

Avening Parish Council Minutes 2011/12  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON

THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2011, AT 7.30PM

The following Councillors were in attendance: Cllr M Williamson (Chairman), Cllr A Slater, Cllr J Catterall, Cllr C Mitchell, Cllr G Parsons, Cllr J Parsons, Cllr L Reid, Cllr T Beardsell.

Apologies were received from Cllr D. Conway

Also in attendance: Ms Julie Wickham (Clerk), Reverend C Carter

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

**52/11 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Reverence Celia Carter spoke about the Jubilee celebrations on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. The PCC would like to have a beacon on the top of Avening Park which will be seen throughout the valley. They hope to have a hog roast. They will have marquees and gazebos at the bottom of the park like they did for the Millennium and the Golden Jubilee. They would like Council support for the event. They would offer to join celebrations with Cherington if appropriate. Council discussed the jubilee further in the meeting.

**52/11 CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – PCSO REPORT**

The Council received the report from the PCSO who was unable to attend the meeting.

**53/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr Dominic Conway.

**54/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Lucy Reid declared a personal interest in item 16.

Cllr Jim Parsons declared a personal interest in Planning Issues as he was now on CDC Planning Committee with immediate effect.

**55/11 ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2011**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**56/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

**57/11 TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS**

**a) To consider any outstanding issues with Highways repairs that are not on the Agenda**

Councillor Slater had been very vigilant with regards Highways issues and had recently corresponded with the County Council on a number of points.

**b) To receive an update about repairs to the B4014.**

The B4014 was now open. The footpath had been cleared and pot holes in the road towards Avening had been repaired. Longman's Farm entrance was causing concern but it was acknowledged that this would have to be the subject of a separate bidding and work process.

**c) To receive an update about the state of the Wall at High Street – update from GCC**

Gill Portlock had sent a map showing the ownership of the land adjoining the walls at High Street and thus showing the responsibility for each section. **ACTION** Clerk will circulate to Councillors and speak with Gill Portlock regarding the next

steps.

**d) To note the results of the meeting with Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP re: providing a crossing at The Cross Inn for access to the post office.**

Two plans were discussed. One was a mini roundabout and the other was to create a slight change in direction of Road from Hampton Hill, so that you can see down the hill when crossing. Councillors were pleased that the Post Office and shop were doing well.

**e) To discuss the pot holes in Green Lane.**

The lane is in a very poor state. It is a class C5 road. Councillors felt there was much more traffic using the lane now than before. ACTION Council to see if evidence could be found to prove that the lane is being used more now than in previous years; this would help to provide evidence that so that Council could ask Highways whether the Lane could be reclassified.

The field is very untidy. As this is the first impression of Avening as you pass the radio mast it was decided to ask the landowner whether he could ask his tenant to tidy the site up. ACTION Clerk to write a letter.

**58/11 TO DISCUSS FORTNIGHTLY WASTE COLLECTIONS AND REACH CONSENSUS ON THE OPINION OF THE COUNCIL IF THE COUNCIL'S VIEW IS SOUGHT.**

Council felt it was important to have a view on this item. Councillors had a mix of opinions on the efficacy of the fortnightly waste collections, depending on their circumstances. Council agreed to ask the community for their view through the Villager. ACTION Clerk to write piece for The Villager.

**59/11 TO CONSIDER USES FOR THE TWO TELEPHONE KIOSKS IN THE VILLAGE.**

Council agreed that they had preserved, conserved and enhanced the two telephone boxes by adopting them and maintaining them and RESOLVED they would like to leave them as they are.

**60/11 TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF DOG FAECES AT THE RECREATION GROUND.**

The Clerk had contacted the dog warden at CDC who had that day visited the Recreation Ground and sprayed a red marker near dog faeces. The dog warden was very serious about issuing a fine if a dog owner was discovered not clearing up after their dog. She encouraged Council and members of the public to report any incidents. ACTION Clerk to add a piece in the villager to this effect.

