

Awre Parish Council & Burial Authority

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th October, 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, Mr. Howse (item 103) and the Clerk.

100. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence.

101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

102. DISPENSATIONS

None.

103. CHRISTMAS EVENT

Mr. Jamie Howse, organiser of the 2024 event, was in attendance to discuss plans for this year's event. He explained that it was intended to be an inclusive community event with carols and food at the Church with an alternative venue identified if required. A micro turbine system had been developed and tested to power the tree lights from the brook. Mr. Howse said that he would be creating a committee for the event. Cllrs. Hoyland and Smith volunteered to join the organising committee.

It was agreed that the Council would be happy to fund a specific item(s) provided receipts were received and would allocate approximately £270.00. It was confirmed that the micro turbine system would be in situ for Christmas period only and that a barrier/sign would be erected. Also, noted that no one would be entering Collins Garden.

Mr. Howse agreed to keep the Council up-to-date with arrangements.

104. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public present.

105. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September, 2025 as an accurate record.

106. MATTERS ARISING

Information from the Clerk relating to matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting was noted, in particular:

- a) 75(b) – Eel Pass – quote requested from the current contractor for cleaning now that the Foresters' Forest three-year pre-payment has ended. No response - Clerk to chase. Further consideration required regarding funding.

- b) 91.1 - P1010/25/FUL – Wenchford Weirs, Blackpool Brook – following discussion, it was suggested that it would be helpful to have a site meeting to understand why these works were being proposed.

107. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Hoyland's report which was circulated prior to the meeting **was noted**, in particular that some monies are available from the Grass Roots project.

108. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr. Burton's report, circulated prior to the meeting **was noted**. District Cllr. Moore provided a document to be shared – Performance Dashboard – which Cllr. Fellows said he would scan.

109. PLANNING – FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

109.1 P1065/25/LBC - Hickmans Court, Chicknalls Lane, Blakeney

Listed building consent for the removal of the external cement render to the east wall and the external cement pointing to the south wall and replace with a lime bag finish. No observations or objections.

109.2 P1029/25/FUL - Hillview, Viney Woodside, Blakeney

New/Replacement self-build dwelling and associated works.

Following consideration, **it was agreed** that further information was required before the application and its impact on the neighbouring property could be considered fully as follows:

- a) existing and proposed levels on one plan along with further details of the retaining features. As shown, they don't appear to fully take into account the level changes and it is expected that further retaining features would be required.
- b) It appears that the proposed balcony will directly overlook the neighbouring property's garden/amenity space.
- c) Storm drainage/water runoff is of concern, particularly from the new driveway which is likely to shed water onto the public highway, therefore full details required prior to any decision being made.
- d) Clarification required regarding the proposal for the existing dwelling. Cllrs. assume that if permission is granted for a 'replacement dwelling' the use of the existing dwelling should be extinguished upon completion of the new one. Otherwise, should it not be considered as a 'new dwelling'? If it is to stay, presumably the overlooking of the existing dwelling's amenity space should be considered?
- e) There appears to be no ability for cars to turn and exit the site in a forward gear.
- f) It is also noted that some groundworks have already taken place and a section of existing stone wall demolished. Is part of the application therefore retrospective?

109.3 P1165/25/FUL – Marwynn, Brains Green, Blakeney

Erection of a detached annex for family use. No observations or objections.

109.4 P0294/24/FUL - Plusterwine House, Station Road, Woolaston, Lydney

Extension of an existing Anaerobic Digestion Plant and associated infrastructure.

Correspondence was received from a Woolaston resident which provided an update to this planning application. Natural England have requested more information regarding where the slurry is spread in detail and vehicle movements. Clerk to draft a letter to Natural England, copy to FoDDC and circulate to Council prior to sending.

110. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

110.1 Launch of Town & Parish Council Adaptation Grants

Information regarding these grants was received and noted.

110.2 Community 20's/Safer Roads

An update was received from GCC which indicated that all expressions of interest were being reviewed and the process of assessing locations for potential implementation had started. Parish Councils would be kept informed of progress and the next steps. Cllr. Smith raised the New Road surveys which could be useful as part of the Community 20's initiative.

110.3 Forest of Dean Travel Guide

Information regarding free online and hard copies of this guide was received. Cllr. Hoyland to add to the Council's Facebook page and the Clerk to display on the notice boards.

110.4 WWT – Attendance at December Meeting

It was agreed that it would be helpful for a representative of WWT to attend the December meeting to provide an update.

110.5 Interment of Ashes

A request for interment of ashes of a family's son in a parents' grave was agreed.

111. FINANCE

111.1 The following invoices were approved for payment. Proposed: Cllr. Scott; seconded: Cllr. Fellows and supported unanimously.

