

Avening Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2020 at 7.30 pm Via Zoom

PRESENT: Cllr A Slater, Cllr S Hamilton, Cllr G Parsons, Cllr R King, Cllr D Bendall, Cllr P Mulligan, Cllr J Hetterly, Cllr C Howell.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Baker (Clerk) Cllr Hirst,

168/20 VISITORS:

169/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME -

170/20 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Forster – Work Commitments

171/20 CODE OF CONDUCT

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr Slater, Agenda Item 9.2

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None

172/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th November 2020

Minutes

- None. The minutes of the Zoom meeting held 18 December 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

173/20 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

- i. Assets with Community Value – Cllr King distributed a report, He explained that you can register an identified community asset. The PC would get notified if the owner plans to sale. The community is allowed 6 weeks to in put a bid, then a further 6 months to raise the money. It does not grant the right to buy, only the right to bid. The owner can sell to whoever they choose. There are guidelines on what can and cannot be registered, for example private residences cannot be registered, nor schools. it was agreed to look at registering the Playgroup where the land is owned by GCC. It was also suggested to register other properties but was decided to research further before engaging the owners. Cllr King will follow this up.
Cllr Slater asked if Steps Lane could be registered as an SSSI as it was full of wildflowers. Cllr Hirst said Historic England would be the best organisation to protect this area. Cllr Slater will approach them to enquire.
- ii. Aston Farm – Update.
There has been no update on Aston Farm. Cllr Slater has been chasing the Environmental Agency and CDC.

174/20 Traffic and Highways

- i. The Highways report was noted.
Cllr Parsons remarked that the water was going across going the road at West end. She expressed concern that it will not be resolved until next financial year.
Once we get some frost it will be lethal. Cllr Slater remarked that a resident had fallen.
Cllr Hirst said due to sickness of staff he had been unable to progress the complaint, but he will keep chasing.
- ii. The Ash trees along Tetbury Hill to Tetbury Upton have been surveyed and will be dealt with in the second wave when Highways have completed the A roads.
Cllr Parsons said there were also Ash trees at Greenway Head. The Trees are belonging to GCC. They will be added to the Highways log.
- iii. Cllr Mulligan reported that the traffic lights are not Synced correctly on the Nailsworth Road. The white lines have also not been reinstated. Cllr Hirst will request that this is investigated.
- iv. Cllr Parsons said that the traffic coming down from Tetbury Hill cuts across traffic from the High Street. It appears that the white lines have not been positioned the same as prior to the resurfacing.

183/20 Police Report

The Clerk reported that she contacted the PCSO to request a police report. It had not been received in time for the meeting. IT has been over 9 months since last receiving one. The Clerk will contact the PCSO again.

184/20 County Councillors Report

This was distributed prior to the meeting. Cllr Hirst invited questions. Cllr Slater asked how the carbon emissions were cut by 97%. Cllr Hirst said a large part was due to no landfill in the county. All non-recyclable waste now goes to Javelin Park. GCC – Shire Hall has become more energy efficient. It has been remodelled and is now receiving awards for the energy saving.

At the time of the report there were only 36 Covid cases in the Cotswolds. Cllr Hirst thought that it may have gone up a little since.

GCC has announced all children entitled to free school meals will be supported with vouchers over the Christmas holidays. No child will go hungry in Gloucestershire this Christmas.

Cllr Bendall asked what the extra work that the fire service have been doing to keep the community safe. Cllr Hirst said they have been driving ambulances and assisting the coroner., transporting deceased to mortuaries.

185/20 District Councillors Report – Not available

186/20 Finance

Finance Report up to 30 November 2020

- i. The finance report was circulated in advance of the meeting.
- ii. Approve Bills for Payment - Schedule was circulated, and payments were approved. Cllr Hetterly proposed payments of the invoices, this was seconded by Cllr King.
- iii. Cllr Hetterley reported that we had incurred £1100 for hall expenditure. This is temporary and will be adjusted. The budget looks high in the projects section as money is ringfenced for the zipwire, hall roof and defibrillator, plus the playing field donation.
- iv. The Clerk will send out request for tender for the grass cutting in early Jan.
- v. Approve the budget – At the finance meeting various precept options were discussed. The two main considerations in addition to the day-to-day expenditure, is the upgrade to the playing field and the necessary works needed to maintain the Memorial Hall. Cllrs Bendall and Mulligan have taken on the role to oversee the Memorial Hall project.

Following a constructive meeting with Haley Fearnside from GCC to discuss the current terms of the lease of the hall by GCC on behalf of the school, Cllr Bendall reported he and Cllr Mulligan will be meeting with the surveyor from GCC on the 5th January 21 to get an agreed picture of what work is needed to make the necessary repairs and upgrade to the hall.

Cllr Bendall has also been in contact with Sapperton Parish Council to discuss how they approached fund raising for the upgrade of their hall roof. He was informed that CDC approved them using reconstituted tiles even though the building was listed. He felt that this has set a precedent, giving Avening PC the chance to have a more economical option. Sapperton has also provided a list of organisations to approach for grants.

