

Avening Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 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. Cllr Forster.

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

151/20 VISITORS: Cllr Kate Gregg – Cherington Parish Council.

152/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - Cllr Slater welcomed Cllr Gegg, who wished to comment on agenda item 5.3.

153/20 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE - None

154/20 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

155/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st October 2020

Minutes

- None. The minutes of the Zoom meeting held 21 October 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

156/20 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

- i. Assets with Community Value – Cllr King apologised, as he had been unable to investigate this issue, but hopes to be able to report back at the next meeting.
- ii. Aston Farm – Update.
Cllr Gegg asked if the council could provide background on the complaint against Aston Farm. Cherington Parish Council felt that it was discourteous to make a formal complaint to the Environmental Agency without notifying them first, as the Council likes to deal with any issues “in house” to avoid unpleasantness in their community. Said she felt this could have been resolved at a nicer level.

Cllr Slater responded by saying “Over the summer Avening suffered from intermittent low flows to the stream, Having contacted the Environmental Agency, who agreed to investigate the problem, it came to a head in mid-late September when the stream stopped almost completely. Again, this was reported on the emergency line as is the procedure.

Prior to this, the Parish Council received multiple complaints of bonfire smoke impacting residents of the village, with some having difficulty breathing – the source was traced back to several huge fires at Aston Farm who’s contractors were burning substantial amounts of wet wood that had been cleared from the banks. Attempts to contact the farm office direct were made but had no reply for two days, and no facility to leave a message. A letter was then sent to the farm expressing concern at the impact their work had had on Avening – this was copied to Cherington PC Clerk as a matter of courtesy as the farm is in Cherington parish. At the time (25th September) it was indicated that Cherington PC had no comments. The work has had a significant impact on the wildlife. There is widespread concern that the dam is not safe. No planning permission has been sought and the legal obligation to get a permit to work on a water course has not been applied for. This is now being investigated by the relevant agencies.

Avening Parish Council followed all the legal procedures and is waiting from a response from the Environmental agency.

157/20 Traffic and Highways

- i. The Highways report was noted.
Chavenage Crossroads to Star Farm is not being resurfaced, but Star farm to the Power station is. This seems a little short sighted as the whole length of road is in dire need. Cllr Hirst will check the schedule.

The stone setts near the Bell have still not been fixed. This will be added to the highways log.
The wall at Avening Court near Nags Head seems to be unstable and deteriorating. Highways will be asked to check the safety.

Cllr Parsons reported that the water that comes down Farmhill underground at the Granary, and through the wall at Church Farm, is now coming out of the back and onto the road. – Cllr Slater said this is on the Highways list, but will not be done this financial year.

158/20 Finance

Finance Report up to 30 September 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 Slater left the meeting whilst his invoice was discussed. Cllr King proposed payments of the invoices, this was seconded by Cllr Mulligan.
- iii. £5,000 has been received from the Avening Football club fund towards the playing field. This is the result of the club winding up their bank accounts and activities. It will be decided what to spend the money on at a later date. Cllr Slater thanked the trustees for their donation.
- iv. The Clerk reported that she had received the Audit Notice of Conclusion which was circulated prior to the meeting. This needs to be advertised for a period decided by the council and has been posted on the website in a prominent position on the website and on notice boards for 6 weeks.
- v. The Parish Council was asked to consider the precept for 2021/22. It was agreed that the priorities of the Parish spending should be the Memorial Hall and the playground. It was suggested that instead of holding a parish event, having a presence at the Church or School fete would be a cost saving but still have an impact. This was agreed.
More information on the level of funding for the memorial hall will be available following a review of priorities, and the meeting between the Parish Council and GCC to discuss the terms of the lease. The percentage increase is calculated in a unique way by District Councils. So, whilst a percentage of the Council Tax for the precept may look high, financially it is a small amount of the total. It was agreed that the Council will explain the calculation and the impact of any increase to the Parishioners when a final precept decision is made.

159/20 Police Report

The Police report was unavailable despite a request to the new superintendent of Gloucestershire police – councillors expressed their disappointment.

