

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 7.45PM

The following Councillors were in attendance: Cllr J Parsons (Vice Chairman, acting chairman for meeting), Cllr Mrs G Parsons, Cllr T Slater, Cllr Ms C Mitchell, Cllr J Catterall, Cllr C Redpath

It was **RESOLVED** to vary the agenda to move item 4 to item 1 on the agenda

51/06 ATTENDANCE BY RURAL BEAT OFFICER AND PCSO'S

PC Palfrey, PCSO's Ron Smith and Fran Heathcote (South Cotswolds Safer Communities Team) attended. The police are moving to a more neighbourhood like policing structure. They covered 245 square miles with a team of 1 sergeant, 3 PCs, and 6 PCSOs. The team's role is more of a stand off approach (they would not be attending burglaries/emergencies generally) but are moving towards a more proactive form of policing, rather than reactive. They are forming links between communities and the police, CDC, parish councils etc and the stream of information they obtain helps them solve crime and be more proactive about stopping it in the first place. They need the public involvement in order to be successful.

In Avening there have been very few instances of crime (back to May 06) but there has been some antisocial behaviour. Further stories came to light and the officers encouraged the council/public to report these instances on the non-emergency line (0845 090 1234) so that information could be built up about the issues the village is facing and it could affect the way resources are deployed in the future.

The emergency 999 number should be used when a crime is in progress or there is a life threatening situation. The 0845 number should be used for other things such as antisocial behaviour.

The council asked if PCSO Ron Smith might attend meetings approximately once a quarter, with PC Palfrey attending if the need arose in order to maintain links and discuss issues in the village. It was also noted that they can attend village events using the mobile police station for postcoding, crime prevention etc. PCSO Ron Smith would contribute to a piece for the next parish newsletter in the spring.

Clare Steele from APFA asked the police view on youth shelters as APFA was considering putting one on the playing fields. The police felt that youths often only wanted somewhere to go and meet their friends and that they generally worked. South Cerney PC run a youth council which has encouraged youths having mentors in their own age group and some ownership of what happens in the village.

The Chairman thanked the police for attending.

It was **RESOLVED** to vary the agenda to move item 5 to item 2.

52/06 AVENING PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Clare Steele attended on behalf of APFA. They had had their AGM and appointed a committee. She brought along financial statements for the year ahead and a business plan of what APFA intended to do. Their priorities were to comply with the Rospa inspection, they have repaired the skate ramp and planned to install a youth shelter. APFA plan to discuss this with the youth club. The hedge was discussed as Rospa noted that it should be attended to. The Council are planning to organise a community hedge laying event with the Royal Agricultural College Rural Skills Centre so the Council would continue with this.

Litter bins for the playing fields were discussed. There was some discussion of grass cutting on the site (around the skatepark area). The Chairman asked APFA to produce a map with what needed doing and the council would look into the costs with the contractor.

It was **RESOLVED** to give APFA the 2006/07 grant in the sum of £2300.

53/06 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Clare Steele, Paul Glover (both APFA), Karen Kay – all had asked their questions at 51 and 52 above.

54/06 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 13th JULY 2006

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 13th July 2006 were agreed and signed.

55/06 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr J Green (business), Cllr J Faulkner (business)

55.1/06 ABSENCE OF CLLR J GREEN FOR 6 MONTHS FROM JUNE 2006 TO NOVEMBER 2006

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the absence of Cllr J Green from Parish Council meetings for a period of 6 months from June 2006 to November 2006 because of work commitments (namely work related travel abroad). It was suggested that Cllr Green could still retain links with the parish council by attending community events/meetings on behalf of the council when he could during that time.

55.2/06 ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF CLLR J GREEN AS CHAIRMAN

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the resignation of Cllr J Green as Chairman of the parish council. Cllr J Green would still remain as a councillor.

The matter of Councillor attendances and the 6 month rule was raised and discussed generally. The matter of Cllr Ms C Mitchell's attendance in 2005 was also raised. The District Council had advised that the matter should be brought to Cllr Ms C Mitchell's attention and she was advised that she should provide evidence to show what parish council duties she had carried out in the time period 9th March 2005 to 9th September 2005. Without such evidence the District Council had advised that a casual vacancy had arisen.

56/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

57/06 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES- none

58/06 CASUAL VACANCY

Karen Kay attended the meeting to meet the council as she was interested in becoming a councillor. Ms Kay introduced herself and the role of councillor was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Ms Kay as a councillor at the October meeting.

59/06 PLANNING

59.1/06 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Planning Decisions as discussed at the Planning Meeting held on Thursday, 14th September 2006 at 7.00 p.m and recorded in the Minutes.

