

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** - County Councillor Stephan Fifield. Mrs S Baker (Clerk),

**VISITORS:-** None

**17/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – None

**18/25 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE** –Cllr Slater,

**19/25 CODE OF CONDUCT**

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

P. Mulligan Expenses.

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None

**20/25 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 were signed as a true record.

**21/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

None

**22/25 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS**

Community Issues

Playing Fields Update

Cllr Mulligan thanked Cllr Mills for the work he has done to repair the fence. Cllr Mills said he has one more post to replace.

The problem with dog fouling appears to be worsening. It was agreed that it is time to consider CCTV and dog waste bags dispensers. The Clerk will research the costs involved.

Memorial Hall

Cllr Mulligan said he was still waiting for a response from the Athelstone Trust regarding the lease. Once the Athelstone Trust has responded a Trustee meeting will be called.

Two quotes have been received for the roof replacement. Unfortunately, the quotes differ. One quote is inclusive of the used tiles and scaffolding. Cllr Mulligan will ask for the contractor to adjust the quote to include the tiles and scaffolding. A third contractor is yet to quote.

Cllr Hetterley said that the information will be needed promptly should the Council wish to apply for a public works loan as the procedure for application was quite in-depth.

Cllr Hetterley confirmed that the PAT testing had been carried out by a resident in the village. The microwave failed. This has now been replaced. The sound equipment in the cupboard is still to be done.

Cllr Mulligan said that the school have reported a couple of maintenance issues. The heater in the Chamberlain room was not working. It was agreed to change the heater to one similar in the main hall. It was also agreed to install a similar heater in

the meeting room. Cllr Mulligan will contact the electrician. The other maintenance issue is the overflow from the heating system leaking onto the path used by the school. The plumber will look at the boiler to see if it can be rectified.

Cllr Bendall reported that regular users of the hall are happy with the new heating system. Bookings for the hall are improving.

The doors are being damaged by the trolleys being taken in and out of the kitchen. Cllr Mulligan will put plastic door protector strips on the door.

#### Defibrillator

Cllr Hamilton said that there was a spate of activity over winter.

Cllr Hetterley reported that the WI have passed a motion to run a defib and CPR training session and wanted to know the best organisation to use. It was agreed that St Johns ambulance would be the most suitable organisation. Cllr Hetterley will inform the WI and ask them to make it a village event.

#### Phone Box Refurbishment

The Clerk said that a payment for £1,750 had been received from the insurance company following the storm damage. Cllr Mulligan has contacted the contractor for advice on the project. It was suggested that if it is possible to fit a new door to the phone box, then it would be better to leave it at an angle, as straightening it may cause further damage. Cllr Mulligan will measure the angles and seek further guidance from the contractor.

Cllr King asked if planning permission was required for the refurbishment. Cllr King will call the planning office to enquire.

The Clerk said she had received an email from Clare Bebbington saying that members of the community would like to use the Phone Box as a library. This was thought to be a useful use of the phone box once the repairs have been completed.

#### Parish Plan Update

Cllr Mills said no further progress had been made on the Parish Plan. It was agreed to keep the plan as an agenda item.

### **23/25 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS**

The clerk said she had received correspondence from the Clerk at Beverston requesting that the Parishes work together to do something about the roads - Chavenage Lane and the one which connects the B4014 to that lane and that following an emergency call to highways an enormous pothole further down the road was reported via the emergency phone number due to its size and fixed within a week. Cllr Fifield said that should he get re-elected in May, Chavenage Lane would be a priority for him to get resurfaced. He said that there were other issues with the lane that also need to be addressed. He is happy to discuss the matter with the Clerk at Beverston.

The condition of the boundary wall at Avening Court appears to be worsening. The Clerk said she had reported it to Highways when the problem had first been highlighted. The Clerk will contact Gill Portlock for an update.

Flooding on the Nailsworth Road is still an issue. Cllr Fifield will follow this up.

It has been brought to the Parish Councils attention that the children waiting for the bus to school on Hampton Street is not very safe. The speed of the traffic combined with a narrow pavement does not make for a safe place to wait. The Parish Council discussed if there was any way to make it safer. Cllr Fifield suggested the possibility of traffic calming, but a Road Traffic Order would be required which is expensive. Cllr Fifield said he would discuss the issue with Gill Portlock, the Highways manager.

### **24/25 FINANCE**

Cllr Hetterley reported that there is £89K in the bank. It is expected to have around £35K in reserves at the end of the financial year (depending on project spend).

- I. The Parish Council approved bills for payment

II. The Clerk confirmed that the precept request has been submitted.

**25/25 POLICE REPORT** – Unavailable.

**26/25 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT** – Appendix 1

Cllr Slater distributed his report prior to his holiday.

**27/25 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT** – Appendix 2

## **28 /25 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS**

### New Planning Applications

25/00018/LBC - 31 Nags Head Lane -Carry out essential maintenance to the property by repointing the front exterior wall to the right-hand side only. This will preserve the fabric of the building and prevent water ingress. The work will involve removing all the old cement and flaking lime mortar down to the bed joint and repointing with lime mortar, locally sourced sharp washed sand, and stone grit throughout. - Support  
25/00063/FUL21 - West End Erection of two-storey side extension, re cladding of dwelling and landscaping - Support

25/00107/TCNR - Farm Hill House Point Road T1- Thuja hedge to be removed to ground level. Re plant of either new hedge row/ specimen trees (Yet To be decided)  
Two trees have died off. BT Cable and power line growing within canopy - Support.

