

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 21st JANUARY 2009 AT 7.30 PM

The following Councillors were in attendance. Cllr J Parsons (Chairman), Cllr M Williamson (Vice Chairman), Cllr T Slater, Cllr T Beardsell, Cllr Mrs C Mitchell, Cllr J Catterall

Also in attendance: Mrs D Cook (Clerk), Rev Celia Carter, PCSO Paul Hancock, PC Matt Shorter, Glyn Crosthwaite.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

77/09 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Glyn Crosthwaite asked a question about the future of the shop as it was known throughout the village that it was planned to be closed shortly.

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell declared an interest as the owner of the shop. She explained that their research shows they need a further 33 people spending £10 per week to keep the shop open. The current usage is not viable for them to remain open. Reference was made to the previous times the shop had nearly closed, where people used it for a short time then custom drifted away again. Rev Celia noted that shops and pubs were needed to keep the community alive. It was a community focal point and a place where the elderly and those in need sought information and where to gain assistance. Cllr Mrs C Mitchell advised that she had looked at all sorts of grant funding over the years and taken advice from all the relevant advice givers.

Mr Crosthwaite asked whether the shop could be opened for longer hours. This was not economical (it had been tried) only a few people used it in the evenings and there was a staff safety issue for lone workers.

The Parish Council advised it did not have the power to grant money to a private business. Cllr Mrs C Mitchell advised that she was not seeking funding from the council, she just needed people to use the shop.

78/09 PCSO REPORT & CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

PCSO Paul Hancock reported that crime figures were improved in comparison to last year. The incidents tended to be individual incidents, rather than waves of vandalism /damage that could be linked to specific groups. There was good interaction with members of the public in the village too.

PCSO Paul Hancock and Pc Matt Shorter left the meeting at 8.10pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to vary the agenda to deal with agenda point 11.3.3 "The Villager".

79/09 THE VILLAGER

Rev Celia Carter and Cllr T Slater had met and discussed working together to make the Village more accessible to more residents. They had come up with the suggestion of keeping the magazine on subscription, but printing a quarterly bumper issue and distributing this throughout the village. There was a new editorial team starting shortly. The Council could put longer pieces in the bumper quarterly issue. The suggested first bumper issue would be April.

Signed.....Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date: 18th February 2010

The estimate for printing from Cotswold District Council would be discussed with the new team and both issues would be put to the PCC.

Rev Celia Carter and Mr Crosthwaite left the meeting at 8.20pm.

80/09 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs G Parsons (personal), Cllr Mrs E Oliver (personal), Cllr Mrs C Naish (personal)

81/09 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.

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell declared a prejudicial interest in discussions relating to the shop as she was the owner.

82/09 ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER 2009

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

83/09 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

GAPTC had been in contact following their AGM resolution re excessive street furniture/signage:

"That the GAPTC calls upon Gloucester Highways and the Highways department of Gloucestershire County Council to:

- a) Liaise with appropriate Town and Parish Councils prior to making decisions on the installation/replacement of road and tourist signs*
- b) Take action within existing resources to reduce the overall number of signs within the county*
- c) Remove all superfluous signs and redundant posts"*

Cllr T Slater had taken photos of any unnecessary/excessive signage and forwarded them to GAPTC as requested.

84/09 VILLAGE HALL

This matter was deferred as nothing further had happened.

85/09 PLANNING

85.1/09 New Planning Applications

10/00136/FUL	2 Pike House Mews, High Street, Avening, GL8 8NL Proposal: Installation of a freesat dish The Council had no objections to the application.
09/04365/FUL	41 Nags Head Lane, Avening, GL8 8NZ Proposal: Proposed new timber frame glazed canopy over part of south facing patio area to replace existing canopy The Council had no objections to the application

85.2/09 Decisions Received

Council noted that no Decision Notices had been received.

86/09 TREE WORKS

86.1/09 Tree Works Notifications:

Cllr Jim Parsons advised of a TPO he had been asked to comment on by CDC. It was at Ruggers Green Wood/Oldfield Wood near Bulmer's Barn.

Signed.....Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date: 18th February 2010

86.2/09 Tree Works Decisions

Council noted that no Decision Notices had been received.

87/09 FINANCE

87.1/09 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The current balance at bank was £3989.80 with £21,630.49 now in the deposit account. The monthly budget sheet had not been produced in time for the meeting as bank statements and copy bank statements had not arrived. Lloyds Bank were blaming the weather.

87.2/09 Bills for Payment

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

- Clerk's Salary less Income Tax plus Expenses £554.69
- SLCC Annual Membership £106.00

87.3/09 To approve costs in the sum of £71.24 (approx) (£36.94 plus VAT and £25 plus VAT for folding) for printing 100 copies of the 7 Walks Around Avening Brochure

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the sum of £71.24 (approx) (£36.94 plus VAT and £25 plus VAT for folding) for printing 100 copies of the 7 Walks Around Avening Brochure

87.4/09 First Registration of areas of Parish Council owned land and to consider revised legal costs

It was noted that instructions were now with the Solicitor for the 4 areas of land that the Parish Council owned. Solicitors had been instructed to provide a revised note of costs as this had previously been discussed two years ago.