**61/11 TO CONSIDER INFORMATION RE: QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACONS JUNE 2012**

Reverend Celia Carter attended the meeting on behalf of the Parochial Church Council during Public Question Time to talk about this item. The PCC are very keen to have a Beacon at the top of Avening Park where it would be seen throughout the valley. They intend to ask the same person who did the other beacons to do this one. They wish to accompany this with a hog roast with a marquee and gazebos at the bottom of the park. They would appreciate the involvement of the Parish Council. Cllrs Reid and Mitchell agreed to sit on the Diamond Jubilee working party and report back to Council in the new year in order to take the matter forward. The PCC will ask Cherington PC whether they would like to join in with these celebrations.

**62/11 TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTUMN CLEAN UP WHICH WAS HELD ON SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 10AM-12NOON.**

The cleanup had gone very well. The main item that all participants commented upon was the amount of dog faeces not just at the Recreation Ground, but around the village. There was a substantial amount of fly-tipping at the recreation ground which the volunteers removed.

**63/11 TO NOTE THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING AT THE DOLPHINS HALL, TETBURY ON 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER ABOUT HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.**

Councillors had attended this meeting and were pleased to note that Nailsworth will get a Broadband upgrade in 2014; this may have benefits for Avening as Avening hangs off the end of this exchange. Cllr Slater is a Broadband Champion. The Hereford and Gloucestershire joint partnership will be issuing questionnaires to prove the need for high speed broadband in rural areas. Councillors noted from their own tests that there were substantial differences in speed tests measured in megabytes per second across the village.

64/11 **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ABOUT CAR PARKING AND CARS FOR SALE ON HIGHWAYS LAND NEAR LAWRENCE ROAD/SUNGROUND.**

Cars were no longer parked here and the item will be removed from the agenda. ACTION Notify Clerk if the situation changes.

65/11 **FINANCE**

a) **Budget Status and Balance at Bank**

The current balance at bank was £11,327.11 with 17,281.97 in the deposit account with projected expenditure and yearend balance as set out in the monthly budget sheet. The remaining precept had been received (£5875). The Statutory Maternity pay advance funding had also been received. (Amount notified to councillors).

b) **To Approve Bills for payment**

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

- Clerk on maternity leave 's (salary and SMP less Income Tax )  
£679.72
- Clerk's Salary less income tax plus expenses £667.42
- HMRC £13.25
- Avendale Garden Maintenance Service £420

c) **To approve the following cheques issued since the last meeting:**

£100 to the Poppy Appeal for the wreath and a donation

d) **To consider the draft budget for the next three years**

Councillors agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss this issue, probably late November early December.

66/11 **COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS**

a) **To consider further information about the Roses Theatre, Take Out Project**

Clarification of this request revealed that it was asking for groups of people in rural areas to work with either under 16's or over 60's. The group have contacted the Villager.

ACTION Council to spread the word about this if they know of such groups.

b) **To consider a grant to Gloucestershire Chest Fund Limited**

It was **RESOLVED** to grant £40 to Gloucestershire Chest Fund Limited

c) **To consider a request for funds for the ongoing work of Victim Support in Gloucestershire.**

It was **RESOLVED** to decline a request for funds for ongoing work of Victim Support in Gloucestershire.

67/11 **MAINTENANCE WORK AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

a) **To make the necessary arrangements in order to progress the insurance claim for vandalised bench at Rectory Lane.**

Councillor G Parsons kindly agreed to chase this invoice in order that the claim could be progressed.

68/11 **OFFICE MATTERS**

a) **To consider office storage space for 2012 onwards.**

The Chair and Clerk will make arrangements to look at the upstairs room of the village hall during the daytime.

b) **To consider opening an account with James and Owen stationers in Stroud.**

As a small local shop, James and Owen sell small amounts of certain items that proved more economical than Viking in some circumstances. Once the account is open Council is not obliged to purchase through it, but the facility is there if it is needed. Council **RESOLVED** that the account be opened.

