

# Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2025  
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Cotton (Chairman), Bullock, Fellows, Greening, Hoyland and Smith

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. R. Rees, District Cllr. Moore and the Clerk.

**48. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. Scott and District Cllr. Burton were accepted.

**49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**50. DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**51. PUBLIC FORUM**

Cllr. Fellows proposed that item 60.1(a) be brought forward to enable discussion with Mr. Rees. This was seconded by Cllr. Greening and agreed unanimously.

**60.1 Highways & Parish Council Land**

**a) Flood Alleviation** - To receive a request for a donation towards works to assist in the resolution of the flooding issue on the road from the A48 to Awre. The issue of flooding in this area, the main route into Awre, was a longstanding problem regularly causing the road to be blocked completely preventing access to and from the village. The following points were made/considered:

- i) Highways had agreed to supply 100m of pipe and install more gullies but did not have the funds available to pay for the groundworks to be carried out.
- ii) It was noted that the Highways Local Fund had already been allocated.
- iii) Mr. Rees mentioned that a neighbouring farmer had given his permission for him to clear a ditch that would contribute to the solution.
- iv) Following discussion, **it was agreed** that the cost of the groundworks - £1,150 would be covered by the Council as it was vital that a solution be found for the benefit of the Parish. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows, seconded: Cllr. Cotton and supported unanimously. Mr. Rees to invoice the Parish Council for this amount.
- v) County Cllr. Hoyland would contact the Highways Manager to negotiate a 50% contribution towards the stone for the pipe bedding. Therefore, the balance of the costs would be Highways, £480 and Mr. Rees, £480.

**52. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**It was resolved** to adopt the minutes of the meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025 as an accurate record.

**53. MATTERS ARISING**

Information from the Clerk relating to matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting **was noted**.

**54. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Cllr. Hoyland's report to the meeting **was noted**. In particular, she urged everyone to share their views regarding the Local Government Reorganisation and the three options under consideration, via the online survey. She also highlighted the 'Second Hand September Challenge' which supports the idea of buying second hand; clothes, books etc.

**55. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

District Cllr. Burton's report, circulated prior to the meeting **was noted**.

**56. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

There were no planning applications for consideration.

Cllr. Fellows reported that he had contacted Sarah Walker, GRCC, to enquire about progress. It was noted that it was difficult to find suppliers for affordable rural housing.

**57. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION**

**57.1 Blakeney School Help Needed**

A request from Blakeney School for practical or financial support for a project to restore and maintain a garden and vegetable area was received. Cllr. Hoyland said that she would get in touch with the Executive Headteacher to discuss whether Blakeney Hill Growers may be able to help in some way.

**57.2 Community 20's and Safer Roads Initiatives**

Correspondence from Gloucestershire County Council regarding these initiatives was received and considered. The concerns raised by residents of New Road were acknowledged:

- (a) parking which created a dangerous bottleneck near to the telephone box and decreased visibility when exiting side roads.
- (b) the speed at which vehicles travelled along New Road.

After consideration it was agreed to express interest in the proposals put forward by GCC and reply 'Yes' to the following:

- 1. Whether you would like to be considered for Community 20's on some roads within your area, and
- 2. Whether there are other (higher speed) roads that you feel would benefit from a reduction in speed limit where you currently have safety concerns.

**57.3 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Engagement**

A request inviting views on the three options under consideration by GCC in order to help shape the proposals submitted to the Government this Autumn was received.

**57.4 GCC Ash Dieback Project, Replanting Scheme**

Following discussion, it was agreed the clerk should find out whether it was possible to obtain disease resistant elms to plant on Nibley Green and also whether it was possible for individuals to receive trees to plant?

**57.5 Village Appearance** – an e-mail from a resident regarding this matter was received. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to inform the resident that:

- (a) the Council had employed someone last year to tidy though the Village, but this had not worked out. However, another person has

been employed to work carry out this work. (All detailed in the Council's agenda/minutes.)

- (b) that Highways issues, e.g., drains, the opposite side of the brook should be reported to GCC on 'Fix My Street'.
- (c) Collins Garden was planted with wildflowers and is cut and cleared twice a year to encourage their growth and also become a natural habitat for wildlife.