## **29/25 Planning Correspondence and Decisions**

24/01918/LBC25 - Point Road - Rear flat roof raised by 150mm to allow insulation to be provided, and installation of extract fan vent – Permitted

24/02127/LBC25- 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 – Permitted

24/03651/TPO - 40 Sandford Leaze - T1 Maple (Norway) Remove - Subsidence claim - Permitted

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 – Permitted

Cllr King said that work on the Quarries has started, and they have taken the concerns of the Parish into account. All traffic will be escorted, and pedestrians will have right of way.

## **30/25 CORRESPONDENCE**

GRCC – Gloucestershire Village of the Year.

GAPTC – New legal structure.

NALC Chief Executive Bulletin

Gloucestershire Climate Change Fund is now open.

CDC have engaged a retrofit officer.

Gloster Gladiators Scout Band – Offering to play at community events.

GCC Council Connected.

## **31/25 COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Hamilton reported that the Queen Matilda Pageant (Pig Face) has a provisional date of 14<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Bendall will pencil in the booking in the hall diary.

Cllr Hetterley reported that Knead Bakery visits have been very popular and will now visit the village on the last Saturday of every month 09.45-10.30.

Cllr Hetterley reported that numbers for the cinema have dropped off in recent months. They need an attendance of at least 12 to break even and are considering increasing admission from £5 to £7.”

The Clerk said she had been informed by Kemp IT that several of their customers had had cyber-attacks. If the Council wanted further protection, she recommended SPAMTtan which manages to filter 99.9% of spam viruses and phishing attempts. The cost of this is £695 set up and a monthly charge of £5.50 per month per mailbox. The Councillors agreed that they felt it was unnecessary expense.

### **32/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

#### **Actions**

22/25	Speak to Electrician regarding Hall Heating	Cllr Mulligan
22/25	Contact Planning regarding permission for Phone Box refurbishment	Cllr King
24/25	Pay Bills	Clerk
29/25	Submit Planning response.	Clerk

### **Appendix 1**

#### **District Councillors Report**

I had not planned to do a report for January as I thought it unlikely anything would happen over Christmas – but that has not quite been the case! You may have seen that the Government has decreed that local councils will have to merge into larger unitary authorities, perhaps with an elected mayor, and that the current system of County and District councils will no longer exist. Gloucestershire currently has a two-tier council structure made up of Gloucestershire County Council and beneath that, six district councils: Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, Tewkesbury, the Cotswolds, and the Forest of Dean. The Government’s aim is to devolve more power to these new authorities, and in turn Parish Councils may be afforded additional responsibilities. In the short-term, legislation is being prepared to postpone the County elections in May so that councils can forge the relationships with their chosen partners. In Gloucestershire’s case there are several options being considered – join the existing West of England Combined Authority (WECA) which covers Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and Northeast Somerset (BANES); it could look to form a new authority with either Swindon and Wiltshire; or linking with Herefordshire and Worcestershire to the north. Doing nothing is not an option, so I am glad to hear that GCC are on the front foot when choosing new partners. To me it makes more sense to take the last option and partner with other largely rural communities, and it would mean Gloucestershire would be the biggest and senior authority. I have significant reservations that the reorganisation will give more powers locally, but my biggest concern is cost, and who will pay for the transition. The ‘minor’ insourcing project at CDC is likely costing £2-3m plus increased ongoing costs of £400k per year, so unpicking all the contracts and staffing implications associated with the full district and multiple County councils is likely to be astronomical! Needless to say, you and I will pay one way or another! Cotswold District Council (CDC): The Cabinet have written to the Government to object to the changes, and more specifically the cancellation of the May elections. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC): I had the pleasure of showing Stephan Fifield around Grumbolds Ash – Stephan is the deputy leader of GCC and has taken over the local responsibilities of Stephen Hirst due to his

ongoing health issues. We looked at the more serious ongoing issues with our local roads, including potholes, drainage, inappropriate speed limits. We also covered flooding, and other important issues in the parishes – these issues will all be fed back to the appropriate departments at GCC and will hopefully produce actions in the future. Stephan will attend future Parish meetings wherever possible. Litter: On a post-Christmas walk with my wife, we came across a discarded McDonalds meal bag. On opening it, we discovered a receipt from KFC with the date, time, and server. I passed this information on to the fly tipping officer at CDC who is now working with both food retailers to cross-reference the transactions with the vehicle details of the purchaser, which will hopefully lead to a fine of up to £500 for the person who dropped it! The message is simple – just take your rubbish home and dispose of it properly. Councillor Tony

## **Appendix 2**

### **County Council Update - February 2025 - Avening Parish Council**

#### Highways & Infrastructure

Road maintenance continues to be a top priority, and I am pleased that resurfacing work has been confirmed taking place on Tetbury Road near Coates. This follows concerns raised by residents about the road condition, and around a £1m surplus being found to be spent on local roads.

Beyond this, I have been working hard to highlight the state of our roads, particularly the issues of potholes and flooding across the division. Chavenage Lane remains a key concern, and I have been pressing Gloucestershire Highways to take urgent action to improve drainage and prevent further damage. Ensuring our roads are safe and well-maintained is a priority, and I will continue to raise these issues on behalf of local residents.

#### County Council Budget & Local Services

Gloucestershire County Council is finalising its budget for the coming year, and I am working to ensure Tetbury, and surrounding villages receive the investment they need. Key priorities include funding for road repairs, public transport improvements, and supporting local services. The budget also includes a focus on maintaining children's services and adult social care.

#### Future of Local Government in Gloucestershire

I remain strongly opposed to the proposal to split Gloucestershire into two separate unitary authorities. This would create unnecessary bureaucracy, increase costs, and weaken local decision-making. Instead, I believe in keeping Gloucestershire as one strong, unified authority that delivers better value for taxpayers.

#### Community Engagement

I regularly update residents on local issues through my Facebook page, FifiField for Tetbury, where I report on the work I have been doing, including highways issues, flooding concerns, and other key local matters. If you would like to stay up to date, please do follow the page.