**AVENING PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON**

**THURSDAY, 16 APRIL 2015**

**PRESENT:** Cllr A Slater (Chairman), Cllr D Conway, Cllr Mrs G Parsons, Cllr M Williamson (Vice Chairman), Cllr T Beardsell and Cllr J Parsons

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr A E Hicks (GCC), Mrs Pip Morrison (Avening Playgroup), Mr J Collinson (Projects) and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk).

**NON-ATTENDANCE**: Cllr J Catterall and Cllr Mrs C Mitchell

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| **42/15** | **Public Question Time**  None |
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| **43/15**  ***Action:*** | **Police** **Annual Crime And Anti Social Behaviour Report**  Noted. The Clerk was instructed to request and monthly breakdown of incidents for March 2015 and the location of incidents for future reports. It was noted that there are no drug issues and Cllr Williamson agreed to take reports of traffic nuisance to the Next Police & Community Liaison meeting.  Cllr Williamson also advised that Neighbourhood Watch is operating in Star Lane and that it is hoped to grow the Scheme throughout the Village. |
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| **44/15** | **Apologies And Reasons For Absence**  None |
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| **45/15** | **Code of Conduct** |
| **45.1/15** | **Declarations Of Interest in Items on the Agenda**  Cllr Beardsell declared in interest in Item 52.1/15 Visitor Map |
| **45.2/15** | **Updates to Members Register Interested (if appropriate)**  None |
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| **46/15** | **Matters Arising From The Minutes** |
| ***Action:*** | **Parking outside the Primary School**  The Chairman confirmed that the PCSO had been alerted to the issue and asked to monitor the situation. Cllr Hicks suggested that shading could be painted on the road to highlight the hazard but the Chairman said that it was already on Highways action list and that the School and the Parish Council had chased the work. Cllr Hicks agreed to follow this up. |
| ***Action:*** | **Lorries and Heavy Vehicles**  Cllr Williamson noted that lorries are still being parked on the grass verge at Sunground but do not appear to be blocking anyone. It was agreed that signs are required at the entrance to both industrial estates in Nailsworth stating no left turn for lorries and Cllr Hicks agreed to follow this up with Gloucestershire Highways. |
| ***Action:*** | **Playing Field Lease and Value on Asset Register**  Cllr Parsons confirmed that he had taken advice from CDC and that the Playing Field has no value on the Asset Register as it is used as a playing field but if the Council ever decided to sell it then it would have to be valued. The Memorial Hall, however, is an asset of which the Council is the Sole Custodian Trustee and, therefore, has a value on the Asset Register. It was further agreed to look at the Hall management issue after the election if a new Management Committee is not formed. |
| ***Action:*** | **Development at Sunground**  Cllr Hicks confirmed that “when permission was granted consideration was given to traffic during the building phase” despite objections from the Parish Council. He further confirmed that it should be clarified where communication has failed.  Cllr Hicks confirmed that as permission has now been granted, it would not be possible to add any additional conditions (e.g. no builders vehicles while playgroup is opening/closing) unless the proposal is changed by the developer.  Members expressed disappointment that the Council’s concerns were not incorporated in such a way. |
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| **47/15** | **To Approve And Sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 March 2015**  **RESOLUTION 15/15**  The Minutes were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman. |
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| **48/15** | **County and District Councillors’ Reports**  Cllr Parsons reported that he has been approached by the group looking into the provision of a Village Shop and will be taking up various issues with the Head of Planning. |
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| **49/15** | **Chairman’s Report**  See Finance Sheet |
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| **50/15** | **Elections – 7 May 2015**  It was noted that there would not be Parish Council election and that there is a vacancy that needs to be filled. |
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| **51/15** | **Community Issues & Projects** |
| **51.1/15** | **Traffic and Highways** |
|  | It was reported that a road traffic accident had taken place at Chavenage crossroads. |
| **51.2/15** | **Community Issues** |
| ***Action:*** | **Visitor Map**  It was agreed that the map should include walks, some areas of interests, history, pumps etc. Cllr Beardsell agreed to investigate the graphic interpretation of the map and progress the project. The Clerk was requested to investigate who had made the Tetbury Visitor Map. |
| ***Action:*** | **Updates from Project Manager and Consideration of Hours**  **Water Pumps** – schedule of conditions and works is being developed and sponsors informed of progress.  **Defibrillator** – Listed Building Consent needs to be obtained before attaching the Defibrillator notice to the telephone kiosk.  **Memorial Hall** – all bookings and contact details are now in the diary and now collecting hire fees. Also arranging for a contractor to advise on improving the sound. The Clerk was requested to research Google diary that could be embedded on the website and to provide fee structures from other Village Halls as a comparison.  **Stiles** – some have been plotted on a map but needs adding to.  **RESOLUTION 16/15**  It was unanimously RESOLVED to increase Mr Collinson’s hours to 20 per month giving him more time to carry out projects. |
