

Avening Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 July 2023 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mulligan Cllr D Bendall Cllr Howell, Cllr J Hetterley, Cllr G Parsons.
Cllr Slater – arrived at 20.17 due to CDC meeting.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Baker (Clerk),

VISITORS: None

94/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No public attending

95/23 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Hamilton – Holiday. Cllr R King - Sickness

96/23 CODE OF CONDUCT

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

None

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None.

97/23 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st June 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held 21st June were signed as a true record.

98/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st June 2023

None

99/23 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

Playing Fields Update

Cllr Hetterley reported that he had met with Trevor Stewart at the park. Mr Stewart checked the swings that were highlighted in the ROSPA report. Mr Stewart confirmed that there was some wear on the bushes, but they were not designed to be dismantled. He advised that they were currently safe to use but should be monitored. The same advice was given for the basket swing which has a plastic bush. Mt Stewart advised that the bushes can be replaced when needed. Mt Stewart advised that the top gate was beyond repair. Cllr Hetterley requested Mr Stewart provides a quote for the replacement gate and installing a new path around the Orchard and under the tree line. Due to the cost Cllr Hetterley will get to additional quotes for the work. The damaged area on the basketball hoop been removed and needs repainting. Cllr Mulligan and Cllr Hetterley will carry this work out.

Cllr Hetterley reported that he has installed plastic spikes at the top of the swings to deter pigeons.

The Clerk contacted Richard Jackson from National Grid, regarding the condition of the land at the playing field where they laid the cables. Mr Jackson has confirmed he has requested that the Civil Contractor lays topsoil and re-seed the area.

Defibrillator

The Clerk confirmed that the new pads had been delivered. The Defibrillator will be put on the agenda for the September meeting when Cllr Hamilton is in attendance.

Phone Box Refurbishment

Cllr Mulligan made enquiries regarding the refurbishment of the phone box. Different methods to remove the paint have been considered. Cllr Mulligan recommends the dry ice method which will be gentler without the need to remove the glass panes. Cllr Mulligan will contact a company for a quote.

100/23 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The Clerk distributed a draft questionnaire about the issues of traffic on Tetbury Hill from Andrew Lelliott . Mr Lelliott has requested that once the residents complete and return the questionnaires

that the Parish Council collate the information. The Parish Council agreed to this request but could only confirm that they would pass the results onto Highways.

Cllr Parsons asked what action Highways would take regarding the wall on her boundary that had been hit by a vehicle. The collision has made the wall very unstable. This is not the first time it had been hit on each occasion nobody has stopped to report it. The Clerk said she had discussed the issue with the Highways Manger, and although he was sympathetic, the highways department could not take responsibility for private property.

Cllr Slater reported that the road from Chavenage crossroads to Starr Farm and Chavenage crossroads to A46 was full of potholes. The Clerk said that Highways are asking for precise locations. Cllr Slater agreed to get What3Word locations.

Cllr Slater reported that the Sunground building works was causing parking issues . Including parking on the pavements and leaving engines running.

102/23 MEMORIAL HALL

Cllr Mulligan reported that he had met with the head of the Athelstan Academy and would report fully at the Trustee meeting next month.

Cllr Bendall reported that the school were unhappy with the crash bar mechanism on the fire door. Cllr Bendall has located a replacement catch at a cost of £120 plus fitting costs. This expenditure was agreed. The apple pressing event has been booked for 21st October.

Cllr Mulligan has sent the hall dimensions to a company quoting for infrared heating system.

The Clerk reported that she had again contacted the energy company to book the installation of smart meters. She has now been informed that because of the type of meters currently installed a specialist engineer will be needed. The energy company has issued reference numbers and will contact the Clerk with an installation date. The Clerk made it clear that the installation will need to be made during school holidays.

Cllr Mulligan has not been able to get a contractor to quote for the repair of the toilet roof. He suggested that the Council proceed with the refurbishment of the toilets and repair the roof when a contractor is available. This was agreed.

103/23 FINANCE

- I. Cllr Hetterley presented the Parish Councils financial position going forward. This showed the Council finances in a healthy position.
- II. Cllr Hetterley stated that following the agreement to fund £200 towards the cost of refreshments on Pig Face Day. The WI are organising this and will invoice the Parish Council directly.
- III. Play Gloucestershire will be holding the event for 2 days during the holidays. 28th July and 1st September. The Education Trust have agreed to fund the event fully. The Clerk will inform the Groundsman and ask he avoids mowing on the days booked.
- IV. The Payments were approved.

104/23 POLICE REPORT

The Clerk read out a report received that day from the Police. The PCSO informed that although he couldn't stop the Parish Council reporting on his figures, he didn't think it was good practice to print the police report in the Villager as it would make people nervous and make the area a target for more crime. The Parish Council disagreed with this view and asked the Clerk to continue to add the figures to her Villager report.

105/23 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT (Attached - Appendix 1)

106/23 COUNTY COUNILLOR REPORT – (Attached – Appendix 2)

107/23 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

23/00352/FUL & Woodstock Lane – Demolition of existing dwelling and associated landscaping works.