Cllr Slater said that we currently have £5,000 allocated in the 2021/22 budget towards the hall, plus another £2,400 in donations/grants towards the roof tiles. Another £5,000 is needed to be allocated towards the hall. The percent increase in the precept would look high, but the monetary cost is low. Cllr Slater distributed a report showing the financial increase for each band on a precept of £33,500. Band D will increase by just £11.01 per annum.

Cllr Bendall proposed putting a flyer inside the February Villager to explaining the increase. Cllr King will ask Clare Bebbington if she would be able to help produce the flyer.

Cllr Hetterley asked if the County and CDC increase had been decided yet. The Clerk said the District and County rate increases will not be decided until January.

Cllr Hirst agreed that the flyer was a good idea.

Cllr Parsons asked why the Hall was not listed and expressed concern that the hall could be sold in the future. Cllr Slater said architecturally it would not merit being listed but is a scheduled war memorial. The PC is custodian of the Hall - Cllr Parsons would like the future of the hall protected.

If the parish could not afford to maintain the hall in the future GCC could potentially take it over for the school and possibly sale it on at a later date.

The current rent/service charge paid by GCC are not covering the running costs and utilities. Cllr Slater said that is what the basis of negotiations are about. Cllr Mulligan said that if you take GCC current rent and their investment it works out they are paying under £9 per hour.

Cllr Parsons said it should be the education authority's responsibility to pay for the hall and the Parish should not be subsidising education.

Cllr Slater agreed but remarked that the PC did have a responsibility to maintain the hall for the village, however this relied on having a realistic income.

Cllr King said the increase in the precept will go nowhere close to paying for the work needed. We do not have the reserves to do lots of work around the village. The proposed precept increase will also help build back the reserves.

Cllr Parsons said that the Parish should not be paying for utility bills used solely by the school. She also enquired where has the PC's money been spent on in the last few years.

Cllr Slater said it was paid towards the industrial kitchen and the other maintenance works needed at the time. The proposed increase will enable us to apply for grants to complete the work.

Cllr Hirst said precept should be used to provide benefits - Villages need to set precepts to pay for this as required.

Cllr Slater proposed applying for a precept from £28,500 to £33,500. A vote was carried out and was passed on a majority – 8 in favour; 1 against.

179/20 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

- 20/04173/COMPLY. 20/00427/FUL Barn at Owl House West End Avening Gloucestershire Compliance with Conditions 3 (watercourse protection plan), and 7 (surface water drainage scheme) of Permission 20/00427/FUL - Conversion of barn to dwelling and installation of pitched roof (Amended design to 18/04043/FUL) – No Objections

180/20 Planning Decision Notices & Correspondence

Decisions

20/02481/FUL - 25 High Street GL8 8NF Erection of two storey front and two storey rear extensions and rendering of property - Permitted

181/20 Any other New Applications since publication of this agenda

- 20/03799/COMPLY Longmans Barn Farm Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8NH Compliance with Condition 3 (design and details) of Permission 19/03144/FUL - Conversion of barn to dwelling – For Information Only
- 20/00430/FUL 48 High Street – Erection of balcony at rear of property with storage beneath.
- No Objections
- 20/04338/TCONR 36 High Street – Reduce Crown and remove dead and damaged limbs on T1 Weeping Willow. – No Objections

182/20 Correspondence

Public Sector Executive – Secure against Cyber-attacks survey

NALC - Covid Updates

Parish Online – Christmas Newsletter

SLCC – Online Meeting

Weekly Testing Locations – GCCCDC – Planning Training

GAPTC – AGM online

CDC Covid Testing Recruitment

CDC Covid updates

NALC – rebuilding communities

NALC Chief Exec Bulletin

CPRE Newsletter

187/20 COUNILLORS

Cllr Bendall said as there are items of value in the hall a security system should be considered. This was agreed to be investigated at a later date.

Cllr Slater, we have two volunteers to join the hall committee. Cllr Mulligan and Cllr Bendall. They will join Bob Scirfield on the committee, so we can then hold an AGM. We are struggling to get other people to commit, but other roles will need to be filled. If the PC are happy with Cllrs Mulligan, Bendall, and Bob Scirfield to start things off. The Parish Council agreed.

Cllr King said the Christmas tree was looking splendid. And that we should thank Gatcombe – This was agreed.

Cllr Mulligan reported that the leaves and debris on Old Hill is dangerous. Highways need to urgently need to address the situation.

Dog mess in the playing field again. Should we put a camera in? This will be progressed.

Keep reminding people.

Cllr Parsons said she has Christmas Lambs. Please keep dogs on a lead, as there was a serious incident at Lowesmore.

Cllr Slater thanked the Council for all their work during a tough year. The Clerk is taking time off over Christmas and new year. Unless there is an emergency the Council should also take a break.

Cllr Mulligan thanked Cllr Slater for his commitment over the year.

188/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 7.30pm Via Zoom

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm