

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 20th JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30 PM

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

Also in attendance: Mrs D Cook (Clerk), Katie Tew (Avening Conservation Group (ACG)), Mr D Conway (ACG), Mr D Osborne (ACG, tree application, highways issues), Mr W Carter (agent for Greenacres Farm application), Isabel Parsons (Greenacres Farm)

The meeting opened at 7.35pm

94/10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Osborne asked the Parish Council to note the state of the road to Westend. There were three points where the road gets covered in ice because of spring water. The drain is badly sited. Avening Park drain is full of rubbish and the gully on the side to Orchard House needs clearing.

Mr Osborne also asked the parish council to note that there were scalpels in the road (previously in driveway of Vale Farm at time of sale and now scattered on highway). The road needs sweeping to clear this. This will be passed onto Highways for their attention.

Mr Osborne also commented on his application to CDC to fell a sycamore tree (with a TPO). He felt reduction was not appropriate as it encourages growth. It has caused boundary wall damage. Mr Osborne confirmed that the tree could be seen from Winter's Lane over the top of the house and also from footpath out to Barton End.

Katie Tew was attending representing the newly formed Avening Conservation Group (ACG). She read over a letter signed by members of the group concerning alleged mess on the Greenacres Farm site (and one other site in the village – which was distinguished from the Greenacres farm site and not in the same ownership). The Parish Council noted the contents of the letter.

Mr Carter asked for a right of reply and stated that every piece of kit on the site was working. Other public comment started to be made and the meeting was called to order.

It was suggested the ACG and the agent for Greenacres Farm speak outside of the meeting in order to try and resolve their differences. Both parties agreed that they would be happy to do this.

Mr Conway (ACG) suggested that the Parish Council might like to encourage applicants to come and talk to the Parish Council before submitting applications to CDC. He had seen this work well in practice previously. The Council were happy to note his comment and would include a note in the next edition of the Villager to try and encourage applicants.

Public Question Time was closed.

Signed.....Chairman/Chairman of the Meeting/Presiding Officer

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It was **RESOLVED** to vary the agenda to deal with agenda point 10, planning and tree works applications.

95/10 PLANNING

95.1/10 New Planning Applications

<p>11/0009 9/AGPA</p>	<p>Green Acres Farm, Green Way Head, Avening</p> <p>Proposal: Erection of a polytunnel</p> <p>Cllr Mrs G Parsons left the room for most of the discussion and also the vote. Cllr Mrs C Mitchell confirmed to the meeting that she was not voting on the matter (she remained present for the discussion and vote).</p> <p>Mr Carter (agent) had attended to answer any questions on the application. The Clerk advised that siting and design were the only matters to be commented on. The Clerk read over the comments submitted to the previous application (by the Parish Council) for the polytunnel. The application had not changed since then. The application was discussed generally. Mr Carter confirmed that the only alternative to a polytunnel was a greenhouse. This was not the only polytunnel locally, there was one other in Avening and three in Tetbury. The point of the project was to grow and sell local produce to local people. He confirmed that the applicant would carry out further screening of the site if the planning officers requested this.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED (by a vote of 5 councillors able to vote) to submit the same comments as for the previous application:</p> <p><u>Siting:</u> The Parish Council feel that the proposed siting is probably the least visible position in the field – when viewing from the village. However we would request that the planning officer and/or conservation officer makes a site visit to ensure that this is the most appropriate siting.</p> <p><u>Design:</u> The Parish Council would ask for the conservation/landscape officer to consider whether this specific polytunnel is in keeping with the AONB (where we understand from Policy 7 that the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside will be given priority over other considerations). We do appreciate that this is a balancing act between maintaining the natural beauty of the landscape and economic conditions (ability for farmer to farm the land successfully/possibly provide jobs). We just wish to ensure the best possible design for the area.</p> <p>Mr Carter raised issue over Cllr Mrs C Mitchell’s presence in the room. The Clerk and Mrs C Mitchell confirmed that Cllr Mitchell was not voting. The questioning persisted. The Clerk advised the Chairman that it was not appropriate to argue points of procedure with members of the public and the meeting was called to order.</p> <p>The Chairman allowed a question from Mr Conway who asked whether traffic and highways matters were taken into account at the November Council meeting. The Clerk responded that only siting and design issues</p>
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	<p>were relevant and they were the only matters commented on. The questioning persisted. The Clerk advised the Chairman that it was not appropriate to reopen previous council meeting discussions and that the decision had already been taken in the current agenda and the only matters relevant had been commented upon. The meeting was called to order.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs G Parsons returned to the room. Cllr Mrs C Mitchell left the meeting at 8.10pm. Mr Conway, Ms Isabel Parsons, Mr W Carter, Mr Osborne and Ms K Tew left the meeting at 8.15pm.</p>
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95.2/10 Decisions Received

Councillors noted the following planning decisions received from CDC.

10/0502 1/AGFO	<p>Green Acres Farm, Green Way Head, Tetbury Hill, Avening Proposal: Erection of a polytunnel Date decided: 20 December 2010 Decision: Application Refused</p>
08/0205 4/FUL	<p>Avening Mill, Mill Lane, GL8 8PD Proposal: Change of use from workshop, commercial and office use to residential Date decided: 12 January 2011 Decision: Application Permit</p>

95.3/10 Tree Works

11/0007 3/TPO	<p>Winterfold, 23 West End, Avening GL8 8NE Proposal: TPO 441 T. 2 Sycamore. Fell</p> <p>The Clerk had been advised by the Tree Officer that applications to fell TPO'd trees were only exceptionally granted (eg in the case of danger, structural damage etc). If the tree had public visual amenity (ie it could be seen by members of the public from the highway or public paths) then the application to fell was unlikely to be granted. Councillors confirmed, and Mr Osborne's earlier comments confirmed that the tree had public visual amenity. It was RESOLVED to object to the application to fell on this basis.</p>
11/00140 /TPO	<p>12 Sandford Leaze, Avening, GL8 8PB Proposal: TPO 2 A.1 Field Maple crown reduce by 1.5m and variegated Maple - crown reduce by 2 metres. Councillors had no objection to the application as it was an application previously granted, that had expired.</p>

95.4/10 Tree Works Decisions

There were none to note.

96/10 PCSO REPORT & CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The monthly crime report was discussed and the crime figures were noted. The theft of the roof slates was noted. The Clerk would remind residents that they can mark property with smartwater.

97/10 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr T Beardsell (personal).

98/10 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. He did not vote.

Cllr Mrs G Parsons declared an interest in planning matters. She did not vote.

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell had stated she would not vote in the previous planning section (she may have predetermined the application).

99/10 ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 16th DECEMBER 2010.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th December 2010.

100/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not already on the agenda.

101/10 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

101.1/10 Traffic and Highways

101.1.1/10 To consider special resolution to review the decision made on 16th December 2010 concerning grit bins at Sunground (subject to GCC approval)

101.1.2/10 To review the provision of grit bins across the parish

101.1.3/10 To review the effectiveness of County Highways, Snow Wardens and Parish Council responses during the snow and ice of winter 2010/11 and to make any decisions to try and improve the situation for future winters

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the special resolution, but to defer all grit bins, snow and maintenance/responses matters until the March meeting. During that time residents would be asked to comment. An article would be placed in the Villager.

101.2/10 Wall at High Street

The further area of wall opposite the junction with Sandford Leaze that was also beginning to crumble and lose stones and shape had been reported to Highways for investigation, nothing further had been heard from Highways.

101.3/10 B4014 repairs update (Cllr J Parsons)

This matter was deferred.

101.4/10 Complaint re customer parking outside of the Bell Inn

The complainant would refer the matter to the local PCSOs in case any traffic offences were taking place. There was no further action to be taken.

101.5/10 Avening Business Forum - to report back on meeting of the 10th November 2010 and next steps

This would be deferred until February's meeting.

101.6/10 Bumper Edition of the Villager Magazine December 2010

The editors had commented that they would be prepared to do a further bumper edition and confirmed that November was the best time for them to do this again. The matter was then deferred until a later date for decision.

101.7/10 Footpaths – report back on current contact with PROW

There had been no further action on the monkeybank path. There was a continuing problem with a possible safety issue across that voluntary diversion of the public path at Owl House. The owner would be notified.

101.8/10 Emergency Plan – report back from meeting of 21st September 2010 and next steps

The Clerk was finishing the last alterations and amendments. The intention was for council to approve the plan in their February meeting.

101.9/10 To consider Volunteer of the Year Award for 2011

An article would be placed in the Villager to seek nominations from members of the public.

101.10/10 To be advised of plans for a village event to celebrate the royal wedding in April 2011

The Hall Committee were planning an event/street party in the area of the hall. There may or may not be a grant application to follow.

102/10 FINANCE

102.1/10 General

102.1.1/10 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The current balance at bank was £2,794.47 with £21,278.66 now in the deposit account with projected expenditure and year end balance as set out on the monthly budget sheet.

102.1.2/10 To Approve Bills for payment

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

- Clerk's Salary less Income Tax plus Expenses £601.73

102.1.3/10 To advise of receipt of annual payment from Central Networks for wayleave agreement in the sum of £64.98

The Clerk advised that the annual wayleave payment in the sum of £64.98 had been received from Central Networks.

102.2/10 Village Hall

This matter was deferred pending signature of the Lease.

102.3/10 Budget

102.3.1/10 To consider Council workplan, Budget and Precept for the financial year 2011/12

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the budget for 2011/12 as set out on the attached sheet.

It was **RESOLVED** to set the precept at £23,500 for the year 2011/12. There was to be no increase in the precept due to the current economic climate.

102.4/10 Grant applications

102.4.1/10 To consider annual grant to Cotswold Tree Warden Group

It was **RESOLVED** to grant the sum of £20 to the Cotswold Tree Warden Group.

102.5/10 Maintenance work and Capital Projects

102.5.1/10 Noticeboards -To consider keyholders for community noticeboard

The noticeboards were awaited. Laura at the Bell Inn would be one of the keyholders. This would be for a trial period to make sure it worked out for both parties.

102.5.2/10 Telephone Boxes

The painting of the two telephone boxes (High Street/Point Road junction and Nags Head) had been scheduled for early May 2011.

102.5.3/10 Grasscutting (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 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.

102.5.3/10 To award three year contract for grasscutting in the parish (closed session)

It was **RESOLVED** to award the contract for a three year term, beginning in April 2011 to Avendale Garden Maintenance Service.

103/10 Procedure/Updates

103.1/101 Update on publication of expenditure over £500

New laws had been brought into force from January to ensure publication of items of expenditure over £500. Both SLCC and NALC were in discussion with the Government as the current requirements were unworkable for Parish Councils. Parish Councils are advised to ensure items of expenditure are published on websites if possible, the new format will be agreed and passed on to Parish Councils in due course. All items of expenditure for Avening Parish Council are published on the website in the minutes.

104/10 Correspondence for Action:

The following correspondence/consultations were noted. It was not felt necessary to respond.

- Review of Gloucestershire Bus Services

105/10 Closed Session

105.1/10 To receive and discuss staffing report

This matter was dealt with at minute number 102.3/10 and did not need to be discussed separately or in closed session.

**The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on
Thursday 17th February 2011 at 7.30 pm
At the Memorial Hall**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35pm

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Signed.....Chairman/Chairman of the Meeting/Presiding Officer

Date: 17th February 2011