The Clerk reported that when this application was originally submitted, the Parish Council were concerned about the size and impact on the area. Only one residents' comment was visible online, and they had expressed concern about the impact of the builders and equipment on the area and not the proposed development. The plans showed that they had reduced the size of the proposed property. Cllr Parsons remarked that there were gate posts on site that had been gifted by Lord Lee and that they should be saved. The Clerk said she would comment on these in her submission to the Planning Department. It was agreed to support the application.

Decision Notices

23/00340/FUL Chippings High Street - Erection of a side extension, addition of cladding, alterations to annex, and erection of oak framed carport – Permitted.

23/00552/FUL 7 West End - Erection of rear single-storey extension, addition of rear dormer, vehicular access, and associated works - Permitted.

23/00662/TPO - East Ruggers Wood Compartment East West End Works as per East Ruggers Wood zone descriptors for management plan – Permitted.

23/00775/FUL11 Tetbury Hill Erection of a two-storey rear extension – Permitted.

23/01297/TCONR - 15 Tetbury Hill Mixed species (G1) - reduce the height of the trees to 10m above ground level to allow more light into the garden – No Objection

23/01766/TCONR-2 Orchard Field - Cypress (T1) - Fell to allow more light into the garden and prevent potential damage to the dry-stone wall next to the trunk - Permitted.

108/23 CORRESPONDENCE

Andrew Lelliot – Tetbury Hill Traffic

Emma Maskell – Enquiring about becoming a Parish Councillor

Public Sector Exec - Carbon Footprint

CPRE – Summer news

CDC Business Matter - Fraud Safeguarding Advice for Councillors

NALC – Demystifying the role of Cllr 26 July 12.00 – 13.15

109/23 COUNCILLORS

Cllr Parsons said in view of the climate emergency, that Parish Council should review its emergency plan.

Cllr Slater said this would be a time-consuming project as it hasn't been updated since the first edition. It was agreed to deal with this in special meetings. Cllr Mulligan asked all Parish Councillors to familiarise themselves with the document and a date for the first review will be arranged at the next meeting.

The Clerk requested that the November meeting date be altered as she had a prior appointment. It was agreed to hold the November meeting on Tuesday 14th November 2023.

110/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Appendix 1

District councillors Report

At CDC: I attended my first Overview and Scrutiny committee which was very interesting as it gave me my first insight into the workings of the council. The committee has responsibility to highlight any issues on reports that are going to the cabinet for their approval. On the finance report I queried why income from car parking was almost £500k lower than forecast, and did it have anything to do with removing the ability to pay by cash? Another report highlighted a new Rural England Prosperity Fund that will open for applications in September/October – this grant scheme will enable local organisations and businesses to request funds for improvements to local facilities such as village halls and energy efficiency improvements. I'll let you know when it is open, but it would be advisable to make plans now. It will need a 20% matched fund from the project.

You may have seen elsewhere that the new 'Changing Places' toilet facility is now open in the Abbey Grounds in Cirencester.

I have already been to several PC meetings this month, and it's interesting that there are common themes in the villages – mostly around speeding and parking. It's a very difficult subject to resolve but I have been able to recommend actions to work with GCC Highways to get data before deciding on a course of action. It is also apparent that attracting new councillors is difficult, with several parishes short of volunteers. I have been reading that Link, the organisation that runs the UK cash machine network is opening shared hubs to provide a banking service in towns where all banks have left. The idea is that individual banks have their own staff on duty one day per week, but general banking can be carried out every day. I have made early enquiries if such a hub could be opened in Tetbury.

Avening & Cherington:

After several chases, Highways have agreed to look at the entire lane from Cherington to the Culkerton junction and repair multiple dangerous potholes.

The build at Sunground continues to cause issues by ignoring the traffic management plan – I am working with Enforcement to resolve this.

Guided walk:

The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens will be hosting several local walks: on Friday, 11th August 2023 – Start: 10:00 am Sapperton: Difficulty: MODERATE Duration: 3 HOURS Distance: 5.5 MILES. Start point: Sapperton Village, by the telephone box near the church. GL7 6LG. A circular walk in and out (and up and down) the Frome valley, initially towards Edgeworth and its polo grounds, then through the nature reserves of Daneway Banks and Siccaridge Wood.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council,

Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening

Appendix 2

County Councillors Report

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FOR JULY 2023

HIGH NUMBER OF COVID VACCINES DELIVERED AT CHELTENHAM EAST FIRE STATION

A staggering 327,822 Covid vaccines were given at Cheltenham East Fire Station, helping the county to be top in England for the total number of vaccinations delivered – more than 1.8 million.

To recognise the great achievement, Sarah Gallagher, Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Gloucestershire Vaccine Programme Clinical Lead, was invited to a reception at 10 Downing Street on Tuesday 4 July.