69/11 **PROCEDURE/UPDATES**

a) **To make arrangements for the meeting of the Council in May due to the Hall being booked.**

The hall had been booked by the WI. They had a special speaker and this was the only available day. Council **RESOLVED** to hold the May Council meeting at the Social Club. ACTION Clerk to contact Derek Ind. Note: Since the meeting the date has been changed so the May Council meeting will go ahead in the Village Hall as planned.

b) **Council agreed to the setting up a PO Box for 6 months. Clerk to use her delegated powers. The cost will be £110.**

70/11 **PLANNING**

11/03901/FUL **Location:** Vale Farm, West End, Avening, TETBURY, Gloucestershire, GL8 8NE

**Proposal:** Conversion of barns to residential use

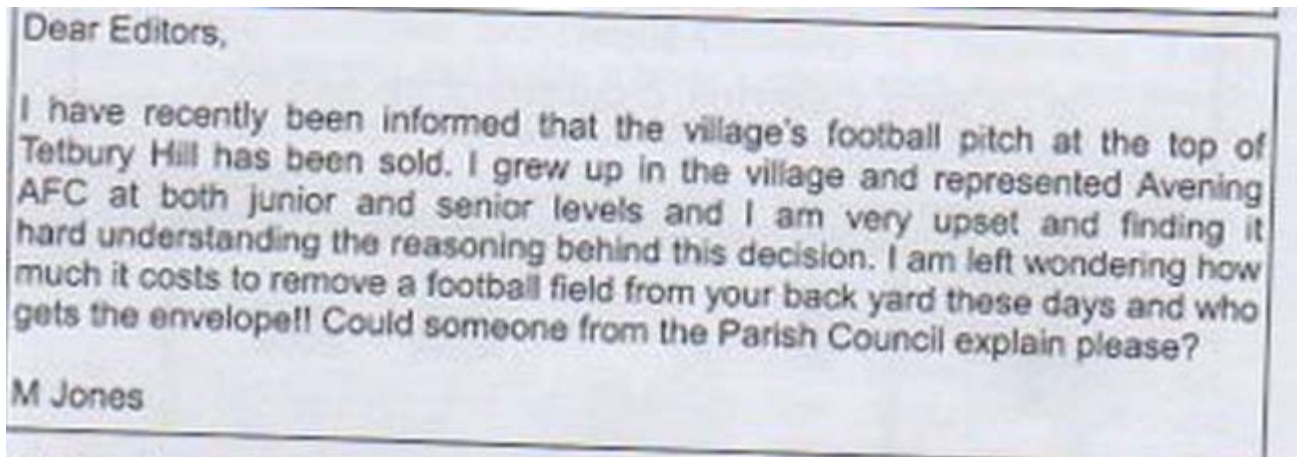
Councillors noted that additional documents had been submitted to this Planning Application.

71/11 CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

- a) Help Prevent a Disaster for the Countryside CPRE
- b) Gloucestershire Bus Review
- c) Villager Article about the Playing Field

Correspondence at a) and b) was noted.

Correspondence at c) please see the letter in from the October Villager and the reply below.



Clerk to draft a reply about the article in the villager. Final article is found below.

Thank you for your letter. The Parish Council feel it is very important to help to clarify the situation, even though this is largely a matter for the Trustees and the landowner. We are happy to play our part in informing people and correcting misunderstandings, so thank you for this opportunity. The Parish Council asked to be informed about the sale of the land at the time and Mr Derrick Ind and Jim Hill reported to the Parish Council in June 2009 and then later when the matter was resolved.

The field had been donated to the village in 1922. Our understanding of the situation was that at the time of the sale the football field hadn't been played on for 4-5 years and the football club was no longer meeting. At one point there was only one Trustee left. The field had been condemned largely due to access issues; no ambulance would have been able to get to the site. The situation became worse when the pavilion fell into disrepair and the asbestos roof fell off.

At that point the remaining trustees of the club received an offer for the land at a price far in excess of market value. The Parish Council were satisfied that all the dealings were above board using a solicitor and a land agent. The money has been placed in Trust with a view to it being used to set up a new football club or for some other charitable sporting purpose to benefit the village. The Trustees agreed to review the situation in 5 years and at least two and a half years of this time have passed. If you would like further information please contact the Clerk in the first instance who will put you in touch with the Trustees.

**Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of Avening Parish Council  
will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November  
at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall.**

**There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm**

