

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 12th JULY 2007 AT 7.30PM

The following Councillors were in attendance: Cllr J Parsons (Chairman), Cllr Mrs G Parsons, Cllr Ms A Beszant, Cllr Mrs C Mitchell

Also in attendance: Deborah Cook (Clerk), Barbara Pond (Village Halls Advisor, GRCC), Mick Williamson (public)

29/07 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

30/07 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr T Slater (business), Cllr J Catterall (village shop meeting), Cllr C Redpath (no apology received)

31/07 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.

It was **RESOLVED** to vary the agenda to deal with agenda point 6, village hall matters

32/07 VILLAGE HALL

Barbara Pond, Village Halls advisor from GRCC advised the council on their role as custodian trustee of the hall. The hall belongs to the community and the council as custodian trustees hold the title for their benefit. Any decisions regarding the future of the hall should be made at a community meeting. The management committee are responsible for the day to day running and upkeep of the hall.

Various options were discussed regarding the future management of the hall. The options were:

1. If no volunteers came forward, which they have not, then the management committee should contact the council and charity commission advising that the charity cannot continue. The charity commissioners can give permission for the council to take over the running of the hall as a sole trustee (and remain custodian trustee), but they generally won't do this until all other avenues have been exhausted.
2. 2 councillors (acting as individuals NOT as councillors) could take over the management committee of the hall from Jon Green and Kate Townsend. They could call the AGM that was due in June, appoint other committee members if people came forward from various local groups (eg school, church, WI) and then the management committee could continue as it does now. If people do not come forward at the AGM they could ask for a public vote (from those attending) to appoint the council as sole trustee. If this resolution was passed they could approach the charity commission to approve the handover to the council as sole trustee, whilst remaining custodian trustee and apply for a Scheme for the charity.

It was noted that there could be a potential conflict of interest if the council acted as sole trustee for the charity – between council matters and what is in the best interests of the charity. It was noted that accounting matters must be kept entirely separate.

There was discussion re the possibility of a long lease of the hall to the school. There were some issues that might arise. The objects of the charity (ie the hall being for the use of inhabitants for meetings, lectures etc) may be considered to clash with a potential lease for a set period of time – ie it excludes use by members of the public during this time. However, the potential investment and improvement of facilities would be for the benefit of the inhabitants of the village who chose to use the hall at other times. It was noted that the school was the main user of the hall – presumably still under a licence agreement anyway, so the actual situation is unlikely to change (ie the school has the use during term time, weekdays). It would be necessary to have the lease approved by the charity commission in case there were any issues raised about it being in the best interests of the charity. It was also noted that if there was a lease the maintenance costs should be apportioned in some way between the school and the management committee (for example, take running costs and add 3-5%, or actual costs of running per hour and then add yearly inflation – the second was considered the most appropriate).

Alternate uses for the hall were also discussed – for example the shop was under threat and other communities had reopened shops in the village hall.

Cllrs Mrs G Parsons and A Beszant offered to take the hall on in their personal capacity (as set out in option 2 above). They will approach Jon Green and see what can be done.

Barbara Pond was thanked for her time and advice.

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell arrived at 8.15pm

33/07 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Amendments were made to minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14th June 2007 and they would be signed as amended at September's meeting.

34/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

none

35/07 PLANNING

35.1/07 New Planning Applications

07/01637/LBC CT3159/D **Glebe House Cottage, New Inn Lane – creation of a new pedestrian access from New Inn Lane through new gate in junction of curtilage structure stone wall** – members objected on the basis that the property in is in the conservation area and the wall is of historic importance and value to the village in its original form. Making a hole in the wall and adding a new gate will not be in keeping with the character and history of the area.

07/01638/FUL CT3159/E **Glebe House Cottage, New Inn Lane – creation of a new pedestrian access from New Inn Lane through new gate in junction of curtilage structure stone wall**– members objected on the basis that the property in is in the conservation area and the wall is of historic importance and value to the village in its original form. Making a hole in the wall and adding a new gate will not be in keeping with the character and history of the area.

07/01352/FUL CT7989/A **61 High Street – loft conversion with new dormer window and rooflight to existing roof – amended plans** – members noted the removal of the larger dormer window at the back of the property overlooking neighbours gardens and noted the conservation rooflights in its place – members had no objection.

35.2/07 To ratify planning decisions made since last meeting

none

35.3/07 Decision Notices Received

07/00980/FUL CT6011/B **Septic tank (retrospective) at Longtree Barn, Tetbury Hill, Avening** – 26th June 2007 CDC permission granted

07/00869/FUL CT3530/H **Erection of rear conservatory at Point House, 1 Point Road** – 29th June 2007 CDC decision notice refuses

07/01233/FUL CT0845/G **Erection of replacement single detached dwelling at Winterfold, 23 West End** – 9th July 2007 CDC permission granted

35.4/07 New Tree Works

- 07/01842/TRECON CT.CONTR 2348 Folly House, 22 Point Road – conservation area – 1) twin stemmed sycamore – fell. 2) sycamore – lift canopy by 2m. 3) twin stemmed ash – fell. Response date 31st July. The application would be referred to Alan Watson.

35.5/07 Tree Works Decisions

- 07/01520/TRECON / CT.CONTR 2320 The Bannut Tree, New Inn Lane- Conservation Area– boundary screening vegetation “atop the retaining wall” a) trim on roadside b) reduce height of screen (excluding 2 yews) c) trimmed on house side – CDC decision -no objections – 2nd July 2007

36/07 FINANCE

36.1/07 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The current balance at bank was £6,063.03 with £18,370.51 now in the deposit account with projected expenditure and year end balance as set out on the monthly budget sheet.

36.2/07 Bills for Payment

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

▪ G W Merricks	£125
▪ GAPTC (member training)	£60
▪ Post Office Ltd (mail redirection)	£47.90
▪ Community First	£10.08
▪ Clerk's Salary less NI/Tax plus Expenses	£466.25
▪ NI/Tax on Clerk's salary	£nil
▪ HGM	£180.00

36.3/07 Cheques issued since the last meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following cheques/payments issued since last meeting

• M Mastalerz	£42.00
• GAPTC	£90.00
• Standing order Lloyds bank (deeds fee)	£25.00

36.4/07 Dog Waste Bins

(agenda point 8.4.1 and 8.4.2) It was **RESOLVED** to authorise expenditure for an additional 3 dog waste bins in the sum of £570 (approx) plus delivery. These bins would be sited: 1 on Rectory Lane near the houses, 1 at West End, 1 at Woodstock Lane/social club on the triangle of land, by the stream, owned by the council. The purchase of the bins were subject to CDC being able to install them and SITA being able to empty them. Siting would be agreed with CDC and residents in due course.

36.5/07 Grasscutting

It was decided not to put the meeting into closed session.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the quote from HGM Ltd as current grasscutting contractors, in the sum of £30 per cut to include 1) extension of cut from rectory Lane to High Street and 2) Footpath from Tetbury Hill.

36.6/07 Insurance

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the additional premium due to Community First in the sum of £12.58 to cover changes to the contents schedule as set out in June's minute and cover for the basketball court surface at the playing field.

37/07 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

37.1/07 Adoption of Code of Conduct

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standards Board's Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils (as set out in The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (SI No 1159)) including paragraph 12(2)

37.2/07 Amendment of Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED** to amend Standing Orders to include a new paragraph 70(a) (as paragraph 12(2) had adopted in the Code of Conduct) as set out below:

"70(a) For the avoidance of doubt, members of the public may attend all meetings of the council unless excluded under paragraph 68. Members of the public may make representations, give evidence or answer questions only if asked to do so by the Chairman."

38/07 PARISH PLAN

The report arising from the 3rd June consultation was deferred until a later meeting as more time was needed to discuss and prioritise projects.

The Clerk reported that the parish plan network/training session of the 11th July 2007 had been useful, but the council was further on with its parish plan and the session had dealt with starting out. The risk analysis section had been most useful.

39/07 Correspondence for Action:

- CPRE (Glos branch) AGM 5th July - noted
- LSP 2nd annual conference 26th September - noted
- Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Consultation - noted
- Gloucestershire Highways – part night operation of street lighting – Members were in favour of part night operation, dimming of lights would be preferable in some areas, use of low energy bulbs and ensuring that verges are cut where lights are turned off to avoid tripping accidents.

- Cotswold Council for Voluntary Service re Tetbury Community Bus – Members felt there was not much need as there was one bus travelling to Cirencester already. There was already the Tesco bus to Tetbury.

**The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on
Thursday, 13th September 2007 at 7.30pm
In Avening Memorial Hall**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20pm