

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 17th JULY 2008 AT 7.30PM

The following Councillors were in attendance: Cllr J Parsons (Chairman), Cllr M Williamson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mrs G Parsons, Cllr J Catterall, Cllr Mrs C Naish, Cllr T Slater

Also in attendance: Mrs D Cook (Clerk), George Buchanan

27/08 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

George Buchanan attended on behalf of the Feast Committee of the PCC, who were organising the Pig Face Day celebrations on the 14th September. A grant application would be submitted to Council in September to assist with the costs of the event. The PCC were also asking for volunteers from the Council to dress up as Aldermen and take part in the procession. The Clerk would confirm volunteers' names to Mr Buchanan.

28/08 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs E Oliver (personal), Cllr Mrs A Beszant (personal), Cllr Mrs C Mitchell (personal)

29/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

30/08 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was RESOLVED to accept and sign the minutes of the annual meeting held on Thursday, 19th June 2008.

31/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Memorial Hall

The Clerk read over the main works to be completed at the Hall over the summer. There was a discussion re balancing the needs of all the user groups use of the Hall. Cllr Jim Parsons recommended a discussion re the community aspects of the Hall with all user groups involved. The Clerk would suggest to the hall management committee.

Glebe House Public Pathway Diversion

It was noted that the kissing gate that was proposed to be replaced (because of a public objection) was not the kissing gate to the church, but 2 new kissing gates on Glebe House land and these would be changed to field gates. The Parish Council had been asked to confirm by GCC whether they accepted the situation with the gates. It was confirmed that there were no more objections from the Parish Council and the original objection re the kissing gate replacement would be removed. (Clerk to action.)

Grasscutting

It was RESOLVED to approve the quotation from HGM Ltd of 15th July 2008. The initial clearances were agreed (Rectory Lane and Powis Lane) and the occasional clearances were to be limited to twice a year (Old Hill, Rectory Lane, Powis Lane). (Clerk to action).

It was also mentioned that the community service team were assisting with the rail lands project/vegetation clearance in Tetbury. It was wondered if Avening could use the team to carry out various clearances and jobs around the village. (Clerk will look into.)

Cats Eyes on Tetbury Hill

Cllr Jim Parsons Confirmed that the cats eyes had been put back into Tetbury Hill.

CPRE AGM

Cllr Mrs G Parsons had planned to attend the local branch AGM, but had had to send apologies.

BT Phone Boxes at Nag's Head and Point Road

It was noted that these had not been painted as requested by the Council in the last financial year. The Clerk had already checked and the work request had been closed without action by BT. They would be sending a field surveyor to assess the work needed. The Clerk would chase again to ensure progress.

32/08 PLANNING

32.1/08 New Planning Applications

08/01637/FUL	Pimbury Farm, GL8 8SF Proposal: Extension to provide dining room and entrance lobby Members had no objection to the application.
08/01743/FUL	Hillside Cottage, 53 Nags Head Lane, Avening, GL8 8NZ Proposal: Erection of first floor extension Members had no objection to the application.

32.2/08 Decisions Received

08/00491/FUL	Avening Social Club, 1 Woodstock Lane, Avening, GL8 8NG Proposal: Retention of smoking shelter and outdoor seating area Date decided: 26 June 2008 Decision: Application Refused
08/01255/LBC	Norn House, 12 Nags Head Lane, Avening, GL8 8NZ Proposal: Demolition of porch. Erection of single storey lean to extension Date decided: 25 June 2008 Decision: Application Permit
08/01258/FUL	Norn House, 12 Nags Head Lane, Avening, GL8 8NZ Proposal: Erection of single storey lean to extension Date decided: 25 June 2008 Decision: Application Permit

The planning decisions were noted.

