

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 17th JANUARY 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

Also in attendance: Deborah Cook (Clerk), Sally Jennings (ASB Officer CDC), Andy Fogden (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for North Cotswolds), PCSO Sue Fellows

The meeting was due to start at 7.30pm, but was delayed as the previous planning committee meeting ran over. The meeting started at 7.50pm.

87/07 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – none

88/07 ATTENDANCE BY SALLY JENNINGS AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE RE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Sally Jennings (Antisocial Behaviour Officer from CDC), Andy Fogden (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for North Cotswolds) and PCSO Sue Fellows attended to discuss the way forward following the increasing incidents of antisocial behaviour in the village.

The use of smartwater and mosquito devices to keep the offenders away were discussed.

It was noted that residents in the village know who the offenders are but there is a perception that there will be repercussions if they are known to have reported and named the offenders. It was noted that there may have been further instances of antisocial behaviour that may have gone unreported.

It was discussed that the first thing was to instil confidence into the public to report matters. There was the general police telephone line, crimestoppers and the KIN network volunteers.

Sally Jennings will work on a survey (that can be anonymous) to find out the extent of the problem. They could also put up posters to give crimestoppers and the 0845 police number so that people know how to report problems.

Antisocial behaviour was defined as anything causing alarm, distress or upset by a person who is not living in your household.

When found the offenders may be asked to sign an acceptable behaviour contract for up to a year. If they are not able to abide by this then the ASBO procedure could start.

December's crime figures showed 6 crimes for Avening – 5 at the village hall and 1 domestic burglary. From the 1st to the 15th January 2008 there were 5 crimes so far: 3 x violence against the person, 1 x non-dwelling burglary and 1x criminal damage. It was noted that these figures were high for a village like Avening. In 2007 there had been 12 violent crimes and in 2006 there were 8.

Sally Jennings used a multi-network approach – bringing in all those other networks that would be able to help. For example the RSLs, Youth Team at the county etc.

Councillors and Kins were asked to note any signs of volatile substance abuse. It was noted that there was some evidence of this.

It was likely that the current problems would be addressed first and then look at setting up a neighbourhood watch when the public were more confident about reporting problems. Sally Jennings would work with Cllr M Williamson on the questionnaire and then look to organising a public meeting.

The chairman thanked Sally Jennings, PCSO Sue Fellows and Andy Fogden for attending the meeting.

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell left the meeting at 8.45pm

89/07 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

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

90/07 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th December 2007.

91/07 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.
Cllr Mrs G Parsons declared an interest in the Steering Group – village shop item.

92/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr J Parsons had been supplied with a map showing Longfords/Iron Mill area covered by Avening Parish and also indicating the TPOs in question.

The meeting would have been put into closed session for agenda point 6 relating to solicitors costs (minuted at 92/07) if there had been members of the public present, under The Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with legal requirements.

Confidential Minutes are set out on the attached sheet.

The Ash Path Dedication Agreement could go ahead. First Registration of land would go ahead in the next financial year.

93/08 REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The new Register of Interest Forms were noted and completed by councillors present. Cllr Mrs C Mitchell, would return the form, Cllrs C Redpath and J Catterall would be sent forms to complete and return.

94/07 VILLAGE HALL

Cllr G Parsons and Cllr Mrs A Beszant invited councillors to the Village Hall AGM on the 20th February.

95/07 PLANNING

95.1/07 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Planning Decisions as discussed at the Planning Meeting held on Thursday, 17th January 2008 at 7.00 pm and recorded in the Minutes.

95.2/07 CDC Planning Consultation

The electronic planning system would come into effect on 28th January 2008. It was decided to continue to supply paper copies of the applications to the post office – these would then be used at meetings. This would be done at parish council expense.

Marcus Kitchen, Senior Planner from CDC would attend the meeting on 21st February to discuss a way forward with the difficulties faced by the parish council in not receiving paper copies, especially of full size plans.

96/07 FINANCE

96.1/07 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The current balance at bank was £4,135.03 with £16,669.90 now in the deposit account with projected expenditure and year end balance as set out on the monthly budget sheet.

96.2/07 Bills for Payment

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

▪ Clerk's Salary less NI/Tax plus Expenses	£619.13
▪ Memorial Hall (Youth Club Rent)	£570.00
▪ GAPTC (reissue of cheque – training)	£60.00
▪ RC Triggs (repair of noticeboard)	72.00
▪ Conservation trust (s/o)	15.00
▪ Lloyds Bank (deeds storage)	12.50

96.3/07 To consider grant request from Village Hall Committee

Cllr Mrs G Parsons requested grant funding for the survey of the hall, including plans and advice. Surveyors costs were £1148.51 plus VAT – total £1,349.50.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to provide grant funding in the sum of £1,349.50 to the village hall management committee. Cllrs Mrs G Parsons and Ms A Beszant did not vote having declared an interest.

