

Avening Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Thursday 8 May 2019 7.30 pm

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PRESENT: Cllr A Slater, Cllr D Bendall, Cllr G Parsons, Cllr J Hetterley, Cllr R King, Cllr P Mulligan,
Cllr C Howells, Cllr S Hamilton, Cllr C Forster. S. Baker (Clerk)

Members of the Public in Attendance: Rev'd Gerald South & Jennie South.

1. Chairman's Introduction

Cllr Slater reported that it has been a difficult year, but the Parish coped well with the Covid crisis thanks to the wider team, our thanks go out to Clare Bebbington, Rev'd Gerald and Jennie South and the Café team.

There were some positives to be taken from the year:

A new group are looking after the playing fields. New trees have been planted, and we are almost there with the zip wire.

The lack of projects has enabled the PC to stabilise its finances and increase our reserves.

There are still some ongoing issues, including the environmental problems caused by the new pond at Aston Down, and ongoing negotiations with GCC regarding an appropriate financial settlement for the hall.

Looking forward the hall is in a good position financially thanks to government Covid grants.

The new committee are keen to progress the replacement of the roof.

There is cash to invest in the playing field thanks in part to the donation received from the old football ground charity.

I am sure the new Chairman will be able to inject pace and new ideas into the Parish Council.

2. Election of Chair

Cllr Slater resigned as Chairman. Cllr Slater proposed Cllr Mulligan, this was seconded by Cllr Bendall and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Mulligan was therefore re-elected as Chair.

Cllr Slater will continue to Chair this meeting as the handover and acceptance of office cannot be signed until the face-to-face meeting next month.

3. Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Slater proposed Cllr Bendall as Vice-Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Mulligan and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Bendall was therefore re-elected as Vice-Chair.

4. Financial Summary – Cllr Hetterley (On behalf of the Finance Committee)

Due to COVID19 restrictions and the resignation of our project manager, we spent less on community events and projects and were able to rebuild Reserves in line with local government guidance. Our opening balance for the year was £6,061 and closing balance £27,714. This sum included £15,240 received from grants and donations for specific purposes such as zip wire and hall roof ("ring fenced" in the accounts). It also included project commitments which have rolled over into 2021/22 leaving a working end year balance of around £8,500.

Forthcoming Financial Year 2021/22

Our Precept was increased this year from £28,500 to £33,500 to provide an extra £5,000 towards the cost of essential repairs and refurbishment of the Memorial Hall. In addition to this work, our budget covers normal maintenance and running costs as well as provision for parish grants and further

improvements to the playing field. It is planned to complete the playpark zip wire project this year at a cost of around £10,300 which is mainly met from local donations and grants.

5. Acceptance of Office & Pecuniary Interest

The acceptance of office will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

6. Review of Policies – Copies of the policies were distributed prior to the meeting.

i. **Standing Orders** – These were agreed.

ii. **Financial Regulations** – These were agreed.

iii. **Review of Council Asset Register** – This was agreed.

7. Public Questions

Rev'd South expressed his thanks to the Council for all their work and particularly thanked Cllr Slater for the time and commitment he has put into the role of Chairman for many years.

8. Any Other Questions

The meeting closed at 7.30pm