audit

The report from GAPTC following the audit undertaken on 2nd and 3rd June, 2025 was received and noted.

40.5 Devolution

To date, the Clerk had not been able to retrieve a copy of the response sent online to GAPTC regarding this survey.

41. FINANCE

41.1 The following accounts were **approved** for payment. Proposed: Cllr. Greening; seconded: Cllr. Hoyland and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
25/17	BACS	GAPTC	Training – Cllr. Hoyland	LGA 1972 s.112	£45.00
25/18	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£46.80
25/19	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay Reimbursement Postage Chosen Care x 2	LGA 1972 s.112	£602.96 £11.20
25/20	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to toilets 14/05 – 14/06/25	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£15.46
25/21	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Grass Cutting 27/05 and 10/06/2025	LGA 1972 s.124	£895.00
25/22	BACS	Forest & Wye Tree Services	Tree works as approved.	LGA 1972 s.124	£720.00
25/23	BACS	GAPTC	Internal Audit Service*	LGA 1972 s.111	£250.00
				TOTAL:	£2,586.42

* N.B. this fee is higher than anticipated at the time of the budget due to the Council exceeding the £25,000 threshold.

41.2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return – 2024/2025

41.2(a) It was resolved to approve the Annual Internal Audit Report.

41.2(b) It was resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1).

The Chairman and Clerk/RFO signed this document.

41.2(c) It was resolved that the Chairman sign the Accounting Statements (Section 2).

41.3 Final Budget/Reserves for 2025/26

Deferred to July meeting.

42. SALTMARSH RESTORATION PROJECT

The update provided by WWT was received and noted. It was agreed to organise a 'walk and talk' session at a future date. Clerk to liaise with WWT.

43. LIGHTWOOD SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL

It was agreed to accept the offer of a site visit. Clerk to liaise with Eden Renewables.

44. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- 44.1 Highways & Parish Council Land – agreed to monitor the parking of cars on Highways land at the lower end of New Road.

45. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

- 45.1 Blakeney Garden Club** – it was suggested that the Clerk produce signs for the oak barrels to recognise the work of the Garden Club. Clerk to contact the club to suggest a poster could be placed on the notice boards and on Facebook.
- 45.2 Village Hall Funding Request** – Cllr. Scott had provided a list of contacts that might be available for grant requests. Clerk to pass on the Committee.
- 45.3 CCTV** – a request from the PCSO for the Council to install CCTV in an area of the village was noted. This request was declined as it was not considered to be within the Council's remit to do this.

46. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

First Aid/Defibrillator training – Clerk to check with Cllr. Scott regarding dates.

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.

Future of the eel pass.

Duck Race grant.

Nibley Green mowing.

47. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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