## 58. FINANCE

**58.1** The invoices detailed below were approved for payment.

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

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
25/24	BACS	GAPTC	Training – Cllr. Smith Being a Better Cllr. 1&2	LGA 1972 s.112	£90.00
25/25	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£46.80
25/26	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay Reimbursement Green Waste Licence	LGA 1972 s.112	£602.96 £64.00
25/27	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to toilets 14/06 – 14/07/25	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£14.96
25/28	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Grass Cutting 24/06 & 07/07/2025	LGA 1972 s.124	£795.00
25/29	BACS	Dean Rural Contracts	Strimming public f/path by cemetery - 7hrs	LGA 1972 s.124	£175.00
25/30	DD	Freeola	Quarterly Web Hosting 26/06 – 25/09/25	LGA 1972 s.111	£21.96
25/31	BACS	Cllr. Bullock	Reimbursement for cycle shelter fixings	LGA 1972 s.124	£5.40
25/32	BACS	Geosphere Ltd	Parish Online – Mapping Software	LGA 1972 s.112	£120.00
				<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£1,936.08</b>

### 58.2 Employers National Insurance

**The Council ratified** the payment made by the Clerk (17/07/2025) to HMRC of £83.67 (25/33). In future, details will be entered on the agenda in advance of payments required to be made quarterly by 17<sup>th</sup> of October, January and April.

**58.3 Financial Checks for Q1 2025/26** – Cllrs. Greening and Cotton confirmed that they had both carried out checks for the receipts and payments made to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 and found all to be in order.

**58.4 Bank Reconciliation for Q1 2025/26**

The bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 was accepted.

To date receipts £9,391.47 and payments £9,620.29.

**58.5 Budget & Reserves 2025/26**

The updated budget and allocated reserves for 2025/26 were accepted.

**58.6 Direct Debits**

The list of direct debits scheduled for payment during the current financial year was approved. Proposed: Cllr. Cotton; seconded: Cllr. Greening and agreed unanimously.

**58.7 Blakeney Cemetery Fence**

The following resolution was accepted. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Greening.

*RESOLVED: That in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations (5.8), the requirement to obtain three quotations is waived in this instance, having made reasonable efforts to obtain further quotation without success. The Council agrees to accept the quotation of £11,100 (inclusive of VAT) from T. Jones Contracting to carry out essential boundary safety works, on the basis of urgency and asset protection.*

**58.8 New Road Defibrillator Project**

The purchase of a defibrillator from Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) for the New Road renovated telephone box was approved. The cost for the equipment and fitting is as follows:

Total including VAT = £2,592.00.

Minus £1,112 community funding received by CHT leaves a balance of £1,480 to be paid by the Council.

The total VAT amount to be reclaimed is £432.00.

Included in the price is a free 'Awareness Training Session.

Proposed: Cllr. Hoyland; seconded: Cllr. Cotton

**58.9 Blakeney Duck Race**

A donation of £50 towards the Duck Race held annually in Blakeney was approved. Proposed: Cllr. Fellows; seconded: Cllr. Cotton and supported by all.

**59. EXTENSION TO LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

A request from Cllr. Trimble to extend the period of absence originally agreed by a further six months was approved.

**60. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**60.1 Highways & Parish Council Land**

- a) To receive a request for a donation towards works to assist in the resolution of the flooding issue on the road from the A48 to Awre. N.B. Already dealt with under agenda item 51.
- b) Nibley Green mowing – scheduled to be cut during the coming week.
- c) Photos of the wall/brook to be sent to County Cllr. Harry Ives.
- d) The road on Blakeney Hill opposite Rose Cottage was in urgent need of attention as it is falling away.
- e) Cllr. Bullock expressed concern that when Highways cut the grass/verges at junctions it needed to extend all the way through to Awre for safety reason to protect walkers and cyclists.

- 60.2 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance** – noted that the seat on Church Square needed to be refurbished.
- 60.3 Flooding** – noted that as Lead Cllr. for flooding, Cllr. Smith would be part of a communications network.

**61. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK**

- 61.1 Installation of a Water Wheel in the Brook** – it was understood that this was installed by Mr. Harley as an experiment with a view to powering the Christmas lights. Clerk to write to Mr. Harley to request its removal.
- 61.2 River Survey** – Clerk to find out when this survey is taking place and request the results from last year.

**62. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- a) First Aid/Defibrillator training – Clerk to check with Cllr. Scott regarding dates. N.B. this may be superseded by the free training session to be run by CHT which could perhaps be shared – for consideration.
- b) Proposal to improve the appearance of the area around the war memorial at Awre.
- c) Eel Pass

**63. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dates 2025	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
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 <sup>th</sup> January	Parish Council	T.B.C	9 <sup>th</sup> January
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Parish Council	T.B.C.	6 <sup>th</sup> February
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Parish Council	T.B.C.	6 <sup>th</sup> March

Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.