32.3/08 Tree Works Decisions

- § 08/01485/TRECON - **Date decided:** 25 June 2008 **Decision:** Application Permit
Coach House, Avening House, High Street, Avening, TETBURY, Gloucestershire, GL8 8NH
Proposal: 1) Mature Ash adjacent corner of barn extension - fell to near ground level. 2) Large mature Sycamore adjacent to gas tank - fell to near ground level. 3) Sycamore tree plantation on embankment to side of coach house - fell all trees within this area to near ground level (including the semi-mature Maples, Sycamores, Ash and Cherry situated on the embankment area). 4) Spruce tree by lawn - fell to near ground level. 5) Yew tree in centre of rear lawn - fell to near ground level. 6) Spruce and Cypress in corner of lawn area - fell to near ground level. 7) Spruce adjacent to lawn area - fell to near ground level. 8) Lawson Cypress adjacent to lawn area (group of 3) fell to near ground level. 9) Golden Cypress in corner of rear lawn - fell to near ground level. 10) Semi-mature Pine by side of lawn area - fell to near ground level. 11) Juniper - fell to near ground level. 12 and 13) Two Maple - fell to near ground level. 14) Spruce - fell to near ground level.

Members had previously objected to the application on the basis that there were too many mature trees being felled. The trees are in a conservation area and in the grounds of a listed building and this amount of tree felling was not considered appropriate to the area. However this objection had now been withdrawn on the advice of the CDC tree officer and their guidance notes.

Councillors were reminded that the deadline dates for responses on tree works consultations from CDC were non-negotiable and we could not obtain extensions.

33/08 FINANCE

33.1/08 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The current balance at bank was £2,650.51 with £22,893.91 now in the deposit account with projected expenditure and year end balance as set out on the monthly budget sheet.

33.2/08 Bills for Payment

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

§ Clerk's Salary less Income Tax plus Expenses	£518.22
§ HMRC	£26.52
§ HGM (grasscutting)	£610.00
§ GAPTC Training Course (councillors)	£200.00
§ The Bell Inn – Calor Gas Competition	£29.48

- 33.3/08 To approve the following cheques issued since the last meeting:**
§ GAPTC Training Course (clerk) £60.00

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment to GAPTC.

33.4/08 To consider costs to trim brambles on High Street/report back on progress
The Council had written to two of the local residents whose properties were near the wall. Mrs Ashcroft had phoned to advise that the Council definitely owned the wall but she was not sure if this was District or County (the parish council held no title deeds to the area). It was rebuilt a few years ago by the Council when it collapsed. The Clerk had contacted County Highways and they had referred it on to check out whether it was in their ownership or not.

33.5/08 Grant Applications

33.5.1/08 To consider grant application from Avening Playing Fields Association for completion of the flying fox and landscaping.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant the application in the sum of £550 plus VAT (£646.25) in order to complete the flying fox project. The resolution was proposed by Cllr M Williamson and seconded by Cllr J Catterall and the vote was unanimous.

Peter Savage, the contractor, would be asked to invoice us directly as the legal title to the land was in the name of the Council, so the VAT could be reclaimed if the Council was invoiced directly.

33.6/08 Staff Matters – closed session

The meeting was put into closed session for agenda point 7.6 (minuted at 33.6/08) under The Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as the business to be discussed included staffing (in accordance with legal requirements).

33.6.1/08 Temporary Cover for Clerk

It was **RESOLVED** to approve recruitment of a temporary clerk to cover maternity leave from approximately the end of October 2008 for up to one year as required by law.

The job description and application form was approved for use.

Advertising of the post in the locality and through GAPTC was approved.

34/08 PARISH PLAN/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

34.1/08 Dog Waste Bins

CDC had apologised for the delaying collecting the bins from the Clerk (new waste contract was causing additional work). They would arrange collection of the bins and install them as soon as possible.

34.2/08 Avening Walks Brochure

The Council had a draft design from CDC designers. Cllr Tony Slater was making amendments to the copy and this would go back to CDC for amendment shortly.

34.3/08 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

34.3.1/08 Community Safety Survey results and distribution

Cllr M Williamson had produced the final Community Safety Survey report and this had been distributed to Councillors. Cllr M Williamson was thanked for all his work.