Inv. Ref.	Chq. No./ BACS	Payee	Purpose	Auth	Amount
25/46	BACS	WaterPlus	Water supply to toilets	Public Health	£15.46
25/47			14/08 – 14/09/25	Act 1963 s.73	
			14/09 – 14/10/25	s.142	£14.96
25/48	BACS	Merlin Waste	Fortnightly collection from dog waste bins.	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6	£46.80
25/49	BACS	C&R Groundworks	Drainage project to alleviate flooding. Incl. contribution from GCC of £1,152.00.	PHA 1936 s.260	£2,532.00
25/50	BACS	T. Jones Contracting	Works to replace Cemetery hedge/fencing	LGA 1972 s.214	£11,100.00
25/51	BACS	Community Heartbeat	Supply/fit of defibrillator New Road	Public Health Act 1963 s.234	£1,480.00

25/52	BACS	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit	LGA 1972 s.111	£252.00
25/53	BACS	Highbury Garden Services	Grass Cutting 19/08 & 02/09/2025	LGA 1972 s.214	£1,295.00
25/54	BACS	Dean Rural Contracts	Weeding and Clearing 23/09	HA 1980 s.96	£175.00
25/55	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Clerk's Pay September (incl. pay rise) and back pay	LGA 1972 s.112	£622.48 £97.60
25/56	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Reimbursement for skip hire	LGA 1972 s.214	£235.00
25/57	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Reimbursement for Microsoft Subscription	LGA 1972 s.111	£115.20
25/58	BACS	Ursula Deighton	Reimbursement for purchase of new laptop	LGA 1972 s.111	£366.00
25/59	DD	Freeola	Web Hosting	LGA 1972 s.142	£21.96
25/60	BACS	HMRC	National Insurance	LGA 1972 s.112	£83.67
				TOTAL:	£18,453.13

111.2 Financial Position – End of 2nd Quarter

The bank reconciliation and receipts & payments information as at 30th September, 2025 was received and noted.

111.3 Financial Checks

Cllrs. Greening and Cotton confirmed that they had carried out the financial checks for the second quarter of the financial year and found all to be in order.

111.4 External Audit 2024/2025 - Clerk

It was noted that the external audit was complete with no areas of concern highlighted.

111.5 Annual Donations

The following requests were considered:

- Blakeney Duck Race – annual sponsorship of £50.
- St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council – a request for a donation towards the upkeep of the village clock and maintenance of the graveyard.

Detailed below are the amounts allocated in 2024. The budget figure for donations is £1,110.

Donations made to:	Amount approved 2024	Amount requested 2025
All Saints' Church, Blakeney	£228.00	
Blakeney Youth Club	/	
Blakeney Duck Race	£50.00	£50.00
Awre Village Hall	/	
St. Andrew's Church, Awre	£475.00	£475.00
Christmas Event 2025		£270.00
TOTAL:	£753.00	£795.00

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

112. LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

112.1 Highways & Parish Council Land

- a) Noted that the drainage works went ahead as planned.
- b) Noted that weedkiller was needed on the hill as the weeds had grown back after being cleared. It was acknowledged that the current arrangement was a trial and as such its effectiveness would be assessed.

112.2 Planning – it was noted that Cllr. Fellows was working with GRCC regarding housing needs in Blakeney and would report back when appropriate.

112.3 Footpaths/Public Rights of Way (PROW)

- a) Cllr. Hoyland would speak to Jeff Wheeler about an unregistered footpath.
- b) Noted that the footpath below Hewlers Farm is overgrown.
- c) The pathway/footbridge from New Road to Furnace Valley to be reported to Forestry England.

112.4 Cemetery & Grass Cutting

- a) The Council pays for one green waste licence but there are three other bins on site and it was not clear who put them out for collection.
- b) It was suggested that surplus soil be added to any sunken graves.
- c) Cllr. Bullock to organise for the remaining hedge to be flailed.
- d) Although the fallen tree had been removed from the graves, it was noted that the trunk has been left over the brook.

112.5 Assets, Amenities & Maintenance – the Clerk was waiting for a reply to the question regarding whether the Council's defibrillators should be added to the same circuit/account. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Biddlecombe to thank him for his work to renovate the telephone kiosk outside the village hall.

112.6 Snow Warden - Cllr. Scott reported that the bagged salt had arrived, but she was still waiting for the 2 new grit bins to be delivered.

113. MINOR MATTERS INCLUDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

None Received.

114. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- a) First Aid/Defibrillator training
- b) Proposal to improve the appearance of the area around the war memorial at Awre.
- c) Eel Pass
- d) Assertion 10

115. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates 2025/2026	Meeting	Venue Time: 7.00 p.m.	Agenda items & Dispensation requests by:
17 th November	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	7 th November
15 th December	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Club	5 th December
19 th January	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	9 th January
16 th February	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	6 th February
16 th March	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Club	6 th March
20 th April	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	10 th April
T.B.C.	Annual Parish Mtg.	T.B.C.	n/a
18 th May	Annual Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	8 th May
15 th June	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Club	5 th June
20 th July	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	10 th July
17 th August	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	7 th August
21 st September	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Club	11 th September
19 th October	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	9 th October
16 th November	Parish Council	Awre Village Hall	6 th November
14 th December	Parish Council	Blakeney Youth Club	4 th December

Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.