| ***Action:*** | **Post Code Map**  The Clerk was requested to look at postcode information that can be taken from the Electoral Register. |
|  | **Update on Eel Project with Primary School**  Cllr Conway reported that he and Chris Otley of Stroud District Council had walked to the pond at the top of the Shoot and found that the water is remarkably clean and contains a lot of livestock, which is good for eels. Cherington Lake is not quite so active but the water purity level is fine. Eels are reported to have been coming up the River Severn for the last 3 – 4 weeks which is later than previous years and that eels can also be sourced from France. The School is now ready and waiting for date for the delivery and release of the eels.  Cllr Conway further reported that he is also involved with a Corn to flour project with Stroud Valley Projects and the Primary School. |
| ***Action:*** | **Date and Arrangements for the Annual Village Meeting**  It was agreed that this should take place on Saturday, 6 June 2015 at 10.30 am in the Memorial Hall. |
| ***Action:*** | **Volunteer of the Year**  It was agreed to seek nominations |
|  | **Community Person of the Year**  It was agreed that this should be combined with Villager of the Year. |
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| **52/15** | **Finance** |
| **52.1/15** | **Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 31 March 2015**  Noted |
| **52.2/15** | **Bills For Payment (as detailed on Schedule)**  **RESOLUTION 17/15**  It was RESOLVED to pay the Bills as detailed on the Finance Schedule. |
| **52.3/15** | **Review and Adopt Risk Assessment**  It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting. |
| **52.4/15** | **Grant Application from Avening Playgroup**  Mrs Morrison reported:   * New banners have been hung at end of St Lawrence Road and it is hoped that they will generate more interest. * Lost 2 children from the role. * Government Subsidy - £9.50 per morning for under 3’s. Over 3’s attract a government voucher of £3.50 ph equating to £10.50 per morning * Paying over the national average in salaries to staff and but charging under the national average for sessions. * Obtained quotes for 2 Air-Con units in region of £5,000 + VAT. It might be possible to manage with 1 unit but it would not really be adequate. * Will also require associated electrical work to expand the consumer unit and 2 x rcb that will cost in the region of £1,120 + VAT * Financial projections could show a deficit in May 2016 depending upon payment date of government subsidy. * Need to be able to offer full days to succeed and Air-Con to be able to operate safely. * Looking to change the Business plan and considering alternative models. * Playgroup own the building which is in good condition although 24 -25 years old and stands on approx. one third of an acre leased from Gloucestershire County Council   Members considered the issues and highlighted:   * Concern that the Playgroup is not currently a viable operation and when would this be remedied. * Ownership of the land by the Parish Council to make investment a wise decision. * The need for involvement by the Trustees. * Strong feeling within the Council that a Playgroup facility is needed and should continue in the Village.   **RESOLUTION 18/15**  It was RESOLVED that the Council is favourable in principle in supporting the application to cover the cost of Air-Con but needs to do due diligence on the 2 written quotations.  It was further RESOLVED to approach GCC explaining the strength of feeling within the Parish Council that the Playgroup should continue, that the Council is considering investing in the Playgroup and willing to take the land off GCC’s hands for a nominal sum. |
| **52.5/15** | **Donation Request from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust** <http://gloucestershirewildlifetrust.cmail1.com/t/ViewEmail/r/A3359CB0C60195D82540EF23F30FEDED/1BC7BF3ACDBF605F405DC10595964AA8>  Deferred to the next meeting. |
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| **53/15** | **Planning** |
| **53.1/15** | **Response to New Planning Applications** |
|  | None |
| **53.2/15** | **Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting** |
|  | **15/00828/FUL and 15/00829/LBC**  **Westfield Barn West End Avening Gloucestershire**  Conversion of barn to accommodation to be used in connection with Brandhouse Farm with internal and external alterations, extension and outdoor swimming pool  It was agreed to object to the application and request the opportunity to discuss the development of the property with the owner. |
| **53.3/15** | **Decision Notices** |
|  | None |
| **53.4/15** | **Planning Correspondence** |
|  | **Correspondence relating to 11 High Street, Avening**  Cllr Parson advised that CDC Planning Department will respond to the Parish Council’s enquiry regarding the term ‘contract’ in the Appeal Decision in due course and are dealing with other issues raised. |
| **53.5/15** | **Tree Works Notifications** |
|  | None |
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| **54/16** | **Correspondence** |
|  | **GCC – PROW – Volunteer Training**  Noted |
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| **55/16** | **The next Meeting will be the ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on Thursday, 21 MAY 2015 in Avening Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.**  **All Are Welcome** |

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 22.00