

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 21st FEBRUARY 2008 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, Cllr J Catterall

Also in attendance: Deborah Cook (Clerk), Marcus Kitchen (Senior Planner CDC).

99/07 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – none

100/07 ATTENDANCE BY MARCUS KITCHEN

Marcus Kitchen attended to explain the move over to electronic planning. The general government agenda was to encourage online planning applications. CDC have introduced a system of electronic notifications from 28th January 2008. They noted that certain improvements were still needed to the system (for example notifications when an amendment had been made to an application and the issue of photos and bad scanning). It was costing CDC to produce various hardcopies of plans to send out to the various consultees. They now send an email out to notify of new applications which gives consultees the advantage of being notified the same day the application is loaded onto the system.

The difficulties with the paperless system for the consultees were discussed. We could either print paper copies ourselves or invest in broadband a laptop and projector and screen to view at meetings. CDC was providing some interest free loans to buy computers/projectors. There was also the possibility that there would be the occasional paper plan spare at CDC. In certain applications they would be happy for us to have a paper copy of plans say, but it would be necessary for us to come and collect from CDC offices.

The new system was here to stay.

The chairman thanked Marcus Kitchen for attending the meeting.

101/07 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C Redpath (business)

102/07 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th January 2008.

103/07 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 and Cllr Mrs A Beszant declared an interest in Village Hall matters.

104/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Outstanding Register of Interests forms were collected for return to Cotswold District Council (minute number 93.07).

The Village Hall AGM was discussed (following from last months invite to council at minute number 94/07). The committee were not in a position to respond to specific questions as they were in the process of establishing their new committee following the AGM. They stressed that under charity law they had to explore all funding options before making a final decision which way the project was to be funded. They hoped to have a further report for council in March.

Cllr Mrs G Parsons left the meeting at 8.40pm

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant of the noticeboards to the village hall management committee so that they could hire them out with rooms in the hall to contribute towards raising income (authority to purchase given at minute number 96.6/07). Cllr Mrs A Beszant declared an interest.

105/07 PLANNING

105.1/07 New Planning Applications

07/03624/FUL **75 Sunground** – erection of two storey side extension and detached garage. Members had no objection.

07/03438/FUL **Playing Field, Rectory Lane, Avening**

Proposal: Erection of flying fox and climbing frame

Members noted the application was in hand but were not able to comment as the application was in the name of the council as landowners.

- 105.2/07 To ratify planning decisions made since last meeting
 07/02446/FUL **66 Sandford Leaze** – extension of existing timber verandah, conversion of window to double doors giving access to verandah. Members had no objection.
 08/00044/MINA **Yew Tree Cottage, 11 Old Hill** – revision to window in staircase, revision to timber shed area. Members had no objection.
 07/03595/FUL **Avendale, High Street** – erection of garden shed/summerhouse. Members had no objection subject to the appropriate screening of the structure from the public eye.
 08/00037/FUL **Littlefields Cherington Lane, Avening GL8 8SE** - Remove tin shed and erect replacement wooden tractor and animal shelter. Members had no objection.

- 105.3/07 Decision Notices Received
 08/00044/MINA **Yew Tree Cottage, 11 Old Hill** – revision to window in staircase, revision to timber shed area – CDC Minor Amendment Approval 21st January 2008
 07/03215/FUL **61 High Street** – retrospective application for retention of dormer windows to front elevation. CDC Decision Notice dated 4th February 2008 permits
 07/02446/FUL **66 Sandford Leaze** – extension of existing timber verandah, conversion of window to double doors giving access to verandah. CDC Decision Notice dated 14th February 2008 permits.
 07/03595/FUL **Avendale, High Street** – erection of garden shed/summerhouse. Members had no objection subject to the appropriate screening of the structure from the public eye.
 CDC Decision Notice dated 15th February 2008 permits

106/07 FINANCE

106.1/07 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The current balance at bank was £3,547.50 with £14,669.90 now in the deposit account with projected expenditure and year end balance as set out on the monthly budget sheet.

