

## **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mulligan– Chair, Cllr Hamilton, Cllr Howell, , Cllr Slater, Cllr D Bendall. Cllr Parsons, Cllr King, Cllr Mills. Cllr J Hetterley

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

**VISITORS:** Mel Young

**79/24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME –** Me Young was in attendance to discuss the role of Chair to the management committee for the memorial Hall. The Clerk provided the up to date Charity Scheme and explained that the Memorial Hall information of the Charity website was out of date due to not being able to access the records. Cllr Mulligan will continue to telephone the Charity Commission to gain access.

The Parish Council explained that a new management structure was needed. Someone to handle bookings, deal with day-to-day issues and hold two user group meetings per year. Ms Young informed the Parish Council of her background in marketing and stated that she would be able to raise the profile of the hall online. It was agreed that she make contact with organisations within the village to garner support and new members for the management committee before committing to the role.

**80/24 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE –** Cllr Hirst - GCC

### **81/24 CODE OF CONDUCT**

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Agenda Item 7 Cllr Slater – Payment of Invoices, Cllr Hetterley – Payment of invoice for Community Cafe

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

### **82/24 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held 8 May 2024 were signed as a true record.

### **83/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 May 24**

None.

### **84/24 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS**

#### Community Issues

#### Playing Fields Update

There have been further acts of vandalism in the playground. There is a description of the culprit who is primary school age. The school has been informed. The Head has agreed to speak to the children asking them to report incidents in confidence if they witness such events. The Clerk will report the police and ask them to increase patrols of the area.

Cllr Mulligan has a quote for the work to the new paths. The overall costs is £56.75 per meter + VAT. The cost gate to gate is £4029.25 +VAT and gate to orchard is £5,334.50. It was decided gate to gate is the priority. It was agreed that the top path could just be cut back.

Cllr Parsons said she would investigate if the waste soil could be reused on her land as disposal has a significant cost. The Clerk was asked to investigate if the Community Payback team would be able to carry out some of the work to the top path.

Post for the fencing parallel to the road has rotted. Cllr Mills will try to get a parent volunteer group to repair/replace the posts.

The Parent volunteer group have repaired the goal posts.

#### Memorial Hall

The electrical points within the hall have been converted to sockets.

The toilets and roof over the toilets is due to be refurbished. It has been difficult to get a quote for the roof because of the unknown condition of the rafters. It has been very difficult to get contractors to supply three quotes for the roof. The Parish council agreed to suspend standing orders for this item and set a budget of £10k +VAT for the roof only. Cllr Mulligan will consult the Parish Council should the findings exceed the quote.

The Clerk said she had contacted planning regarding the use of reconstituted tiles and had been informed by a planning office that planning permission is not needed. The Parish Council has permitted development rights which covers the change to the roof materials. This should reduce the bill considerably.

The Clerk reported that since the installation of the smart metres one of the energy accounts has increase to over £900 per month. She will call EDF to discuss.

#### **85/24 DEFIBRILATOR**

Cllr Hamilton confirmed that the old defibrillator has been decommissioned and requested that the signs be removed from the phone box. Cllr Mulligan will do this.

#### **86/24 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS**

Complaints have been received regarding the overgrowth on the Avening to Nailsworth Road, making the footpath impassable. The Clerk will report to Highways and the Gatcombe Estate if they could cut back some of the vegetation.

There are two cars regularly parking on Hampton Hill. It is believed they are owned by the residents. The Clerk will contact the PCSO asking him to visit to give advice on parking.

Complaints have been received about an overgrown hedge at 11 Sandford Leaze and 44 Rectory Lane. The Clerk will write to the residents.

There is a tree causing an obstruction on Rectory Lane. The Clerk will report it via fix my street.

Many of the bridleways are overgrown, it is very difficult to keep up with the cutting back. The Clerk said other areas were asking residents to take a pair of gloves and secateurs when they go for a walk and cut back a little each time.

#### **87/24 FINANCE**

- I. Cllr Hetterley said that the finances were in a good position, but the payment by the parish council of the electrical work in the hall was not budgeted for and will be taken out of reserves. The change over of the emails had also gone over budget and this too would come from reserves. There were approximately 12 months running costs in reserve, which is in more than the advised amount.
- II. The New Financial regulations which were distributed prior to the meeting. This will be an agenda item for the meeting in July 2024.
- III. Approve bills for payment – The list distributed prior to the meeting was agreed.
- IV. The grants were approved for payment.
  - Villager £1,200.
  - Church Yard - £1,250,
  - Youth Club £1,200 to be paid for room hire.
  - Playgroup £2,000.
  - CAB £160.

### **88/24 Annual Governance Statement**

87.1 Consider Annual Governance Statement. - The Clerk presented the annual governance statement which was considered by the Parish Council

87.2 Approve Annual Governance Statement – The Parish Council approved the annual governance statement, and the Chair signed the AGAR form.

### **89/24 Annual Accounts**

88.1 Consider Accounting Statement - The Clerk presented the annual accounting statement which was considered by the Parish Council

88.2 Approve the Accounting Statement - The Parish Council approved the annual governance statement, and the Chair signed the AGAR form.

