

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th August, 2025
at Awre Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllrs. Burton and Moore.

64. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence received from the Clerk was accepted.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

66. DISPENSATIONS

None.

67. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

68. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meetings held on 21st July, 2025 as an accurate record.

69. MATTERS ARISING

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

70. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's report to the meeting was noted. In particular, she provided an update regarding the Local Government reorganisation and what it may mean for the Forest of Dean with three or four neighbourhoods having some degree of decision-making authority, administered by an employee of the new unitary authority.

71. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr. Burton's report, circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The following points were highlighted:

- a) FoDDC Local Plan – consultation evenings noted. Five options are being consulted on and refreshments provided.
- b) The Council was provided with a copy of the printed document - FoDDC Local Plan 2021-2043 Performance Dashboard.
- c) The Council was urged to write to the Housing Minister to dispute the required number of new houses when considering the restrictions due to the designated Forest of Dean area which is predominantly agricultural land.

72. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

72.1 P0945/25/FUL – 1, Mill End House, Millend, Blakeney

Following consideration, the response detailed below was agreed:

The Blakeney Conservation Area is an excellent example of the Forest of Dean vernacular which should be preserved and as such, therefore the Council is of the view that the windows to replace the existing should be timber casement windows. It is acknowledged that Upvc windows have been fitted elsewhere in the village, but this should not be used as a precedent. This has been the consistent view of the Parish Council on previous applications.

73. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

73.1 Help Gloucestershire's Children with 'Read with Me'

A request for funding to support this scheme locally at Blakeney School and also to help recruit volunteers by displaying a poster was received. Councillor Cotton to look into this further. In the meantime, the poster can be displayed on the Council's Facebook page and notice boards; action BH and UD.

73.2 Lightwood Solar Farm – an e-mail regarding organising a site visit was received. Clerk to arrange this.

N.B. The PC will not make any representations until all the information required for the planning application has been submitted.

74. FINANCE

74 .1 The following accounts were approved for payment.

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

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
25/34	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£46.80
25/35	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's pay	LGA 1972 s.112	£602.96
25/36	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to toilets 14/07 – 14/08/25	Public Health Act 1963 s.73 s.142	£T.B.C.
25/37	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Grass Cutting 22/07 & 04/08/2025	LGA 1972 s.124	£875.00
25/38	BACS	Dean Rural Contracts	Roadside clearance 01/08 & 13/08/2025	LGA 1972 s.124	£350.00
25/39	DD	Freeola	Quarterly EmailPro 26/06 – 25/09/25	LGA 1972 s.111	£8.64
25/40	BACS	Rise & Shine	Bus Shelter Cleaning February – June, 2025	LGA 1972 s. 214	£100.00
				TOTAL:	£1,983.40

N.B. WaterPlus – amount to be confirmed; approx. £15 based on previous invoices.
Post Meeting Note: the Council has not been invoiced for August which may be the result of submitting a meter reading.

- 74.2 Poppy Wreaths** – the order for two poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday at a cost of £25.00 each **was approved**.
Proposed: Cllr. Fellows. seconded Cllr. Hoyland and supported unanimously.

75. ANNUAL WALKABOUT

Councillors considered what actions needed to be taken following the annual walkabout which took place on 1st July, 2025.

- a) **Cemetery** – stile is not required, gate will be re-hung and made to work properly for access.
- b) **Eel Pass** – Cllr. Hoyland will ask Rosie Kelsall to come to a meeting to talk about the medium/long term plan for the eel pass.
- c) **Bledisloe Cup Sign** – Cllr. Fellows and Cllr. Bullock to look at the sign to see if it is secure and suitable to be cleaned.
- d) **Riverside and Brook Riverbed** - Discussion took place regarding these areas, the majority of which are the responsibility of GCC Highways. An agenda item for the September meeting to make a plan of action regarding the riverside and Brook riverbed including consideration of writing directly to the riparian owners.
- e) **Groundskeeper Work Schedule** - Levi to be asked to tidy up around the railings to Collins Garden.

76. NEW ROAD DEFIBRILLATOR CONTACT

Following the recent installation of the New Road defibrillator and the need to carry out regular checks, replace pads/sundries to be ordered via the Clerk, Cllr. Smith offered to take on this responsibility. UD to let him know what actions are required. Clerk to remain as second contact as a back-up as for the village centre defibrillator.

77. LAND ADJOINING YEW TREE INN, CHURCH SQUARE, BLAKENEY GL15 4DX

Cllrs. Hoyland and Cotton to attend a meeting with the representative of Chosen Care to discuss the maintenance of the footpath running between both parcels of land. Clerk to organise.

78. WWT UPDATES

The Council agreed unanimously to receive the WWT community updates with any additional information/consultation items specific to the Council notified by separate correspondence.

Clerk to contact WWT to ask whether there are any future plans to carry out works to the lane past St. Andrews Church and to contact GCC Highways to ask whether they have received notification of any intended works.

79. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

79.1 Highways & Parish Council Land

- a) Noted that a TRO application is being processed and will be out for consultation.
- b) Cllr Bullock had chased the contractor regarding cutting Nibley Green.
- c) Cllr Hoyland confirmed that GCC Highways would pay for all of the stone for the drainage works across the field at Box Farm.

- d) End of Blakeney Straits up to Mallards Pike - culvert work, ditch dug out, but the wild boar had been scratching the spoil onto the road. Cllr. Fellows requested Cllr. Hoyland to make a representation about the unsatisfactory nature of this work, as all spoil should be removed from site.

79.2 Planning – enforcement queries have been ignored for a number of years. UD to request a meeting with the Enforcement Team.

79.3 Footpaths/Public Rights of Way (PROW)

- a) The report received from the PROW Officer was noted.

79.4 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – the Blakeney defibrillator had been deployed and new pads ordered. Consideration to be given to moving it to the phone box behind the Post Office. Awre's defibrillator had been checked and was fine. Levi to be asked to clear brambles etc. from around the toilet block.

79.5 Snow Warden – noted that salt and 2 new bins had been ordered for Awre; none required in Blakeney.

80. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

None received.

81. 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

82. 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 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