

Avening Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mulligan Cllr D Bendall Cllr Howell, Cllr J Hetterley, Cllr G Parsons.
Cllr Slater. Cllr Hamilton.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Baker (Clerk),

VISITORS: None

77/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No public attending

78/23 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr R King,

79/23 CODE OF CONDUCT

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr Slater and Cllr Mulligan re Agenda Item 9.2 – Approve Bills for Payment.

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None.

80/23 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17th May 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held 17th May were signed as a true record.

81/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17th May 2023

None

82/23 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

Playing Fields Update

Cllr Hetterley distributed a list of repairs and maintenance required following the Rospa report. It was agreed to ask Trevor Stewart to carry out the work required.

Defibrillator

Cllr Hamilton reported that the defibrillator needed to have pads replaced and that the bag that accompanies the machine was not attached risking people taking the equipment without the necessary accessories. It was agreed that Cllr Hamilton speak to Community Heartbeat to order the necessary equipment. It was also noted that the lighting within the phone box where the defibrillator was sited was not working, leaving it difficult to see the equipment. The phone box was in a very poor condition. Cllr Slater said he had checked the electricity supply and it appears that the lighting fuse may have tripped. He would investigate further.

It was agreed to add the refurbishment of the phone box on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was also agreed that it may be advantageous to re-site the Defibrillator. This will also be on the agenda.

83/23 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Andrew Lelliott stating that he intends to issue a questionnaire to his neighbours regarding the issues of traffic on Tetbury Hill. He has asked for input from the Parish Council Prior to distribution. The Council agreed that although they share Mr Lelliotts concerns, they cannot think of an affordable way to solve the issue. The Clerk stated that she had a meeting booked with the Highways manager and would discuss the issue with him.

The Clerk was asked to report Avening House Lodge – Construction equipment over Highways Boundary.

VAR sign on Tetbury Hill not visible due to overgrown vegetation.

The footpath to Nailsworth is overgrown and causing people to walk in the road.

Cllr Parsons requested the Clerk seek advice from Highways regarding how to protect her boundary wall following damage caused by vehicles.

Cllr Mulligan enquired what had happened to the experimental road repair team.

Brambles are overgrowing Ash Path. These are emanating from the boundary of Sandford House.

Cllr Mulligan will contact the owner of Sanford House to request he cuts back the brambles.

84/23 MEMORIAL HALL

Cllr Mulligan reported that the interim lease had been received and the plan going forward is to meet with the CEO of the Athelstan Trust to agree the details of the heads of terms for the new lease. Once this has been achieved it will then be presented to the relevant committees for formal agreement.

Cllr Hetterley will continue to invoice under the current terms then any increased in the lease will be backdated to 1st April 2023.

Cllr Slater has received a quote for a hearing loop. £950 +VAT. It was suggested that the WI be contacted to ascertain if their members would benefit as many new hearing aids do not have a loop connection.

The Clerk confirmed she is still trying to organise the installation of the smart meters. The energy company maintain that the installation is fully booked. The Clerk will pursue this.

Cllr Bendall reported that he had received a report that the boiler in the commercial kitchen was leaking. Cllr Bendall informed the school that it was GCC responsibility to maintain.

Cllr Hetterley reported that he has been asked to report back to GCC on the progress of the Build Back Better grant received. He has informed GCC that the grant will go toward the internal decoration of the toilets. Cllr Mulligan suggested that this was carried out this summer before the roof repairs. This was agreed.

Cllr Hetterley also applied to ACRE for the Jubilee village hall fund grant towards the roof repair. ACRE has asked for confirmation that if the roof tiles were not able to be sold that the Parish Council will underwrite the balance of the costs. As the Council are not currently able to proceed, it was agreed to ask ACRE to defer the application to a later round of funding.

85/23 FINANCE

- I. Cllr Hetterley presented the Parish Councils financial position going forward. The Council has approx. £30k in reserves. There are still payments of grants outstanding. The Clerk is waiting to be given bank details for payment.
- II. The Payments were approved.

85/23 Annual Governance Statement

- i. The Annual Governance Statement was considered.
- ii. The Annual Governance Statement was approved.

86/23 Annual Accounting Statement

- i. The Annual Accounting Statement was considered.
- ii. The Annual Accounting Statement was approved.

87/23 POLICE REPORT

Unavailable.