Sarah Gallagher said: *“Our success is testament to our incredible teams who worked tirelessly for more than two years to deliver more than 1,800,000 vaccines to our population. It was a truly collaborative effort, and we couldn’t have done it without the support of our volunteers and partners in the community sector, in particular Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service who not only let us use their stations but also helped us set up each and every clinic. We are extremely thankful to them all.”*

Cllr Dave Norman, cabinet member with responsibility for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, said: *“The strong partnership working between the NHS and Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service played a key role in delivering this incredible number of vaccinations, not least at Cheltenham East Community Fire Station. This has undoubtedly saved many lives in Gloucestershire, earning deserved recognition from Downing Street, and I would like to thank everyone involved in the campaign for their efforts.”*

RESETTLING REFUGEES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Refugee Week took place 19 – 25 June, however for public and voluntary sector partners every week is for supporting and celebrating refugees and asylum seekers.

Currently, Gloucestershire is committed to resettling 35 Afghan families under the government’s Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), with 31 families currently resettled in the county. This means adults can get their lives back on track, while their children can flourish in welcoming and supportive local schools. There are also people being offered a safe place to live under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Gloucestershire has welcomed nearly 1500 Ukrainian guests, including more than 300 school-aged children. While some have chosen to move on or go back to Ukraine, others have stayed and settled in the county. Currently there are 356 households hosting Ukrainian guests in Gloucestershire; opening their family homes to welcome those displaced by war.

In addition to those from Ukraine and Afghanistan, a further 89 families (364 people) from Syria have so far been supported to resettle in the county, under the Gloucestershire Refugee Resettlement Programme (GRRP).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE LIBRARIES CHALLENGE

Our brand-new library challenge launches on the Saturday 15th July. It’s free to take part and suitable for children aged 3-12 years. There are lots of different tasks you can complete and get free rewards as you go!

To sign up for The Library Challenge, visit your local library from Saturday 15th July or at any point during the summer and speak to a friendly member of the team.

This year’s challenge is themed music and there will be plenty of tuneful fun and excitement to be had, with a whole host of free events happening across the county. They will include interactive theatre performances from the Everyman, instrument crafts and musical workshops highlighting a range of different musical genres.

Booking is required to guarantee your space.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE IS RAISING AWARENESS OF THE TRUE COST OF ALCOHOL

Gloucestershire County Council is one of over 5000 organisations across the UK encouraging people to pause and think about their alcohol consumption.

The theme for this year’s Alcohol Awareness Week which took place between 3rd - 9th July, is ‘the true cost of alcohol’. **Charity Alcohol Change UK** states the total social cost of alcohol to society is estimated to be at least £21 billion each year. That’s not including the tens of thousands of pounds individuals spend on average, on alcohol over the course of a lifetime.

However, personal costs are much starker with alcohol death rates increasing to the highest rate since records began, and millions more people suffering from worsened mental and physical health every day because of harmful drinking.

In support of this year's national **Alcohol Awareness campaign**, Gloucestershire County Council is encouraging people to start talking about how much alcohol costs us in the form of health problems, financial worries, relationship breakdown and family difficulties.

Siobhan Farmer, director of public health for Gloucestershire County Council, said: *“Alcohol is a topic of both professional and personal significance to me, and it will be the focus of my Annual Report later this year. Of course, it's easy to get the next round in, stay 'for one' or have another glass of wine whilst cooking your tea - but that doesn't mean we can't set realistic targets and some new boundaries with alcohol. The boost to our overall health and well-being speaks for itself. By taking control of our drinking, we can save money, improve our health, have more energy, improve our memory, have better sleep, reduce anxiety, improve our mood, and have better relationships.”*

Help and support:

The Healthy Lifestyles Service has a free course to help you cut down or stop drinking completely. Call 0800 122 3788 for free to start your journey or find out more online at hlsglos.org/programmes/drink-less/

Change Grow Live is Gloucestershire's alcohol recovery service, supporting those with more complex addiction issues to change their relationship with alcohol and move on with their lives. They provide virtual and in person peer support and group sessions to help with unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Find out about support on offer online at www.changegrowlive.org/advice-info/alcohol-drugs/alcohol-advice-stopping-drinking-reducing

Gloucestershire's online **Support Hub** has lots of information on where to find help with finances - www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/support-hub

Dr Richard Piper, Chief Executive of Alcohol Change UK, said: *“The average UK adult spends a huge amount of money on alcohol in a lifetime. We might expect that we would experience some significant benefits as a result.*

“But the truth is that, although alcohol can bring us some short-term pleasure, it can also encourage us to ‘overdo it’, putting our health, relationships, and safety at risk. This can be detrimental to our own physical and mental health and to that of those around us, as well as to our wallets.

“A great way to start is by recording what you drink for a few weeks to help you understand your drinking pattern, then setting yourself some small achievable goals to get it back under control. Use the free app [Try Dry](#) to help you keep track and set personalised goals to help you cut down.”

Stats for Gloucestershire:

In 2021, 93 people died from alcoholic liver disease, while 276 people died from alcohol-related incidents. 3560 people were admitted to hospital in Gloucestershire for alcohol specific conditions, and 143 people were admitted for alcohol poisoning alone. Source - [Local Alcohol Profiles for England - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://www.localalcoholprofiles.org/) Data for upper-tier local authorities.