96.4/07 To consider grant request from Steering Group – Avening Village Shop

Cllr Mrs G Parsons presented an urgent request for grant funding in the sum of £475.68 to cover the shortfall between the total cost of invoices and the contingency fund (collected from members of the public). It was noted that the project was unable to continue and this would be a one off cost. Costs had been more than originally anticipated. It was agreed that this had been an important community project. It could come under s137 power.

96.5/07 Grasscutting

The meeting would have been put into closed session for agenda point 11.4 relating to grasscutting contracts (minuted at 96.5/07) if there had been members of the public present, under The Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with legal requirements.

Confidential Minutes on separate sheet.

96.6/07 To discuss need and approve purchase of display boards

The need for display boards was increasing. If boards were purchased they could be stored in the hall and available for public use or hire for community projects or events. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of 8 panels and appropriate poles with a budget of £450.

97/07 PARISH PLAN/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

97.1/07 Community projects work plan for 08/09

This item was deferred until the next meeting

97.2/07 To adopt the Avening Parish Plan

It was **RESOLVED** to formally adopt the Avening Parish Action Plan.

97.3/07 Lorry Watch

A lorry watch may be in the process of being set up by a resident.

97.4/07 Dog Waste Bins

This matter was deferred – a site needed to be found for the third dog bin – then all sites would be agreed with and installed by CDC

97.5/07 Avening Walks Brochure

There were 3 entries to the competition. The judging was about to take place. Walks were still being collected for entry into the brochure.

97.6/07 Hedge Laying at Rectory Lane

The first hedge laying day took place on Sunday 13th January. The second was planned to take place in early February.

97.7/07 Part Night Operation of Street Lighting

The Clerk had asked for an update from GCC re progress of the part night operation. They had had to put the project on hold whilst the outcome of a funding application was determined.

97.8/07 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour – neighbourhood watch scheme

This had been dealt with under 88/07

It was noted that the parish council noticeboard outside the village hall had been vandalised. It had been reported to the police and repairs put in hand. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the costs of repair already authorised under emergency financial standing orders by the Clerk, as jagged glass had been left in the board.

97.9/07 Ash Path maintenance and dedication to County Council

This was dealt with under agenda point 92/07

97.10/07 Gloucestershire Highways - to appoint a Parish Highways Representative

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr T Slater as the Parish Highways Representative

97.11/07 To set date for village spring clean for March 2008

This matter was deferred

98/07 CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION:

- Dog Control Orders Consultation – Cotswold District Council had consulted the council on dog control orders and where and what in the village was needed – as they may impose dog control orders later in the year. This form was completed in the meeting requesting orders against fouling on all paved roads and the playing fields.

The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on

Thursday, 21st February 2008 at 7.30pm

In Avening Memorial Hall

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.15pm

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

92/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SOLICITORS COSTS

All approx as based on hourly rates and depends how much work involved.

Hourly rates

Sewells - David Bird £200 ph and juniors £175/185 ph all PLUS VAT

Wilmots - £118 plus VAT per hour (normally £168 ph plus VAT)

Estimate of no of hours 7-9 ½ hours

Sewells - £1100-1600 (at normal price would be £1400 to £1900 he will knock off £250-300)

Wilmots - £826 - 1121

Village Hall

Council has conveyance but may need additional stat decs.

Woodstock Triangle

May not be registerable as no deeds are held - would be done by stat dec.

Ash Path

Council has conveyance but may need additional stat dec.

Ash path dedication - need to ensure we are not giving up a benefit that we may be expected to keep for parish (eg if there was someone who could be charged for access in the future we would be expected to make a charge).

DISBURSEMENTS

ON REGISTRATIONS

Ash path - £30 reg fee

Woodstock triangle - £30 reg fee. Poss commons reg fee £14

Village hall - £165 reg fee

ON ALL - £40 additional if land registry needs to visit

ON ALL - Land charges searches say £12-20 dependent

The clerk relayed the approximate legal costs set out by two solicitors firms for the first registration of land (Woodstock Triangle, Ash Path and Village Hall) and also the dedication agreement for Ash Path (set out on attached sheet). It was **RESOLVED** to approve Wilmots of Cirencester to carry out the work

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

96.5.1/07 To approve terms of specification, draft contract for grasscutting and plan showing areas for cutting

The terms of the grasscutting contract and specification were approved. The plan was amended slightly to remove an area of grass from the Nailsworth Road B4014. All other areas were approved.

96.5.2/07 To approve list of contractors to approach for quotes

It was decided to approach Geoff Brookes, HGM (current contractors), Farm and Garden Services and Bibury Garden Services in accordance with internal audit procedures adopted on 12th October 2006 (requiring 3 quotes to attempt to be obtained for contracts likely to be over £1000).