

Avening Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 7.30 pm

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Baker (Clerk),

VISITORS: Mrs Carter

151/21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No Questions asked.

152/21 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Morgan - CDC

153/21 CODE OF CONDUCT

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

154/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 October 2021.

The minutes of the meeting held 20 October 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

155/21 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

- i. Memorial Hall – Cllr Bendall reported that he had received a lot of enquiries for hall bookings including a wedding next year. The Brass band have agreed to store their instruments in the basement at their own risk. The film club is due to restart in January.
At the School Governors meeting, Cllr Bendall was asked when the Chamberlain room would be redecorated. This is planned for 2022 along with other renovations.
- ii. Playing Fields Update
Two new benches have been installed..
Cllr Mulligan will contact the contractor to get a date for the installation of the new equipment agreed.
The sub-committee met and discussed the results of the consultation. They prioritised a list of items identified as the Parish's requests.
Cllr Slater met with Western Power who need to run the power lines underground through the playing field. This was agreed 5 years ago, but has never been carried out. They have agreed to install a power source at a reduced cost if it is done at the same time as the cable work. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that this was worth the expenditure of approx. £1,500 plus the cost of encasing it safely.
Cllr King asked if the removal of the ash trees should be prioritised. The Clerk reminded the Council that they had originally agreed to meet the builders of the affordable homes to discuss the boundary and had intended to ask if they would remove the trees for the Council for free. This meeting has not yet been scheduled.

156/21 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The Highways Report was noted.

- I. The Clerk has received reports of visibility being compromised because of vehicles parked too close to a junction, and a complaint that the A 'boards outside of the bell in are causing visibility problems. The Clerk reported this to the PCSO on a previous occasion. She will lodge another report.
- II. Complaints have also been received regarding overhanging vegetation. Cllr Mulligan will speak to the residents concerned.
- III. It was agreed to purchase two new traffic mirrors to be placed opposite the Queen Matilda and Old Hill.

157/21 POLICE REPORT

The Police report was unavailable.

158/21 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT- Cllr Hirst distributed his report(attached) prior to the meeting. He sent his apologies that he would be late attending due to a prior engagement.

159/21 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Morgan sent his apologies.

160/21 FINANCE

Finance Report up to 31 October 2021

- i. The finance report was circulated in advance of the meeting.
- ii. Approve Bills for Payment - Schedule was circulated, and payments were approved.
- iii. The proposed budget for 2022/23 was distributed. The Parish Council are aware that there will be pressure on the finances in the coming year, and it was proposed to increase the budget by 7.4%. This would enable the Council to help fund work on the Memorial Hall along with predicted increase in running costs. The Parish finances are showing a healthy balance, with £13/£14K expected to be in the reserves at the end of the financial year. The Parish is advised to have 50% of its running cost kept in reserves for emergencies. Cllr Bendall expressed concern regarding the % increase. He said that with increases in other household bills it was very concerning. Cllr King remarked that if the projects highlighted were to be completed then they would need to increase the precept. Cllr Hetterley asked the Council to take the time to consider the increase in the precept and bring any concerns to the meeting in December.

161/21 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

21/04146/TCONR – 1 Pike House Mews, High Street Reduce T1 Willow to 10 m to maintain health. Cut back T2 Laurel bush. – PC Agreed

162/21 PLANNING DECISION NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE

Decisions

21/03695/FUL 5 Lawrence Road. – Proposed parking bay – Agreed

163/21 ANY OTHER NEW APPLICATIONS SINCE PUBLICATION OF THIS AGENDA

164/21 CORRESPONDENCE

Complaint regarding traffic mirror Hampton Hill opposite queen Matilda
 NALC Newsletter
 NALC Events
 NALC Future Communities
 CDC Covid – Business matters
 Enquiry from Eileen Cox (America) 1650-1750 Map
 NALC Chief Exec Bulletin
 GCC Covid Update
 Parish Online newsletter
 SLCC Branch Update
 Cotswold National Landscape – New Board member
 Cotswold National Landscape - Newsletter
 20 Plenty Group asking to email GCC to request reduction in residential speed limits.
 Clerks Tech Forum 30th November
 Clerks & Councils Practitioners conference 15 – 17 Feb
 Flood Warden launch 22 November – Cirencester, 24th November Moreton in the Marsh
 Road Safety Works shop 15th December. 13.00 – 17.00

Western Power fuel poverty grant opens
NALC Chief Exec Bulletin
GCC Covid Update

165/21 COUNILLORS

- i. Cllr King reported that Gloucestershire was shortlisted for the Fusion project. There are five potential sites. The decision is due in March. Gloucestershire have a very good chance of success.
- ii. Cllr Parsons reported fly tipping of garden waste between Star Farm and the electric station.
- iii. The Clerk will report it.