87.5/09 To approve mileage costs for Community Projects Officer, Tetbury Town Council for February 2009 Parish Council meeting

It was noted that the Clerk had arranged for the Community Projects Officer from Tetbury Town Council to attend February's meeting to provide a presentation on the Tetbury Partnership and what had been involved in setting this up. It was **RESOLVED** to cover the Community Project Officer's mileage at 40p per mile.

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 10.6 and 10.7, 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.

87.6/09 Annual Review of Grasscutting Contract – (closed session)

The Clerk would thank the contractor for his work over the last year. He would be reminded about the bulbs planted at the playing fields and to avoid the area until they had finished flowering.

87.6.1/09 To approve annual invoice to Avening Primary School re grasscutting 2009/10

It was noted that the year 2008/09 invoice had not been raised. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the annual invoice to the school for grasscutting in the sum of £220 per annum for 2008/09 and 2009/10, totaling £440.

87.7/09 To consider and approve costs of litter picking short term contract – (closed session)

The Clerk had approached Tetbury Town Council to see if their workmen had time to litter pick in specific areas of Avening (in the short term) to see if the idea worked out. No details had been received from Tetbury and it was decided to try and deal with the matter using volunteers instead.

87.8/09 Annual Grant Applications

87.8.1 To consider and approve the annual grant in the sum of £1,000 for Avening Memorial Hall

This matter was deferred pending receipt of an invoice from the Memorial Hall.

87.8.2 To consider and approve the annual grant in the sum of £2,000 for Avening Playing Fields Association

This matter was deferred pending receipt of an invoice and accounts from APFA.

88/09 PARISH PLAN/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

88.1/09 Ash Path maintenance and Creation Order to County Council

The matter was deferred as nothing further had happened. The Clerk would ask GCC when the installation of the handrail and other works would take place.

88.2/09 Traffic and Highways:

The potential siting of new litter bins would be placed on the agenda for discussion in February. Cllr Tom Beardsell would make a note of the current bins in the village, although not all were parish council owned.

88.2.1/09 Grit Bins

Following the snow and ice it was discussed whether any further grit bins were needed in the village. The County Council had reinstalled the missing one at Nag's Head. It was decided it was not possible to site a bin on the junction to Nag's Head (on Hampton Hill). It was **RESOLVED** at this stage that no further bins were needed.

The Clerk raised the legal advice received from SLCC's Solicitor, given out to all member councils. The advice concerned when a parish council might be held negligent if it took certain highways duties re gritting upon itself and then someone was injured as a result. The Clerk would speak to the Council's insurer's to check the position with the Parish Council buying the grit bins, but the County Council filling and maintaining them.

88.2.2/09 Wheelie Bin "30mph" speed stickers

The email advertising 30mph stickers to put on wheelie bins in an attempt to slow speeding traffic had been circulated. Council did not wish to follow this up.

88.3/09 Parish Council workplan review and planning for 2010/11

It was decided to add a note to the workplan to look at the website to ensure we are using it to its full capability.

88.3.1/09 Avening working in partnership

This matter would be deferred until after the presentation by the Community Projects Officer for Tetbury Town Council.

88.3.2 Memorial Hall Memorabilia

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell put forward an idea to frame old photos of people/places in the village and display them in the Village Hall long term. There was some discussion how this could be achieved and some discussion that a larger amount of photos could be placed on a CD as well. Cllr Mrs C Mitchell would invite those interested to attend February's meeting to develop the idea and look at costs. The Clerk would formally check with Simon

Wheatley, the Hall Chairman that there would be no objection to a long term display of photos on the walls.

88.4/09 Contacting the Community & Emergency Planning

The Clerk advised Council to look into drawing up an emergency plan following the toolkit provided by GRCC. The plan was the most straightforward one to date. It would be necessary to work with other community groups and to encourage people with certain skills to volunteer. In the first instance the Clerk would approach the PCC to see if they wished to be involved as they would be key to making the plan work in an emergency.

88.5/09 Mapping Structures in the Parish

The Clerk and Cllr T Slater had been looking at software to enable maps of the parish to be drawn up and the maps annotated to show either different structures (eg historic gates/styles etc) or council assets. The estimate for Pear Technology was in the region of £1600 plus VAT with an annual subscription of £200. It was felt that this system did far more than the Council actually needed it to do and the Council would not use most of it's capability. Parishes Online had a web based solution that allowed parish council's to annotate maps. There was an annual fee of approximately £30pa dependent upon population. It was **RESOLVED** to sign up to the Parish Online website.

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell left the meeting at 9.30pm

89/09 POLICIES

89.1/09 To adopt the draft Complaints Policy

The draft was presented to Council. It was to be amended at paragraph 4 to read that the council would deal with complaints within 21 days, but if there was a delay they would contact the complainant and advise the reason for the delay. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy subject to this amendment.

90/09 Correspondence for Action:

- Talking Transport Consultation for GCC Local Transport Plan 2011-26 – the consultation was noted.

**The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on
Thursday 18th February, 2010 at 7.30 pm
At Avening Memorial Hall**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm