AVENING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON**

**THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.30 pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr A Slater (Chairman), Cllr D Bendall, Cllr J Catterall, Cllr D Conway, Cllr J Parsons (from 19.33), Cllr Mrs G Parsons, Cllr M Williamson (Vice Chairman) and Cllr E Worsdell

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Tew, Mrs P Morrison, Mr N Stanton, Mrs M Jones, Mr C Jones, Mr J Glover, Mr N Winkfield, Mr P Hancock, Mr J Collinson (Projects) and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk).

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| **138/15** | **Visitors** |
| **Action (TH):**  **Action (CB):**  **Action (JP):** | **Katie Tew, Nigel Stanton and Pip Morrison – Avening Playgroup Trustees**  Katie Tew introduced herself, Nigel Stanton and Pip Morrison. She went on to explain that the Playgroup is now on a sound footing with increased numbers but fundraising will be key to sustaining this improvement.   * The Playgroup needs to develop into a modern facility with a business plan and there are hopes to develop a Forest School in the wooded area to the rear of the site. * Pip Morrison has formally resigned leaving the Playgroup with excellent footing in place. * Good committee now in place including Jane Rushton (School Head) who, with a colleague, is helping with the Forest School. Area would need fencing and gate. * Aim to see extended use of the site by younger children, weekends and evenings bookings and other Community groups. * There will be challenges for the new Chairman and the Trustees need to drive the new developments forward. * Very grateful for the £2,000 from the Football Club Fund which enable the Playgroup to break even this year. * One afternoon opening is working well. * Primary School is reliant on playgroup for Reception intake. Numbers had dropped this year and trying to build up numbers to prevent it happening next year. * Parents who are working full time cannot use playgroup is it is unable to offer enough hours. * Excellent facility that is underused but all 3 Trustees are committed to expanding the service. * A Banner has been installed at end of Lawrence Road and awaiting permission for another at Veizeys quarry.   Cllr Tony Hicks advised that there would be public health money available next year for the forest school.  The Clerk was requested to forward details of other possible funding.  Cllr Parsons agreed to investigate ownership of land at CDC. |
| **Action (APFA):** | **Avening Playing Field Association Committee**   * Apologised for not attending the last Council meeting although there has been correspondence between the Council and the Committee. * The last safety report has been circulated together with the actions. * Current committee plans to stand down at the AGM in April 2016 and there are already people in place to take over. * Now looking for help and guidance on procedures and fund raising. * Cllr Williamson explained that the Council has concerns about the validity of insurance when safety issues are not addressed and there is non-compliance with procedures. These issues could reflect on fund raising. Is it possible to rectify these matters before the AGM and formation of a new committee ? * Cllr Worsdell raised concerns about the condition of the play equipment highlighted by ROSPA. He said that the report doesn’t go into it in great depth but it would be good practice to put repairs and procedures into place. Documentation should be retained describing the work carried out and the issues addressed. The Flying Fox, specifically, has some high-risk ratings. * The Committee explained that the Flying Fox was Self Built and only 8 years old. It was disappointing that it had deteriorated so quickly. It was confirmed that the Committee are looking to address the issues and welcomes advice. * The Swings have been decommissioned and there are long running plans to replace them. As a temporary measure one would be replaced now. * Safety checks and documentation would be carried out and passed to the Council. * Members pointed out that general grounds maintenance works were promised at beginning of the year but has not been carried out. The Committee acknowledged that someone needs to be found to carry out day-to-day grounds maintenance but that the hedge is being cut back this month. * Members were advised that the Trustees named in the Constitution have long since gone but this issue needs to be addressed along with other constitutional issues and the installation of a new committee. |
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| **139/15** | **Public Question Time**  None |
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| **140/15** | **Police** - Monthly Crime And Anti Social Behaviour Report  Noted. |
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| **141/15** | **Apologies And Reasons For Absence**  Cllr Mrs C Mitchell (Personal) |
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| **142/15** | **Code of Conduct** |
| **142.1/15** | **Declarations Of Interest in Items on the Agenda**  None |
| **142.2/15** | **Updates to Members Register Interested (if appropriate)**  None |
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| **143/15** | **Matters Arising From The Minutes** |
| **Action (JC):** | **Winter Maintenance – Grit Spreaders and Grit/ Salt Supply**  **RESOLUTION 51/15**  Members inspected the grit spreader and it was resolved that one should be sourced for the Village. However, it was also agreed that a shed should first be sourced and installed on the Memorial Hall site allowing convenient access. |
|  | **Ash Path – Ownership and Overhanging Tree**  Mr Stanton advised that during the time that he was a Member of the Parish Council it was generally accepted that the section of the path between Sandford Leaze and Rectory Lane was maintained by GCC and the un-surfaced section below Sandford Leaze was maintained by the Parish Council who rebuilt the steps and handrail. In the circumstances, it was agreed that there is no evidence that the Parish Council is responsible for the tree. |
|  | **Woodchester Local Transport Scheme**  Deferred to the next meeting |
|  | **Disappearing Stream**  Deferred to the next meeting |
|  | **Snow Plough Operator**  Deferred to the next meeting |
|  | **Listed Pump on Site adjacent to 11 High Street and Update on Development**  Cllr Parsons reported that the Pump is safe and that the current work being carried out on the site is Health and Safety related. |
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| **144/15** | **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 October 2015**  **RESOLUTION 52/15**  The Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman |
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| **145/15** | **County and District Councillors’ Reports**  **Cllr Tony Hicks**  **Proposed Development at Sunground**  Cllr Hicks acknowledged that GCC owe the Parish Council an apology regarding the development at Sunground. It transpires that the ownership of a strip of land on the edge of the site is in question and holding up the transfer of the site to the developer. Negotiations are currently taking place with CDC who is believed to hold the title to the strip of land.  When asked for the sale price of the strip of land, Cllr Hicks declined to comment.  **RESOLUTION 53/15**  The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council should approach CDC with an offer to purchase the strip of land detailed on the attached plan marked B and C. This was seconded by Cllr Catterall and unanimously approved.  Cllr Parsons agreed to liaise with CDC and advise the Clerk of the outcome. Members expressed concerned that a piece of publicly owned land is being given to a developer, which will directly benefit them and, in all probability, enable them to submit a new planning application that will include no community benefit.   It was agreed that the Parish Council does not wish to prevent the development but merely secure some benefit for the local community.  **Development at 11a High Street**  Members were advised that there remains a problem with the access to the site and from which side of the pavement measures should be taken. It is likely that an amendment will need to be made to the planning application that will be subject to consultation.  **Funded Public Transport Consultation**  Cllr Hicks asked for this to be included in the Council’s Villager article. |
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| **146/15** | **Chairman’s Report**  See the Villager |
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| **147/15** | **Community Issues & Projects** |
| **147.1/15** | **Traffic and Highways** |
| **Action (CB):** | **Highways Update**  It was noted that there have been several areas of flooding on the road during recent bad weather:   * Mays Lane – adjacent to the bus shelter. * Nailsworth Road – near entrance to Home Farm * B4014 at Tetbury Upton corner   Cllr Parsons agreed to notify Lawrence King and the Clerk was requested to advise Gloucestershire Highways.  Highways Meeting  Cllr Hicks advised that a meeting would take place on 4 December to discuss School gates and improvements to the junction of Lawrence Road. |
| **147/15.2** | **Community Issues** |
|  | **Avening Memorial Hall** |
|  | **Management Committee Update**  A meeting to formalise the new Committee would take place on 12 January at The Bell. |
| **Action (EW):**  **Action (JC):** | **Building Update**  Members were advised that in accordance with the terms of the lease, GCC is responsible for safety inspections but the Management Committee is responsible for carrying out any subsequent work. Cllr Worsdell agreed to draw up a risk assess policy and requested that the Project Manager obtains the necessary risk assessment documentation from the lintel contractor.  Fire Risk Assessment  Cllr Bendall advised that:   * Fire protection needs attention particularly relating to the risks from the school kitchen that poses a danger to the upper level and the old electrical wiring to the meter at the top of the cellar stairs that is also very dangerous. * Several quotations were presented covering different fire detection methods and recommended that ideally it would be sensible to rationalise the electrics in a metal box with an extinguisher. * 23 non-compliances were identified in the assessment.   Cllr Worsdell agreed that there are a lot of compliance issues but fire is the most urgent.  **RESOLUTION 54/15**  It was agreed that the future use of the upstairs room would determine the level and type of safety prevention to be employed. In the meantime, it was resolved to obtain quotes for fire doors and the electrical work in the cellar. |
|  | **Insurance Update**  The Clerk confirmed that Insurance has been arranged with Zurich through Community Frist. |
