Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mulligan– Chair, Cllr Slater, Cllr Bendall. Cllr Hetterley, Cllr Parsons, Cllr King, Cllr Mills.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**: - Mrs S Baker (Clerk),

VISITORS:- None

167/24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None

168/24 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE –Cllr Hamilton, Cllr Hirst – GCC,

169/24 CODE OF CONDUCT

 166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr Slater, Cllr Mulligan Agenda item Finance 7.3

 166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None

170/24 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th November 2024

The minutes of the meeting held 13the November 2024 were signed as a true record.

171/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th November 24

172/24 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

 **Community Issues**

Playing Fields Update

The fence between the neighbour and the children’s play area, came down during the storms on the weekend of the 7th of December. The Clerk reported that if the Parish Council owns the fence, then it was insured up to the sum of £2,500. Councillor Mulligan will discuss the ownership with the neighbours.

Memorial Hall

Cllr Mulligan reported that they had received another offer from the Athelston Trusts. This was still below the Surveyors estimate of rental value. Cllr Mulligan has declined the offer stating that it is below the market value. He Is currently waiting for a response. It was agreed that when the response is received, a Trustee meeting will be called.

The Clerk reported that the Athelston Trust have requested access to the building on the 23rd. 24th and 27th. Cllr Bendall confirmed that the there were no bookings in the hall on those dates. It was agreed to give the Athelston Trust the door code and change it in the new year. Cllr Mulligan also agreed that the Trust representative be given his telephone number in case of emergencies.

The Clerk confirmed that the Music License has now been purchased.

The Clerk reported that the Kitchen energy account was £2,600 in credit. She has now changed all the energy accounts to payment in full each month.

 Defibrillator

The defibrillator has been removed twice this month. Cllr Mills has checked and updated the Circuit website. Updating the Circuit website is something that needs to be done promptly. If it isn’t updated as active, then the Ambulance service won’t be able to advise use. It was agreed that Cllr Mils share the Circuit login with the PC should he not be available to check and update the defibrillator.

Phone Box Refurbishment

The door of the phone box was torn off during the storm. The clerk confirmed that the phone box is insured and that although two quotes are preferable, the insurance company are happy to accept one. Cllr Mulligan will get the quote and pass onto the clerk to make a claim.

Affordable Housing Survey

Tim Gwilliam from GRCC has requested that he address the Parish Council about the need for a housing survey.

The Parish Council agreed to this and authorised the Clerk to arrange this.

173/24 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The Clerk reported she had received a letter from the residents at Mill House following the letter asking them to deal with the diseased ash tree believed to be on their land. The residents provided a land registry map confirming that the tree is not on their land and informed the Clerk that they understood it belonged to the owners of the Mill. It was agreed the Clerk go on the land registry site to ascertain ownership.

Cllr King reported that an Avening Court footpath ta Lane/Luckstone Lane has a fallen tree blocking it. The Clerk will report to Avening Court and request that it is cleared.

174/24 FINANCE

1. Cllr Hetterley reported that there is currently £88,674. in the bank. The donation of £7k from the Memorial Hall towards the heating has been received.
2. The Parish Council approved bills for payment
3. The Clerk said that DCD had still not issued the precept forms or provided the tax base. She has been informed that the Tax Base information will be sent out on Friday 13th. Cllr Slater said that the budgets has still not been finalised at CDC. The Clerk informed the Council that the precept forms do not need to be submitted until the end of January. It was agreed to delay formally setting the budget until the January meeting.
4. Approve draft Risk Assessment.

Cllr Mills distributed a draft risk assessment prior to the meeting. This highlighted some risks that will be addressed by the Finance committee. The Parish Council adopted the risk assessment. It will be appended to the financial regulations policy. The highlighted risks will be addressed by the finance committee.

175/24 VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR – The Clerk distributed the resume’ of both applicants prior to the meeting. The Parish Council discussed the applications in depth. It was agreed to offer the position to Deborah Blackie. The Clerk will contact both applicants and inform them of the Parish Councils decision.

176/24 POLICE REPORT – Unavailable.