106.2/07 Bills for Payment

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

▪ Clerk's Salary less NI/Tax plus Expenses	£663.55
▪ NI/Tax on Clerk's salary	£62.95
▪ RC Triggs (noticeboard repair)	£58.00
▪ Viking (display boards and office supplies)	£512.72
▪ Farm and Garden Services	£293.00
▪ SLCC membership	£102.00

106.3/07 Grants/cheques since previous meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** To ratify the following grant/cheques issued since the last meeting:

- Steering Group – Avening Village Shop £475.68

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with powers under s137 LGA 1972 council should incur the expenditure in the sum of £475.68 which in its opinion is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

- D Stainer – Hutchins Architects Ltd £1349.50

106.4/07 Grasscutting – closed session

The meeting would have been put into closed session for agenda point 8.4 relating to contracts if there had been members of the public present, under The Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with legal requirements.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint HGM Ltd for a further term of 3 years from 1st April 2008.

Confidential minutes on separate sheet.

106.5/07 Internal Audit

This was carried out by Cllrs T Slater and J Catterall.

107/07 PARISH PLAN/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

107.1/07 Dog Waste Bins

This matter was deferred.

107.2/07 Avening Walks Brochure

Roger Lindley had won the prize of the meal for two at the Cross Inn. Council thanked the Cross Inn for agreeing to provide the prize. The clerk would look into putting the three entries onto the website.

107.3/07 Hedge Laying at Rectory Lane

The team had nearly finished the hedge. Debris had been removed from the site.

107.4/07 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour:

The latest break in (number 7) to the village hall was discussed. The idea of laminating the back of windows would be looked into by Cllr J Catterall and Cllr Mrs A Beszant. The council advised they would be happy to fund the cost of the laminate.

The recent antisocial behaviour at the playing fields was discussed. APFA had suggested installing bollards along the areas the youths park their cars when using the field and the possibility of removing/turning off the two streetlights to try and dissuade the youths from hanging around and vandalising the fences and people's property in Sandford Leaze. The removal of two of the benches was also discussed. Cllr T Slater had met with Gillian Portlock at the site to discuss the issues. The council was happy for the bollards to be installed and for the lamp posts to be removed/lights turned off. The clerk would put the process in hand. The benches would remain where they are for the moment as other residents use them in the day time.

Preventative planting at the site to cover the fence that had been damaged was discussed. APFA had submitted a grant application in the sum of £250 for planting bushes and the new lock to the gate (previous lock and chain had been broken by vandals). The council felt that the planting season had passed so would defer the matter for the moment. APFA could let the council know the cost of the lock and they would consider this at their next meeting.

107.4.1/07 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

This would be in hand when Andy Fogden returned to work. It would not happen until after the public meeting that was likely to be held in March.

107.4.2/07 Community Safety Survey

Cllr M Williamson had drafted a survey and asked for comments. When complete this would be delivered to all households – the response would be anonymous. This would give a picture of the full extent of what was going on and people's perceptions.

107.4.3/07 March meeting

Cllr M Williamson was waiting for Andy Fogden to return to work before plans were made for both meetings (one between the council and experts and advisors on youth, community policing and safety and neighbourhood watch and the other a public meeting)

107.5/07 Ash Path maintenance and dedication to County Council

This matter was deferred.

107.6/07 Traffic and Highways

Cllr T Slater advised that he had met with Gillian Portlock and Chris Franklin from County Highways and they had viewed the steep step at Ash Path/Sandford Leaze. They are looking to put in a ramp from the top of Ash Path.

107.7/07 Village Spring Clean for March 2008

This would take place on 29th March from 10-11am. Cllrs J Catterall, T Slater and M Williamson advised they would be able to assist Cllr C Redpath on the day. The clerk would order the kit from CDC and deliver to the next meeting.

108/07 CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION:

- Cotswold District Council –planning applications and new validation criteria consultation (deadline 5th March 2008)
- Gloucestershire County Council – consultation on preferred options minerals and waste core strategy (deadline 13th March 2008)
- Information and Advice- Parish Referendums – The clerk advised on the protocol for dealing with these requests which were considered to be illegal.

The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on

Thursday, 20th March 2008 at 7.30pm

In Avening Memorial Hall

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

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

106.4/07 Grasscutting – closed session

Council discussed both quotations from HGM Ltd and Bibury contractors. There was a difference of approximately £20 per cut (HGM being the highest). HGM at £200 per cut (£3,600 pa) and Bibury at £178 per cut (£3,204 pa) for the 3 year term. Members discussed that we have worked well with the existing contractor over the last 3 years and various changes had been made in the contract during that time. HGM's flexibility to respond to the council's need had been most helpful. For reasons of Best Value it was **RESOLVED** (by unanimous vote) to appoint HGM Ltd for a further term of 3 years from 1st April 2008.