160/20 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

- 20/03234/Ful – 11A High Street – Variation on application 17/00216/Ful – The plans have been amended to encase the pump in a stone casing – No objection
- 20/00887/Ful – Brook House, Hampton Hill – Alteration to existing window/door openings and repair to garden wall – No Comment
- 20/00888/LBC – Brook House, Hampton Hill – Alteration to existing window/door openings and repair to garden wall – No Comment
- 20/02653/REM - Tetbury Hill House - Reserved Matters to outline permission 19/00725/Out - No comment
- 20/02368/Ful – Vale Farm, West End – Demolition of existing dwelling to form pool – The Parish Council agreed to the plans, but asked for the redirection of water to be taken into account. Also, to re-iterate the concern regarding the relocation of the bats.
- 20/01140/Ful – Pimbury Park - Change of use and equestrian stable block – No opinion

Tree Works - None

161/20 Planning Decision Notices & Correspondence

Decisions

- 20/02999/FUL – Tallet Barn, Hampton Hill, - Amendment to 20/01251/FUL – Permitted
- 20/03360/TCONR – Sandford House, 56 High St. - Reduce Ash Tree – Permitted
- 19/04221/FUL – Land at Sunground, - Development of affordable Housing - Permitted

162/20 Any other New Applications since publication of this agenda

None

163/20 CORRESPONDENCE

GCC Covid Update
 Covid Shielding Information – CDC
 Business Matters – CDC
 Chief Exec Bulletin – NALC
 Clerks Network - GAPTC
 Covid Update – NALC
 Cotswold tree Wardens – NALC
 Covid testing Locations – GCC
 Covid Info – GAPTC
 Autumn Newsletter – CPRE
 Budget Consultation CDC
 Make a Change Campaign – NALC
 GPFA – Newsletter and AGM notification
 CPRE Christmas Cards & Calander sale.
 GAPTC – Caring for the Cotswolds Grants

164/20 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

As at Wednesday 18th November 2020 the cumulative number of positive cases to date in Gloucestershire is 6441.

In the county for the seven days to the 12th of November there were 968 confirmed cases of COVID which is a rate of 151.9 per 100,000. This compares to 804 cases in the previous week which represents a 20% increase. These rates are lower than the South West.

A six-step plan has been introduced across the county,

The measures are as follows:

- Increased enforcement.
- Welfare Checks.
- Gloucester Public Health
- Covid-19 Gloucestershire Protection Representatives.
- Letters to those in shielding groups to remind and reassure.
- Do it for yourselves. Do it for each other.

Highways improvement programme continues

Gloucestershire Highways have concluded a major part of the resurfacing programme in our part of the Cotswolds, and there are only a small number of minor schemes yet to be completed. Major work has been completed in Avening, Coates, Didmarton, Kemble, Long Newton, Sapperton, Tetbury and Tetbury Upton.

The consultation on the County Council's plans to change the M5 Junction 10 so that road users can join and leave the M5 in all directions runs until 25 December.

Almost £1.2million secured for cycling and walking in Gloucestershire. The County Council has secured a further £864,750 to help cyclists pedestrians and public transport during the ongoing COVID – 19 pandemic. This is in addition to the £321,773 awarded to the county earlier this year from the Emergency Active Travel Fund.

Prevention of the spread of Ash dieback

Work has been going on around Tetbury to fell trees that are suffering from Ash Dieback. This work has caused the closure of a number of roads.

165/20 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Morgan reported that CDC were carrying out a budget consultation. It would be very helpful if people could take the time to submit their views.

It has also been decided to change the planning process. Going forward decisions for submitted plans to go to full committee will be taken by the Chair and Vice chair of the planning committee along with a senior planning officers. This means the District Councillors will not be able to guarantee that problematic plans will get the full planning committee review. Parishes will need to be proactive in raising their concerns promptly on receipt of the applications.

166/20 COUNILLORS

Cllr Slater said he was continuing the process of rebuilding the website to make it WAG compliant. This was nearly complete, with a few pages still to be updated.

Cllr Slater was trying to simplify the website, so it would be easier to take over if he was unavailable.

Cllr Hetterley reported that the Lions had pledged £500 towards the zip wire on request of Shirley Hand in memory of her husband. Cllr Slater had already written to Mrs Hand to thank her, and Cllr Hetterley had thanked the Lions Club.

Cllr King reported that Clare Bebbington has started the Buzz magazine which is full of useful information. It can be found on the Parish Council website and Café Facebook pages.

The weekend of the 5th/6th immediately following lock down, there will be a clearing weekend at the planned site for the Orchard.

167/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 7.30pm Via Zoom

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm