

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 13th DECEMBER 2007 AT 7.30PM

The following Councillors were in attendance: Cllr J Parsons (Chairman), Cllr Mrs G Parsons, Cllr T Slater, Cllr M Williamson, Cllr Mrs C Mitchell, Cllr Mrs E Oliver, Cllr Mrs A Beszant

Also in attendance: Deborah Cook (Clerk)

74/07 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

Cllr Jim Parsons expressed the Parish Council's condolences to Cllr T Slater and his family following the recent passing away of Cllr Slater's mother, Mrs K Slater.

75/07 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Catterall (business), Cllr C Redpath (personal)

76/07 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th November 2007.

77/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Parsons declared an interest in all planning matters because of his position as District Councillor sitting on the planning committee at CDC.

Cllr Mrs G Parsons declared an interest in Village Hall matters. Cllr Mrs A Beszant did not declare an interest as she was not present during the discussion.

Cllr T Slater declared an interest in The Lair, Pound Hill planning application (07/03027/FUL).

Cllr Mrs G Parsons declared an interest in Orchard House, 21 West End planning application (07/03026/FUL)

78/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None other than those on the agenda

It was **RESOLVED** to vary the agenda to deal with agenda point 7.4

79/07 Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath NAV15 at Glebe House Cottage, Avening

Cllrs J Parsons and Mrs G Parsons met with Bob Hawking, Public Path Orders Officer from Gloucestershire County Council at the site. The tree works were discussed. Members were not happy with the proposals for the Ash tree and culvert, they did not want to see the tree damaged. There were no objections to the new pathway. Members were concerned in case the historic kissing gate was removed and replaced with a normal gate. Members wanted to request a gate to the side of the kissing gate, rather than replacement.

It was **RESOLVED** to vary the agenda to deal with agenda point 6

80/07 Village Hall

Cllr Mrs G Parsons reported that the Hall had been subject to a number of break-ins. The latest had occurred just prior to the meeting. All break-ins had been reported to the police and a security light had been installed at the side door. It was noted that the management committee were covering costs of £35 each time for the broken windows (as it was under the insurance excess).

The fire escape was initially declared unsafe from the surveyors report, making the Reading Room out of bounds. It was to be removed during the school holidays.

It was **RESOLVED** to vary the agenda to deal with agenda point 9.3

80.1/07 To consider and approve increased payment of rent to Village Hall for Youth Club

Cllr G Parsons advised that the rent would not be going up for the youth club's use of the hall for the year ending December 2007. There would be no increase as the 13-15 year olds had not attended, the increase would have been for extra lighting and heating. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of rent in the sum of £570 once an invoice had been received.

80.2/07 To approve expenditure of £12 for HM Land Registry to investigate boundary ownership

This was not considered necessary as the question had been resolved.

80.3/07 To approve expenditure to include a separate page on the PC website for the Village Hall

This matter was deferred until April 2008

80.4/07 To consider grant request from Village Hall Committee

Cllr Mrs G Parsons reported that they had found a surveyor to carry out a survey of the hall. It was proposed he would meet with planners, draw up a proper plan of the hall, advise on heating and insulation, provide costings and point them in the direction of available funding. Surveyor's costs would be £1,000 plus VAT and expenses of approx £50.

It was suggested that the management committee could apply to the CDC community fund for money towards the costs and then the parish council could provide some match funding. The Chairman stated that if the "CDC Route" is explored then work may not be started until final approval is given.

Cllr Mrs E Oliver suggested that Avening School had a small surplus that may be put to the funding.

Cllr Mrs E Oliver left the meeting at 8.15pm

81/07 PLANNING

81.1/07 New Planning Applications

07/03215/FUL CT7989/B **61 High Street** – retrospective application for the retention of dormer windows to front elevation. Members objected as the property is in the conservation area and is subject to an article 4(2) direction and as such Members would like to see the development kept in character with the surrounding area. The two windows concerned are set too high in the roof for a typical Cotswold cottage of this style. Members would like the windows moved downwards to be in keeping with a property of that style.

Cllr Mrs A Beszant joined the meeting at 8.25pm

81.2/07 To ratify planning decisions made since last meeting

07/03027/FUL **The Lair Pound Hill Avening** -Full Application for Alteration of roof structure to include glazing and solar panels – no comment was made

07/03026/FUL **Orchard House, 21 West End**
Extension to roof and glazed dormer window with inset balcony – Members commented that the proposed roof window would be completely out of keeping in the valley. The proposed roof window (seen on the south west elevation) would stand out and not be in keeping with the character of the area.

07/03140/LBC CT6881/D **45 Nags Head Lane GL8 8NZ** – removal of existing outbuilding and rebuilding of dilapidated stone wall – Members had no objection

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify planning decisions made since last meeting

81.3/07 Decision Notices Received

07/02355/FUL CT1072/D **14 Star Lane** – replace flat pitched asbestos roof with pitched tile roof and render concrete block wall to single storey extension – CDC Decision Notice 6th November 2007 permits

07/02607/FUL CT2457/Z **Minchinhampton Golf Club**- erection of extension to driving range to provide a teaching room for individual instruction – CDC Decision Notice 30th November 2007 permits

81.4/07 Tree Works

- **Glebe House Cottage, 5 New Inn Lane** – a) May – remove, b) Sycamore – prune, c) Ash – remove limb on south side/prune d) Apple – remove. E and f) Silver Birch – remove g) Crab Apple - remove. AMEND TO B Sycamore – prune back branches overhanging boundary to height of 3m, C Ash – remove limb to south side of tree branching at approx 2.5m from bole for preventative maintenance and enhanced rural aspect from garden C Ash – remove the word pruning – 07/02912/TRECON ref CT.CONTR 2432 – response date – 28th November 2007

- **Longfords Mill/Iron Mills Minchinhampton** – (as per plan) 7) Alder – fell, 22) Horse Chestnut – pollard by half lateral spread 30) Yew – remove half lateral spread 37) Ash – remove 73) White Willow – remove split stem 121) Field Maple – remove all of bottom limb 07/03301/TRECON CT.CONTR 2454 – response date 12th December 2007
- **Longfords Mill/Iron Mills Minchinhampton** – in TPO 271 W1 and numbered on map 139,144,148,149) Ash – fell, 156) Ash – remove two lower limbs, 113) Beech – fell 07/03300/TPO TPO 271/1 – response date 12th December 2007

81.5/07 Tree Works Decisions

- **Glebe House Cottage, 5 New Inn Lane** – a) May – remove, b) Sycamore – prune, c) Ash – remove limb on south side/prune d) Apple – remove. E and f) Silver Birch – remove g) Crab Apple – remove. AMEND TO B Sycamore – prune back branches overhanging boundary to height of 3m, C Ash – remove limb to south side of tree branching at approx 2.5m from bole for preventative maintenance and enhanced rural aspect from garden C Ash – remove the word pruning – FURTHER AMENDMENT – withdraw all works to proposed ash tree ref “c” on application 07/02912/TRECON ref CT.CONTR 2432 – CDC Decision Notice dated 30th November 2007 - no objections

81.6/07 CDC Planning Consultation

The Clerk reported that CDC had not been helpful over the introduction of the new electronic planning system particularly the practical problems faced by parish councils. All the parish councils who objected had joined forces to approach CDC and a letter had been written to them. The new system was being introduced in January – it was a national initiative set by the government. There was now no objection to the system being introduced, but difficulties remained on the practicalities for parish council’s introducing the system. The parish council does not have internet access at the village hall, nor a laptop so has no way of accessing plans at meetings unless they printed applications themselves on A4, which would not be appropriate for large plans. There are other problems of comparing plans, seeing a whole plan (not possible on a computer screen) etc. It was noted that the system was socially exclusive as those without access to computers (most likely older people or those on low incomes) would not be able to see the plans anymore unless they visited CDC in Cirencester. The parish council had always tried to make their paper copy available to residents by placing it in the post office. Any applications would now have to be printed by the parish council and plans would only be available in A4. Councillor’s expressed their objections to the new system.

82/07 Report back from GAPTC County Committee

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell had been co-opted onto the GAPTC county committee. At the last meeting the planning consultation was discussed and the committee were worried about the introduction of the new scheme.

83/07 FINANCE

83.1/07 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The current balance at bank was £3597.18 with £18,518.06 now in the deposit account with projected expenditure and year end balance as set out on the monthly budget sheet.

83.2/07 Bills for Payment

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

▪ Clerk’s Salary less NI/Tax plus Expenses	£560.51
▪ SLCC (reissue cheque)	£18.00
▪ Fenweb Ltd (website)	£806.64

83.3/07 Grasscutting

83.3.1/07 To agree areas for cutting from April 2008 and to approve seeking estimates/quotations from contractors for new contract from April 2008.

The Clerk would pull together all of the suggested areas for grasscutting on one plan. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Clerk seeking new estimates/quotations from contractors for the new grasscutting contract to take effect from April 2008.

83.3.2/07 To also consider response from Gloucestershire County Council of 7th November 2007 re taking over maintenance of some grassed areas/verges

The County Council seemed to have misunderstood the parish council’s letter. One area on the B4014 to Nailsworth, that had been overgrown was outside of the area that the council would cut.

83.4/07 To consider grant request for the financial year 2008/09 from Citizens Advice Bureau

It was **RESOLVED** to grant the sum of £50 to the CAB for the financial year 2008/09

83.5/07 To consider whether to join Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association and approve cost of £50 per annum

It was decided not to join

83.6/07 To approve website suppliers costing for 2008

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the increase in charges from Fenweb Ltd. Each webpage would increase from £52 per page to £55 per page plus VAT from 1st January 2008. This was the first increase in two years.

84/07 PARISH PLAN/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

84.1/07 To prioritise community projects following consultation event for work plan for 08/09

Councillors considered the results of the consultation carried out at the fete in June. It was **RESOLVED** to add the community directory, leisure facilities for the elderly (to assess and develop) and Mays Lane/Sandford Leaze bus shelters to the work list for the next financial year.

84.2/07 Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk reported that the bins had been delivered. Members were waiting for a response from Jim Hill re siting on a verge near his property. The next step would then be to agree the final sites with CDC and they will install.

84.3/07 Avening Walks Brochure

The walks competition was running until the 31st December 2007. A further quote had been obtained via CDC from printers used to print the crime and disorder strategy (100 x A3 brochures £137). This was compared with CDC quote of 100 A3 at £30. It was **RESOLVED** to accept CDC's quote of £30 per 100 for the first batch of brochures, in order that they were not too expensive to sell on and to see how they held up under use.

84.4/07 Hedge Laying at Rectory Lane

The first hedge laying weekend on the 1st December had been postponed due to the weather. It had been put back until Sunday 13th January.

84.5/07 Part Night Operation of Street Lighting

The Clerk had asked for an update from GCC re progress of the part night operation. No response had been received from GCC. The Clerk would write again.

84.6/07 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour – neighbourhood watch scheme

Cllr Mick Williamson had contacted the volunteers who had put their names forward at the fete as being interested in being involved in a NHW scheme. He had spoken to other people as well. He reported he had not been able to get hold of David Bragg at Cirencester Police Station, but had been put onto someone in the north of the county. It would probably be necessary to call a public meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council would support the reasonable costs of the meeting.

Cllr Jim Parsons had been talking to Sally Jennings at CDC re the antisocial behaviour taking place in the village. She may be able to attend January's meeting to discuss the situation.

It was reported that the perspex cover on the parish council notice board at the shop had been vandalised. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the costs of repair.

84.7/07 Ash Path maintenance and dedication to County Council

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the dedication agreement with the county council for Ash Path. It was noted that the parish council would need to make a financial contribution for its upkeep, probably annually, but the work in keeping the path up to standard would be carried out by the county council. The Clerk was authorised to approach solicitors to obtain an idea of costs for the dedication agreement.

84.8/07 To advise joint website plans with Cherington PC not to continue

The Clerk advised that Cherington PC had decided not to proceed with a joint website.

85/07 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

It was **RESOLVED** to move meeting dates to the 3rd Thursday of the month as the Reading Room was not currently available for use.

86/07 CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION:

- Petition for less bureaucracy for small parish councils – this was noted but council decided not to respond

- Protecting Your Community day 25th January 2008, Gloucestershire County Council – no-one was available to attend

**The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on
Thursday, 17th January 2008 at 7.30pm
In Avening Memorial Hall**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.40pm