166/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 7.30pm In the Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Gloucestershire County Council Councillors Report

November 2021

Avening Parish Council

UKHSA lab issues impacting Gloucestershire COVID-19 case rates.

Since samples were redirected to alternative labs, and a proportion of the individuals have been retested, the confirmed case rate in Gloucestershire has increased by 328% to 634.2 per 100,000 persons.

It is likely that the county's case rate will continue to rise steeply in the next few weeks, potentially appearing to be among the highest levels in the UK before settling to a truer position of positive cases once those that have come forward for retesting have received results.

Drop in for a Covid-19 vaccine this November- boosters and vaccinations for 12–15-year-olds and first and second doses.

The public are being urged to act now and protect themselves and their loved ones this winter. There are lots of drop-in clinics coming up, which you can find on the [NHS Covid portal](#).

Anyone who is more than six months from their second dose can drop-in and get their booster, without the need to be registered with one of their local GP practices to attend.

Parents who wish to get their 12–15-year-old children vaccinated outside of a school setting will also be able to take them to those additional drop-in services for a single dose of the Pfizer vaccine and are being urged to take up the offer as soon as possible, following a huge response to the first walk in sessions.

Continue to rapid test to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

About 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms but can still infect others. Rapid testing is available to everyone, even if you do not have Covid symptoms. Rapid testing regularly will help detect cases of the virus that otherwise may not be known about.

You should continue regular testing even if you are vaccinated as there is still a chance you can catch and spread the virus.

Gloucestershire Highways – Green Initiatives, Saving Miles, and Cuts in Carbon Emissions.

The winter gritting service undertakes precautionary salting to the primary road network when icy roads are forecast. The primary road networks cover approx. 28% of Gloucestershire's total road network. Working with our partner organisation, the primary road network has undergone route optimisation for the winter gritting service, reducing the number of gritting lorries from 33 to 29. This has also maximised the efficiency of the routes to adjust and reduce the number of miles driven, there is no change to the length of primary road network being gritted and this is another step in our efforts to cut carbon emissions.

Gloucestershire Highways committed to supporting a greener Gloucestershire.

The county council is working with partners to create a greener Gloucestershire and its teams overseeing the county's roads and pathways have been making great progress to reduce emissions and waste, while increasing biodiversity. Gloucestershire highways and the council contractor Ringway, have made a variety of changes to support climate action, including:

- Three new plug-in electric highway vans which are used to help repair roads across the county.
- To increase biodiversity, highways depots across the county have organised bird boxes, insect boxes and identified areas for wildflowers. Each depot has implemented something small to increase the ecosystems around them.

- Ringway now recycle or reuse 99% of waste generated through operations in the county. They have also increased the amount of plastic being recycled. Most recently, dedicated PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) recycling stations have been introduced at each depot, used PPE is then recycled and used for fuel.

Severn Edge makes shortlist for potential new home of UK's fusion plant.

The government have announced that the Severn Edge nomination could be the location for the UK's prototype fusion plant, which works on the same principles that power our sun. The decision on the selection process could pave the way for the fusion plant along with an associated ecology of R & D facilities, businesses, and training facilities to be created at Oldbury in South Gloucestershire and Berkley in Gloucestershire. The prototype plant could lead to thousands of highly skilled jobs across the region from Cornwall to the West Midlands and Wales. Its far-reaching benefits would not only raise employment and prosperity in disadvantaged areas but also regenerate two former nuclear power sites which could lie dormant for years without this initiative.

More funding available to help communities recover from pandemic.

The second round of funding from Gloucestershire County Council's Build Back Better – Market Towns fund, to help our communities put on events as part of the county's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been made available.

Further £4.8 million for care sector to prevent Covid spread this winter.

The county council will use additional government funding to ensure Gloucestershire care providers have the support they need to keep vulnerable people safe this winter.

Stephen Hirst

16th November 2021