88/23 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT (Attached - Appendix 1)

89/23 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT - Unavailable

90/23 PLANNING AND TREE WORKSNew Planning Applications

23/01330/FUL Willow House 21 Tetbury Hill Avening Erection of single storey rear extension and associated works- The Parish Council agreed that there is no planning legislation to warrant an objection. Any issues regarding the proximity to neighbours, blocking light etc.. will be dealt with by the planning officer but the Parish Council are concerned that the impact of the building works will be detrimental to the neighbours. The Parish Council will request if the planning officer has a mind to approve, they will enforce a traffic management plan and restrict builders hours.

23/01857/TPO The East Wing Avening House Beech tree, T1 on sketch plan, 8 metres from the house. Raise the crown of the beech tree from 7.5 m to 10.5 m above ground level by trimming twigs and small branches no larger than 50 mm diameter. This is to allow more light in the garden below. - Support

Decision Notices

23/01235/TCONR_Court Farm Star Lane T1 Ash - Symptomatic to ash die back, fell to ground level and replant with mixed species hedging. (same hedging adjacent to tree) - 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 – No Objection

23/01297/TCONR15 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

91/23 CORRESPONDENCE

Consultation Map modification. 3rd August deadline?

Public Sector Exec - The changing landscape of the public sector guide.

Public Exec – Net Zero – 12 July

Glos Wildlife Trust - Beaver Donation

CDC Business Matter - Cllr Dale – Economy and Council Transformation

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

GLOSPA - Feedback for the play rangers

Cazza Howe, Thanks you for the support 12 Star Lane development.

GRCC – Centenary AGM 20th July

Glos Climate – Water your trees March – Sept

Andrew Lelliot – Tetbury Hill Traffic

92/23 COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mulligan reported that he has been in discussion with the Badminton Association regarding the painting of court lines in the hall.

Brandhouse Farm footpath is now complete and passable.

Cllr Mulligan expressed his concern as to the number of notices put up around the village using staples, then not removed. He has requested that all notice be removed within 2 days following the event and drawing pins used instead of staples. This will be put on the website and in the newsletter.

It was agreed that there would be no Parish Council meeting in August. Any planning applications will be dealt with via email.

93/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 July 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Appendix 1

District councillors Report

Induction and Planning: Over the last few weeks I have been finishing my induction programme, with the planning session perhaps being the most important, as that is where I'll most likely be called upon by residents (I have already been called upon a couple of times to help). It's important to note that I must be completely neutral in these matters, and not pre-determine my decision until all the evidence is presented. I am allowed to discuss matters of fact with the planning officer, and can either agree with their decision or refer the application to the planning committee, but only where there are clear planning reasons to do so. Parish councils have an important role in this process, and must inform me as soon as possible where they think an application should/should not be agreed, together with the planning justification.

This process is illustrated by the recent decision by the CDC planning committee to refuse an application for a development in Tetbury that included a new doctor's surgery. This controversial application has been the subject of a great deal of debate on social media but was ultimately decided purely on its planning merits.

The first full council meeting of the new term at CDC will take place on 19th July. In the meantime, I was invited to join the committee looking at the benefits and issues of second homes and holiday rentals (E.g. AirB&B) in the Cotswolds, with the aim of forming clear policies and guidelines for renters and owners.

Avening

Planning safety breach: In Avening I have had to refer the Sunground developers to Planning Enforcement as they were clearly in breach of the site management agreement, with multiple large trucks manoeuvring without two banksmen as required, and also receiving deliveries during school/Playgroup entry/exit times. Please let me know if you see any further safety breaches.

Stream: I had an update from the Environment Agency, who have confirmed that a lizzen (a leak in the stream bed or bank) in the stretch through Avening Court has been sealed, so there will be appreciably less loss of water through the summer. They are also aware of a similar issue at the bottom of Westend by Owl Cottage. I believe there are one or two further 'leaks' in the system so I will be asking our local experts for more information on these. The situation Aston Farm is ongoing, and subject to flow measurements.

Roads: On the roads I have reported multiple issues to Highways, including the traffic lights at Longford's Mill; the broken VAS sign entering Avening; multiple potholes across Avening and Cherington; the impassable footpath on the Nailsworth road; and the dangerous Ash Tree at the top of Tetbury Hill - hopefully these issues will be fixed soon.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council,

Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening