

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.30 PM

The following Councillors were in attendance. Cllr J Parsons (Chairman), Cllr M Williamson, Cllr Mrs C Naish, Cllr T Slater, Cllr T Beardsell, Cllr Mrs E Oliver

Also in attendance: Mrs D Cook (Clerk), Mr Simon Wheatley (Chairman of Avening Memorial Hall)

39/09 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

40/09 PCSO REPORT & CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Both PCSO's had sent apologies. The Council noted the PCSO's monthly report.

41/09 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell (representing the Parish Council), Cllr J Catterall (no apology received in time for meeting), Cllr Mrs G Parsons (personal)

41.1/09 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the absence of Cllr Mrs C Mitchell who was attending the GAPTC AGM on behalf of the Parish Council.

42/09 TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE DATE FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 19TH NOVEMBER 2009

It was **RESOLVED** to change the date of the Parish Council meeting scheduled for the 19th November. It will now take place on the 12th November – the venue will be arranged.

43/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jim Parsons declared an interest in all planning matters because of his position as District Councillor sitting on the Planning Regulatory Committee at CDC.

44/09 ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2009

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2009.

45/09 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

It was considered prudent, even though there were no members of the public present, that in view of the business to be discussed at agenda point 8, the meeting should be placed in closed session.

It was therefore unanimously RESOLVED that the meeting move into closed session under the terms of The Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as the business to be discussed included sensitive information and contracts which could be prejudiced by being in the public domain at this time, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

46/09 AVENING MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the recommended terms of lease (dated 14th August 2009) from the surveyor.

47/09 PLANNING

47.1/09 New Planning Applications

09/02904/FUL	Old Quarries, Rectory Lane, Avening, GL8 8NJ Proposal: Erection of summer house Members had no objection to the application
--------------	--

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date: 12th November 2009

21

47.2/09 Decisions Received

Council Noted the Decision Notices listed below:

09/02233/FUL	11 Tetbury Hill, Avening, Glos, GL8 8LT Proposal: Construction of first floor extension to west elevation and dormer windows to east elevation to create accommodation within the roof space Decision Notice of 16 th September 2009 - PERMITS
09/02478/LBC	The Old Rectory, 60 High Street, Avening GL8 8NF Proposal: alterations to existing outbuilding forming new roof line, first floor and rendering Decision Notice of 1 st October 2009 PERMITS
09/02681/FUL	The Old Rectory, 60 High Street, Avening GL8 8NF Proposal: alterations to existing outbuilding forming new roof line, first floor and rendering Decision Notice of the 2 nd October 2009 PERMITS
09/02719/FUL	79 Sunground, Avening, Tetbury, GL8 8NW Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension. Decision Awaited

48/09 TREE WORKS

48.1/09 Tree Works Notifications:

Because of the deadlines Council had already responded to CDC stating that they had no objections to the proposed works. It was **RESOLVED** to approve these responses.

09/02940/TPO	12 Sandford Leaze, Avening, GL8 8PB Proposal: TPO 2 A.1. Field Maple and Varigated Maple - crown reduce by approx 2 Metres.
09/03033/TPO	Winterfold, 23 West End, Avening, GL8 8NE Proposal: TPO 441 T. 2 Sycamore - Lift base of canopy to 2-4 m above ground level. Clean out deadwood and ivy.

49/09 FINANCE

49.1/09 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The current balance at bank was £7,327.99 with £23,627.72 now in the deposit account with projected expenditure and year end balance as set out on the monthly budget sheet.

49.2/09 Bills for Payment

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

▪ Clerk's Salary less Income Tax plus Expenses	£519.08
▪ Clerk's Final Salary less Income Tax plus Expenses	£18.68
▪ HMRC	£8.97
▪ HGM (grass cutting)	£685
▪ Gloucestershire County Council (advertising for Ash Path)	£299.82
▪ GRCC Membership Renewal	£25.00
▪ Wilmot & Co Solicitors (Ash Path)	£270.50
▪ Avening PCC Churchyard Annual Grant	£500
▪ Avening PCC Villager Annual Grant	£200

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date: 12th November 2009

22

49.3/09 To approve and confirm renewal of membership of GRCC in the sum of £25.00

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and confirm the renewal of membership of GRCC for another year – in the sum of £25.

49.4/09 To advise of receipt of 2nd part of precept payment for 2009/10 from CDC in the sum of £5875

Council were advised that the second part of the precept in the sum of £5875 had been received from Cotswold District Council.

49.5/09 To consider whether to adopt the Telephone Box on High Street from BT

The adoption scheme and contract were discussed by council and the benefits and pitfalls were noted. Other council's experiences of the scheme were also noted. It was suggested that a use be found for the box and suggestions would be invited from residents through the Villager. It was noted that the box needed a repaint and may need some more substantial work to be done to it. It was noted that the terms from BT were stated as "sold as seen". This was accepted by council. If the box proved beyond economic repair, it was noted it could be sold on to various reclamation type companies.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the telephone box on High Street from BT.

49.6/09 To consider the brambles growing at various sites in the village

Residents had raised concern about two areas where brambles were growing and causing a nuisance. Brambles were growing through to the playgroup's play area. It was noted the land was owned by GCC. The playgroup volunteers could be referred onto GCC, or cut back the offending brambles. The second area was on High Street next to the Bell. The owner of the Bell had kindly cut back all brambles again this year. But it was unclear who owned this area of land. A land registry search was carried out last year to try and identify the owner, but the land was unregistered and therefore an owner could not be easily identified. Previous discussions had noted that the wall had been repaired by GCC and one of the neighbours had indicated that the land was owned by GCC.

49.7/09 Annual Grant Applications

49.7.1/09 To consider and approve the annual grant in the sum of £500 for Avening PCC for maintenance of the churchyard

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the sum of £500 for Avening PCC for the maintenance of the churchyard.

49.7.2/09 To consider and approve the annual grant in the sum of £200 for Avening PCC for The Villager magazine

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the sum of £200 for Avening PCC for the Villager magazine.

49.8/09 Other Grant Applications

49.8.1/09 To consider grant/donation request from Gloucestershire Drama Association

It was **RESOLVED** to decline the grant request as funds had already been allocated for the year.

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date: 12th November 2009

23

It was considered prudent, even though there were no members of the public present, that in view of the business to be discussed, the meeting should be placed in closed session.

It was therefore unanimously RESOLVED that the meeting move into closed session under the terms of The Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as the business to be discussed included sensitive information and dealt with staff conditions of service which could be prejudiced by being in the public domain at this time, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

49.9/09 To approve the NALC salary award for 2009/10

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the NALC salary award for 2009/10

49.10/09 To consider Budget and Precept for the financial year 2010/11

50/09 PARISH PLAN/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

50.1/09 TV Digital Switchover

Digital UK (a non-profit making organisation that has been formed to ensure that the switchover happens smoothly) were confirmed for a talk to parishioners on Wednesday 21st October 2009 in the Village Hall. All arrangements had now been made and Cllrs Mrs E Oliver and J Parsons would be attending the talk.

50.2/09 Summer off the Streets & Playing Out in the Cotswolds Event

This matter was deferred as Cllr Mrs C Mitchell had attended the Playing Out in the Cotswolds Event, but was not present at the meeting to report back to the Council. The Clerk would enquire whether there had been a good turnout of local children at the event.

50.3/09 Ash Path and Creation Order

The work on the footpath would be carried out shortly by GCC. Invoices were settled for the first advertising via GCC and Wilmot's fees. The council would deal direct with GCC in order to not incur unnecessary solicitor's fees as there was only the practical work on site and one more set of advertising to be carried out.

50.4/09 Traffic & Highways:

50.4.1/09 Lorries/Heavy Vehicles travelling through the village.

The Lorry Management Zone officers at GCC had been in touch after enquiry from Highways and GCC Cllr Tony Hicks on our behalf. The LMZ had revoked the 7.5 ton weight restriction – but replaced it with the LMZ which was a 7.5 ton weight restriction. The only difference in practice was that offending large vehicles should be reported to the LMZ directly, rather than through the lorry watch scheme.

The Morrisons lorry turning at the Cross Inn in the early mornings and evenings would be reported. Councillors would look out for other offending heavy vehicles.

The siting of the signs in Nailsworth and by Morrisons was perhaps not appropriate. Perhaps there should be another sign after Morrisons on the way to Avening. The clerk would raise the matter with the LMZ.