177/24 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT – Appendix 1

178/24 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Unavailable

179 /24 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

24/02127/LBC 25 Point Road - Extension to mezzanine and replacement staircase. New partition wall and fire door. Conservation rooflight to rear roof slope, and alterations to flat roof to accommodate installation of solar panels. – No Comment

24/01918/LBC & 24/01917/FUL - 25 Point Road - Rear flat roof raised by 150mm to allow insulation to be provided, and installation of extract fan vent. – No Comment

24/03624/FUL - Boat House Gatcombe Water Avening Gloucestershire-  Repair, refurbishment, and extension to Boathouse to form a self-build dwelling and the erection of external garage and maintenance hut. – No Comment

24/03656/COMPLY-  Old Quarries Rectory Lane- Compliance with conditions 21 (Trees) and 26 (Construction Method Statement) of permission 22/03666/FUL - Change of use of existing buildings from residential institution (C2 use) to residential (C3 use) to form a total of 11 no. dwellings, through demolition of modern extensions, internal alterations and extensions, demolition of modern institutional buildings and replacement with new dwellings, associated garaging, landscaping, construction of new wall in alignment of historic walled garden and associated works. – Object The Parish Council are concerned that the impact the heavy-duty construction vehicles will have on Rectory Lane.

24/03651/TPO 40 Sandford Leaze - T1 Maple (Norway) Remove. – Support - Cllr Slater informed the council that the tree does not have a TPO. There is a blanket TPO in Sandford Leaze dating back to when the estate was first build. Only one tree has a TPO remaining. Cllr Slater has enquired how to remove the blanket TPO. It requires all the residents agreeing and permission from the original builder.

**180/24 Planning Correspondence and Decisions**

24/01917/FUL - 8 Sandford Leaze - Conversion of garage to ancillary living accommodation and erection of front porch – Permitted

24/03142/TCONR - 16 Star Lane - Willow (T1): re-pollard back to previous pruning points. No Objection.

24/03131/CONBGP - Land At Grid Reference 388941 197571 Star Lane - Compliance with Biodiversity Gain Plan of permission 24/01818/FUL - Erection of an extension to an agricultural building – Permitted.

24/03130/COMPLY - Land At Grid Reference 388941 197571 Star Lane - Compliance with condition 4 ( Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) ) of permission 24/01818/FUL - Erection of an extension to an agricultural building. – Permitted.

24/02949/FUL - 8 Sandford Leaze Conversion of garage to ancillary living accommodation and erection of front porch – Permitted.

24/03439/AGFO Brandhouse Farm West End  - Prior notification for the formation of a drainage and conservation pond – Refused.

181/24 CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Online Newsletter

**NALC Chief Exec Bulletin**

**GAPTC Newsletter**

GRCC Have your say on Budget.

Athelston Trust- We will be conducting some work at the school on Monday, 23 December, Tuesday, 24 December, and potentially on Friday, 27 December, which will require access to the Hall.

**GRCC Report Utility companies - Roadworks**

**182/24 COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Bendall distributed a draft notice for the Villager asking for donations towards the memorial Hall project. The basis of the notice was agreed but the financial position needs to be confirmed. This can be done once the 2025/26 budget has been formally agreed. The notice will be put in the Villager’s February issue. Cllr Mulligan has arranged to meet two builders to get further quotes. Cllr Mulligan said that the flat roof will also need replacement.

Cllr Mills said that the mud on the path opposite the pub was think and very unpleasant to walk through. It is mostly made up of leaf mould. Cllr Mills offered to clear it, but didn’t have a means to dispose of the waste. Cllr Mulligan said he could provide a trailer.

Cllr Hetterley asked if there was any update on the sale of Queen Matilda. The Council have been informed that prospective buyer has now made an offer on another pub. And no further offers have been received.

Cllr Hetterley reported that Mr Hill was very unwell and currently residing in a care home. Cllr Mulligan said he will deliver a card, sending the Parish Councils best wishes.

Cllr Mulligan thanked the Parish Councillors for all there hard work this year and wished them all a Merry Christmas.

**183/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Actions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 184/24 | Organise Roofing Contractors |  Cllr Mulligan |
|  174/24 | Make Payments | Clerk |
| 179/24 | Planning Response | Clerk |
| 173/24 | Report fallen Tree to Avening Court | Clerk |

**Appendix 1**

**District Councillors Report**

**Cotswold District Council:** The full council meeting was rather dull with mainly procedural issues on the agenda, but it was enlivened by several questions from the opposition group of councillors with several points reported widely in the local press and social media. As well as specific questions on collections (see below), we also questioned how ‘green’ the recycling programme really is. Cardboard recycled in the Cotswolds is being sent to Malaysia raising concerns over the carbon footprint of sending the material more than 6,600 miles away. Paper and cardboard collected in the district is first processed at the Thamesdown recycling depot at Cricklade and is then transported to Palm Paper in Norfolk where it is processed. But the cardboard is sent on to Muda Paper Mills in Malaysia to be made into new products according to the council's website.
We also challenged the costs associated with the recent CDC re-brand – the written response stated £20k had been spent (so far), but papers at the meeting showed £40k in total was earmarked. This is in addition to the £250k for new comms officers, which the leader stated was good value, despite often claiming a severe shortage of funds!