34.3.2/08 To approve printing costs for Community Safety Survey

It was **RESOLVED** to approve costs (from CDC print services) in the sum of £60.78 (plus VAT) for 430 x black and white copies of the report – to then be circulated in the village. Printing would take place in later August with distribution in September.

The next SARA meeting was due to take place on 8th August, 7-9pm, venue to be arranged. All Councillors were invited to attend.

34.4/08 Ash Path maintenance and dedication to County Council

All deeds had been delivered to the Solicitors. The Solicitors had advised they didn't think that land was in the ownership of the Sandford Leaze developers still. The offer of Statutory Declarations was noted. The usual Solicitor had been away and the file would be referred back to him on his return. The Clerk would chase up shortly.

34.5/08 Traffic and Highways

It was noted that the gutters at West end were ineffective and probably blocked. Cllr T Slater would report to County Highways.

34.5.1/08 Road Closure – Gatcombe Horse Trials and Powis Lane.

These Temporary Road Closures were noted.

34.5.2/08 Repairs/Replacement of Grit Bins in Village

The Sandford Leaze grit bin top (plywood) has been damaged/rotted away and the grit bin at West End has disappeared completely. It was suggested that another grit bin at the bottom of the hill turning into Sandford Leaze would be useful. County were responsible for the grit bins. Damage should be reported to them, we could also ask for an additional bin at Sandford Leaze. (Clerk to action)

34.5.3/08 Overhanging Hedges

It was noted that because of the warmth and the rain hedges/bushes etc were growing quickly and then hanging over into the roads and pathways again. In the first instance, a note would be put in the Villager asking people to check their hedges and cut back if necessary.

34.6/08 Bus Shelters – Mays Lane and Sandford Leaze

The Clerk reported that County funding of up to £2000 per bus stop had been put on hold since last year's flooding. It was just being brought back online. Those that already had projects in hand were being given the chance to apply for the grant in order and then it would be opened up to all other parishes (including us). We have to wait until we have the letter from the county about bus stop funding before we can apply to them. They are not sure how long this will take.

CDC community projects fund had changed its priorities and advised that it was unlikely an application would succeed. The Council will need to look for other sources of funding or fund the rest of the shelter itself. The Clerk had brought along up to date brochures from manufacturers. These were looked at briefly but as the matter could not proceed at present it was deferred until September.

34.7/08 Emergency Plan

Council were interested in looking at the project in more detail and so the matter would be deferred until September's meeting. Cllrs Jim Parsons, Mick Williamson and Mrs G Parsons offered to be on the emergency planning working party.

34.8/08 Calor Gas Gloucestershire Village of the Year

The results of the competition were to be announced on Friday 18th July 2008. Cllr Mrs G Parsons and John Catterall and Jim Hill from the village were due to attend. The Council extended their thanks to both Cllrs Mrs G Parsons and Mick Williamson for entering the competition and organising the itinerary for the judges on their visit.

Cllr Mrs G Parsons had put together a welcome pack for new villagers. This would likely be extended into the community directory (on the parish plan/council work plan for 08/09). Cllr Mrs G Parsons would put more details together. The costs of the packs would then go to finance committee for discussion and to set a budget within either this year's budget or for 09/10.

34.9/08 CDC Waste Collection

It was queried when CDC would collect plastic. Other comments about the new waste system were noted. Residents should feedback directly to CDC.

34.10/08 Listing Structures around the Village

It was noted that the kissing gate on the pathway near Glebe House was not to be touched by GCC. The changes were to take place to 2 new kissing gates, on Glebe House land, which would be substituted for 2 field gates. It was possible to list structures such as kissing gates and stone stiles around the village (council would need photos, history and details of ownership and fill in the appropriate forms from English Heritage). The project was still considered worthwhile, but not as urgent and will be looked at when possible.

34.11/08 Consider Council projects/priorities with reference to annual work plan

The new projects (bus shelters, emergency plan, community directly/welcome pack, listing of structures around the village) would not all be happening together and would be staggered so would not affect other ongoing, current projects.

The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on

Thursday, 18th September at 7.30pm

In Avening Memorial Hall

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10pm