### **90/24 POLICE REPORT – Unavailable**

### **91/24 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT –**

#### **Appendix**

**1**

### **92/24 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Unavailable**

### **93 /24 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS**

#### New Planning Applications

24/01179/FUL & 24/01180/LBC 51 Nags Head Lane Reroofing and existing garage to form kitchen and sanitary accommodation with lid to existing dwelling. Relocating car parking and vehicular access. The Parish Council discussed this application again and decided that there had been no significant changes to alter their view of the previous application.

### **94/24 Planning Correspondence and Decisions**

24/00722/REM Tetbury Hill House Tetbury Hill Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of permission 20/02653/REM - reserved Matters pursuant to outline permission 19/00725/OUT (Outline application for the construction of two dwellings with access, layout and scale to be determined) to include details relating to appearance and landscaping - Application Permit

### **95/24 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk explained that because of the election Purdah, there had been very little correspondence to note.

## 96/24 COUNCILLORS

Cllr King requested that the refurbishment of the phone box is an agenda item next month.

Cllr Mills said that a group of residents would like to start a community gardening project in the aim to brighten the village. It was agreed that of Cllr Mills produces a plan and gets some costings, it will be considered.

Cllr Mills presented a slide show showing the outline of a village plan. It was agreed pursue this plan and Cllr Mills will continue to work on it.

Cllr Mulligan proposed that the meeting in August would not be held. This has happened for the past two years. This was agreed. Any pressing issues will be dealt with via email.

## 97/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 10 July 2024 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Actions

85/24	Remove notices from phone box	Cllr Mulligan
86/24	Write Letters to residents	Clerk
86/24	Report Highways Issues	Clerk
87/24	Make Payments	Clerk
96/24	Planning Response	Clerk
75/24	Produce plan for Community Gardening	Cllr Mills
88-89/24	Submit Agar	Clerk

## Appendix 1

**CDC:** Local issues have been somewhat overridden by the announcement of a general election! The planned CDC cabinet meeting has been cancelled for a somewhat fuzzy related reason, and as a consequence the **Overview & Scrutiny** meeting was canned as the relevant reports were not produced for the cabinet. This means that I have been unable to follow up on the costs for the Publica transition. I did however attend a full briefing of the programme where the key players provided an update. I was reassured that the programme itself seems to be in good hands, but they didn't go close to discussing anything like costs – I will be discussing these with the Chief Financial Officer as soon as time permits. The (3 hour!) briefing soon descended into naval gazing (e.g. 45 minutes on whether the council should address residents as customers or citizens!) after the initial detail, so I slipped out quietly to avoid being bored into an early grave.

**Fetes and shows:** we are now in the peak season for village fetes and local shows, and I hope the weather is kind if you have one planned – they take a lot of organisation by volunteers so do support them if you can. The bank holiday events in Tetbury were a great

success, and a sale at Chavenage House recently raised £3500 for charity. Fantastic! Fingers crossed also for my daughter's wedding at Cherington on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

**Roads:** Complaints were made at the last full council about the length of time it has taken to fix the flood at the Tesco roundabout in Cirencester (the road is now open again), and also the lack of verge cutting, especially at roundabouts and junctions. The Highways website has a table of dates (Cirencester w/c 17<sup>th</sup> May; Avening 24<sup>th</sup> May for example), but as at the 1<sup>st</sup> June neither of these areas have been actioned. While 'no mow May' can be a good thing for bio-diversity, leaving the roads in a dangerous state is not acceptable.

CDC have finally completed installation of 2 EV chargers at the council offices, and have accepted a government grant of c£190k match funded to install others across the district (none in the south Cotswold area!), but parishes and towns can apply for their own grants if there is a need.

**River pollution:** I met with the area manager of Severn Trent at the Avening Sewage treatment plant, which turned out to be very informative and reassuring. The waste first goes through a settlement tank where non-biological solids are removed. It then splits and travels through three rotating mesh drums where it comes into contact with bacteria that digests all the nasties, before a further settlement tank to catch the spent bacteria. The outflow then flows slowly through up to 5 reed beds to filter out any remaining solids. At the end of the journey the clean water collects in a sump where it is pumped into the stream. During the pumping operation the water is constantly and automatically monitored for quality, with the data being sent directly to HQ.

There is a secondary route which kicks in during a storm surge so that the main plant isn't overwhelmed. The effluent is diverted into a much larger/deeper reedbed (still seeded with the same bacteria) which is then ultimately pumped into the stream – it is still very safe but may contain a slightly raised level of ammonia and other chemicals. When this route outflows to the stream it generates one of the reports that first alarmed me and led to the meeting. Although we had 118 such instances, they are logged each time the pump is activated, so these could be several in a short space of time if there isn't much going through the system. However, by the time you read this the latest upgrade to the storm system should have been completed, where the reed bed is aerated to ensure the bacteria does as good a job as the main process – this will mean there will be no further 'sewage outflow' instances from Avening.

The Avening plant was experimental when it was installed some 30+ years ago and was over specified at the time, but it is still performing well and apparently, we have the best quality effluent in the whole Severn Trent area!

**Councillor Tony Slater**

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

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