| **Action (JC):** | **Project Manager’s Report (Attached)**  Confirmed that the replacement lintels will be installed at February Half Term next year.  Jet washing of path – regular arrangement in place  Roof guard – advised that this should be a higher priority and he was requested to obtain quotations. |
|  | **Avening Playing Field** |
|  | Minutes from Meeting held on 19 October 2015  Noted |
|  | Safety Report and Insurance Cover  See 138/15 |
|  | **Card and Information Pack for New Residents**  Deferred to next meeting. |
| **Action (CB):** | **Village Christmas Tree – Update**  **RESOLUTION 54/15**  **It was resolved to source a tree and lights and to carry out the necessary preparation work. The Clerk was requested to pursue.** |
|  | **Community Emergency Plan – Update**  Deferred to the next meeting. |
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| **148/15** | **Finance** |
| **148.1/15** | **Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 31 October 2015**  Noted |
| **148.2/15** | **Bills For Payment (as detailed on Schedule)**  **RESOLUTION 55/15**  It was resolved to pay the bills as detailed on the schedule. |
| **148.3/15** | **Recommendations from the Informal Finance Committee Meeting held on 9 November**  Cllr Williamson advised the recommendations from the meeting:   * Precept to remain the same * Have adjusted some budgets that were underspent * Not considered spending on the Memorial Hall as the new Hall Committee will determine this but there is likely to be surplus for donations.   Cllr Mrs Parsons proposed that the Precept should be increased by 2% in view of planned major projects. 2 Voted in Favour and 8 against.  Cllr Williamson proposed adoption of budget as attached and acceptance of the Committee’s recommendations. 7 Voted in Favour and 1 Against.  **RESOLUTION 56/15**  Therefore, it was resolved to adopt the attached budget and Precept request. |
| **148.4/15** | **Donation Request from Citizens Advice Bureau**  Deferred to the next meeting. |
| **148.5/15** | **Donation to Cobalt Health**  Deferred to the next meeting. |
| **148.6/15** | **Associate Membership of CPRE**  Deferred to the next meeting. |
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| **149/15** | **Planning** |
| **149.1/15** | **New Planning Applications** |
|  | **15/04283/FUL 78 Sandford Leaze Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8PB**  Erection of first floor side extension over garage  No Objections |
| **149.2/15** | **Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting** |
|  | **15/03978/FUL The Old Quarries Rectory Lane Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8NJ**  Reconstruction of a section of wall using original salvaged material  No Objections |
|  | **15/03979/LBC The Old Quarries Rectory Lane Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8NJ**  Reconstruction of a section of wall using original salvaged material  No Objections |
| **149.3/15** | **Decision Notices** |
|  | **15/02091/FUL 25 Tetbury Hill Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8LT**  Permitted 13 November 2015 |
| **149.4/15** | **Planning Correspondence** |
|  | Proposed Development at Sunground – Update  See Item 145/15 |
|  | **15/02091/FUL 25 Tetbury Hill Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8LT**  New details - Amendment for fenestration and addition of window to side elevation  New details - Amended design and revised siting  Noted. |
|  | **CDC Local Plan Consultation**  Deferred to next meeting.  Cllr Conway drew Members’ attention to the fact that the total of housing land available in 17 settlements exceeded the target by 8%. |
|  | **Independent Examination of the Submission - Stroud District Local Plan**  Noted |
| **149.5/15** | **Tree Works Notifications** |
|  | **15/05088/TCONR Holy Cross Church Church Street Avening**  T.1 - Sycamore - fell  **15/04886/TCONR 11A High Street Avening Gloucestershire**  Hazel – remove Permitted 5 November 2015 |
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| **150/15** | **Correspondence** |
|  | **Invitation to Flood Meeting – 27 November 2015 – Report, Minutes and Agenda**  Noted |
|  | **SWAST Briefing from Healthwatch Gloucestershire Public Event, Northleach – 14 October 2015**  Noted |
|  | **CDC – Christmas and New Year Waste Collection Arrangements -** Noted |
|  | **GCC - Funded Public Transport Consultation Evening Events -** Noted |
|  | **NHS – Travel Costs in Gloucestershire – Report and Consultation -** Noted |
|  | **GAPTC – Assistance for Refugees Guidance -** Noted |
|  | **GCC – Request for Landowners to Reduce Risk of Flooding -** Noted |
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| **151/15** | **Councillors**  **Cllr Bendall** confirmed that he would be attending the Fire Service consultation event as he is concerned about the impact of cut backs when demand is likely to increase with 10 – 15 % additional housing.  **Cllr Worsdell** advised that he had attended recent training for the On-Line Mapping software and said that it would be useful to include some of the overlays on the website. |
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| **152/15** | **The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Thursday, 17 December 2015 in Avening Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.**  **All Are Welcome** |

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 22.05