**Bins:** Collection issues have mostly been resolved, so my question at CDC related to the many complaints in my inbox concerning the untidy (and on occasion, dangerous) state that the crews leave the plethora of recycling bags and boxes after collection. I was told that the new public reporting system for collection issues will accommodate this problem, and any reports will be fed directly back to the crew concerned – the date for rollout of the system is TBC.
My follow up question raised the possibility of a review and simplification of the multiple recycling bags and boxes when the new waste contract is negotiated. I highlighted that the explosion of online shopping has rendered the blue cardboard sack unfit for purpose. I was assured by the new cabinet member that everything was up for review – I will watch developments closely.

**Family Farm Tax:** The Conservative group at CDC showed our support for farmers by attending the council meeting in wellies! Several councillors also attended a rally in London where farmers across Gloucestershire protested the Government’s plan to impose a 20 per cent inheritance tax on farms worth more than £1m.

**Storms:** Our district has recently been impacted by storms ‘Bert’ and ‘Darragh’ – Bert caused significant localised flooding, and Darragh’s winds caused many fallen trees and blocked roads. The flooding is not helped by a lack of basic maintenance of drains and gulleys on our road network, and I have highlighted this again to Glos. Highways.
I hope you have not been badly affected by the storms, and any damage is not too severe.

**Housing:** I will be attending the ‘grand opening’ in January of the mixed social/affordable housing development in Avening. When I was leading Avening PC we opposed the development on several grounds, but once approved I fought to make the homes as ‘green’ as possible. The designs were eventually improved, but they could have been much better for a small extra investment. However, we welcome the additional opportunity for locals to stay in the village and hope they are settling into their new homes.

I wish all my readers a very happy Christmas, and prosperous New Year.

**Other updates and information for Parish Councils:**

UNSUNG HEROESThe Unsung Heroes Awards is to acknowledge all the work being done across the district by volunteers who give up their time to help others. Residents and businesses have nominated people in their communities who they think have made a difference, from individuals who give up their time to help neighbours, to members of local groups who volunteer to deliver local projects.
This is a rolling scheme with winners announced at every Full Council meeting going forward. Please nominate your Unsung Hero here: [www.cotswold.gov.uk/unsungheroes](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/unsungheroes)

HOW TO REPORT POTHOLES

I recommend using this link, especially if you have a smartphone and can take a photograph of the pothole and identify the exact position. It is more efficient than emailing the council as officers get a daily schedule of these alerts.

Gloucestershire County Council, report a pothole:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

FIX MY STREET

Report, view, or discuss local problems like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting. This reports back to the appropriate Council: [LINK](https://www.fixmystreet.com/?fbclid=IwAR0T_TtTd0-s8hijkyhoo2mCASJ271bHh_gUs6EoU8ZjUsiPcfeFRLkSbFo)

REPORT IT

https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/report-it/

New forms for reporting graffiti, overflowing bins, dog fouling and street cleaning are now live on the Cotswold District Council Website.

A map pin drop allowing for what3words location submissions can be used.

PLEASE! NEVER PUT BATTERIES IN YOUR GENERAL WASTE

Recycling operators and vehicles could be put in real danger. A 2021 study claims that Li-ion batteries cause about 48% of all UK waste fires per year, resulting in millions in damage to waste operators, fire services and the environment.

Recycling centres are full of combustible materials and too many 'zombie' batteries are going into either recycling bins or black rubbish bags, even small lithium-ion batteries explode "with a rocket flame" if punctured. The ESA has launched a campaign called Take Charge which encourages people to dispose of batteries properly.

How can you help fight the zombies?

Never put a battery in the bin

Take batteries out of electricals (phones, vapes, cameras etc.) before recycling.

Always use the right recycling facilities for batteries. Check waste wizard if you aren't sure.