60/06 FINANCE

60.1/06 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The clerk advised that the current balance at bank was £7,105 with £15,000 now in the deposit account with projected expenditure and year end balance as set out on the monthly budget sheet.

60.2/06 Bills for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following bills for payment :

▪ Clerk's Salary less Income Tax plus Expenses	£339.04
▪ Income Tax on Clerk's salary	£92.40
▪ HGM Limited	£160
▪ Moore Stephens (audit fee)	£141.00
▪ Avening Playing Fields Association annual grant 06/07	£2300.00
▪ Tetbury Town Council – copying	£14.00

60.3/06 Confirmation of cheque payments made since last agenda

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the following cheque payments made since last agenda

▪ HGM Ltd	£160
▪ Clerk's Salary	£315.67
▪ Income Tax on Clerk's Salary	£85.80
▪ CPRE renewal	£26
▪ Avening Playgroup Grant	£400

60.4/06 Parish Council Accounts for the year 2005/06

The Clerk advised that the accounts for the year ended 2006 had now been audited and no matters were raised by the auditors.

60.5/06 Further cheque signatories

It was **RESOLVED** to add Cllr J Catterall as a cheque signatory as he is now co-opted onto the finance committee.

60.6/06 To approve expenditure for the Avening Walks Brochure

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure for the copying of the Avening Walks brochure in the sum of £14. The matter of the costs of the new brochure was deferred.

60.7/06 To approve expenditure for the hedge laying project at Rectory Lane

It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure in the sum of £200 to pay for the materials for laying the hedge at Rectory Lane, adjoining the playing fields. (see 64.1/06 below)

Action: Cllr Ms C Mitchell would ask some of the local young people to get involved.

Action: Clerk to see if Gloucestershire County Council would contribute to the hedge laying event as the hedge is their responsibility and under the terms of the Charter the County would make a contribution where Parishes take on County work.

Action: Clerk to advertise the event in the Villager

Cllr Ms C Mitchell left the meeting at 9.30pm

60.8/06 Financial Projections and Budget Proposals

The Finance Committee needed to know what councillors felt should be included in the budget discussions. The Clerk advised that Cllr J Green would be retiring from running the village hall at the end of the year. No volunteers had come forward to take over the committee and so it would fall to the Parish Council to make arrangements.

Action: The Clerk was putting together some financial suggestions to be presented at the finance committee budget meeting re the village hall and other projects

60.9/06 Date for Finance Committee Budget Meeting

Thursday 5th October at 7.30pm was set for the first finance committee budget meeting

60.10/06 Website

This matter was deferred to the Finance Committee meeting

61/06 TRAFFIC IN AVENING

61.1/06 Road features – Update from Cllr T Slater

Cllr T Slater had compiled a list of items that needed attention from the County. He would circulate these and contact Highways in Cirencester.

62/06 BLUE SKY

62.1/06 Corporate Branding of Parish Council

It was agreed to request some draft designs

Action: Cllr T Slater would action

62.2/06 Parish Plan

The council had invited Melanie Tarrant from GRCC to attend October's meeting to give advice to get the parish plan back on track.

63/06 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

63.1/06 Siting of Restored Wooden Avening Sign

The project was in hand – Cllrs J Catterall and T Slater.

63.2/06 Autumn Village Clean Up

It was **RESOLVED** to carry out a further village clean up. The event will run on Saturday 4th November 2006 from 10am-12 noon

Action: Clerk to advertise event in the Villager

64/06 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

64.1/06 Hedge Laying Project in Partnership with Rural Skills Centre, Royal Agricultural College

See above 60.7/06

65/06 CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

- Gloucestershire Highways – Temporary Road Closure MAYS LANE AVENING extension 14th August – 24th September 2006 - *noted*
- GAPTC Training schedule for Autumn - *noted*
- The Gambling Act 2005 Consultation on Draft Statement of Principles (10th November 2006) - *noted*
- Glos County Charter Test Group meeting (27th Sept 2006) - *noted*
- Tree Warden Training (CDC) Wed 11th Oct, 7.30-9pm – Obtaining Project Funding for Tree Schemes) - *noted*
- Invite Cotswold Conservative Association (Friday 6th October 11am-4pm) Waste and Energy – *noted but no-one was available to attend*

66/06 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

66.1/06 Cllr J Parsons – Gloucestershire Health Consultation

Cllr J Parsons indicated there was nothing further to report back at this stage. He would report back on the new PCT at the next meeting – following the upcoming meeting on 22nd September 2006.

The date of the next Avening Parish Council will be on
Thursday, 12th October 2006 at 7.45 p.m.
in Avening Memorial Hall

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.20pm