50.4.2/09 VAS signs

Both of the signs now appeared to be working.

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date: 12th November 2009

24

50.4.3/09 Grit Bins

There was still work to be carried out – installing the remaining grit bins, refilling generally and repair. The Clerk would contact Highways.

50.4.4/09 Speeding traffic on High Street

The matter was raised whether any traffic calming measures were appropriate for the lower end of High Street near the Bell and Hall. It was noted this matter was looked at about six years ago by GCC and the Council and abandoned as it was not practical.

The clerk would investigate borrowing the radar speed detection gun from GCC.

50.4.5/09 To note the temporary road closure on Rectory Lane – 9th-13th November 2009

This was noted.

50.5/09 Mapping Structures in the Parish

Local structures would begin to be mapped out on the map.

50.6/09 Autumn Village Clean Up

The next Autumn Village Clean Up was planned for Saturday, 14th November from 10am to 12 noon, with volunteers to meet at the Village Hall. Litter picking sticks, gloves, jackets, bags and stickers from Cotswold District Council had been collected and passed onto Cllr Mrs E Oliver.

50.7/09 Parish Council workplan review and planning for 2010/11

Ideas were still being considered.

51/09 Correspondence for Action

- Invite to CDC Town and Parish Issues meeting Mon 2nd November 7pm – up to 3 representatives – Cllrs Jim Parsons, Mrs C Mitchell and the Clerk planned to attend

**The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on
Thursday 12th November, 2009 at 7.30 pm
Venue to be Arranged**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

46/09 AVENING MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Simon Wheatley reported that the surveyor (John Thompson of Moore Allen) had reached agreement with GCC as to the heads of terms of the proposed lease to take place between the hall management committee (the parish council as custodian trustees and therefore signatories) and GCC. The deal was different to that initially proposed and John Thompson was recommending that the Management Committee and Parish Council (as custodian trustees) accept the proposed terms. John Thompson would be able to issue the qualified surveyors report required under the Charities Act, based on the proposed terms.

The terms gave the hall committee a sound financial basis to move forward for the future. The rental would be £6,500 pa (£4000 rent plus £2500 service charge) with an element of index linking. The first 5 years however would see a reduction of rent to £1,000 (plus £2500 service charge). The Hall Committee confirmed that this (with some other rental of the hall) covers their costs (apprx £4500 pa) but there would be no room to build up reserves in this time period.

The Hall Committee were now using their cash reserves to pay costs (attempting to hold £5,000 in reserve for emergencies) and were down to £1,000 in the bank. The insurance for the hall was due in November which was a cause for concern. It has been agreed that GCC would now pay the school's rent for the hall use for last year – which would put them back on their £5,000 reserve. GCC had been invoiced for the sum of £4,100 (the original agreement had been that rent would not be paid whilst the lease was being negotiated).

John Thompson had also stated in the terms that the lease should be signed by the end of 2009, otherwise the school could be given notice to quit the hall. This was in order to focus all parties minds on completing the agreement swiftly.

It was also noted that John Thompson had negotiated £2,000 plus VAT from GCC towards the hall committee's/parish council's surveyors and legal costs.

It was agreed that the clerk would confirm in writing to Simon Wheatley that the council were happy to proceed on the basis proposed by John Thompson in his letter of 14th August 2009. The clerk would also confirm that Wilmots could proceed with the lease once they had received the draft from GCC.

Simon Wheatley left the meeting.

It was discussed that it might be appropriate to offer to obtain a quote from our insurers for the hall insurance. This had arisen last year with APFA (and a substantially cheaper quote was obtained) but the council had decided not to proceed with it then. It may be that the council offer to obtain quotes for both this year. Once quote were obtained council would consider how they would be financed.

49.10/09 To consider Budget and Precept for the financial year 2010/11

Councillors looked at the overall precept figure. The decision would be whether to reduce the precept to the minimum, which was noted was not recommended. The precept could remain at its current level of £23,500 or it could increase in line with inflation (say 2%) to £23,970.

Council would consider what help it could give to local organisations like APFA, the Hall and the playgroup. Councillors appreciated the difficult economic times and that the volunteers were

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date: 12th November 2009

26

working hard to keep the various organisations going, along with fundraising for specific projects.

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date: 12th November 2009

27
