

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mulligan– Chair, Cllr Slater, Cllr Bendall. Cllr Hetterley, , Cllr King, Cllr Mills. Cllr Hamilton, Cllr Blackie

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: - Mrs S Baker (Clerk), County Councillor Stephan Fifield.

Councillor Mulligan wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Cllr Blackie and Cllr Fifield to their first Avening Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council introduced themselves.

VISITORS:- None

01/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None

02/25 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Parsons

03/25 CODE OF CONDUCT

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

None

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None

04/25 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th December 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th of December 2024 were signed as a true record.

05/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th December 2024

None

06/25 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

Playing Fields Update

Cllr Mulligan reported that the fence between the neighbour and the children's play area, that came down during the storms on the weekend of the 7th of December, was not owned by the Parish Council. Cllr Mulligan will discuss repair/replacement with the neighbour.

Cllr Mills reported that the repairs to the Council owned fence is near completion.

Memorial Hall

Cllr Mulligan reported that he has been notified by Athelston Trust that they have applied to the Department of Education for consent to agree to the £18,000 annual lease. This will take 6-8 weeks. Cllr Mulligan will ask for a copy of the application to ensure the correct information has been supplied.

Cllr Slater informed the council that there is a Government body called the Public Works Loan Board. These make loans to Parish Councils for capital projects. It was agreed that Cllr Slater make enquiries.

The Clerk informed the Council that she had purchased the consumable for the cleaners and a sweeping brush and dustpan as requested.

Cllr Mulligan agreed to purchase a combination lock for the cleaning cupboard.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator currently in storage does not need an electricity supply. Cllr Mulligan will check that it is in working order and all associated equipment is in good condition. This can then be installed at the upper telephone box.

Phone Box Refurbishment

Cllr Slater is still trying to get two quotes for the phone box insurance claim.

Parish Plan Update

Cllr Mills said no further progress had been made on the Parish Plan due to time spent on the Risk Assessment. It was agreed to keep the plan as an agenda item.

07/25 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

Cllr Slater said he reported a hole by Nags Head/Cherington Lake. This was promptly repaired.

A branch at Nags Head fell on an electrical cable. Although it was removed quickly, the cable is now hanging low. The Clerk will contact the Highways.

New Inn Lane is due a road closure with restricted access.

Cllr Slater reported whilst on a walk he found a discarded McDonalds bag with a receipt inside. He handed it into CDC. They in turn contacted McDonalds. Who are checking their CCTV for the time on the receipt to identify the culprit. If the information is available, the culprit will be issued with a fine.

Cllr Mulligan said that as the grit bins are not expected to be refilled again this winter, he suggested putting notices on the bins informing residents and asking them to use sparingly. This was agreed. The Clerk will produce the signs.

08/25 FINANCE

- I. Cllr Hetterley reported that there is currently £87,893. in the bank. Budgeted reserves of approximately £40K.
- II. The Parish Council approved bills for payment
- III. Approve the Budget
Cllr King proposed approving the budget with a £54,000 precept request. This was seconded by Cllr Hetterley. The Council unanimously agreed to the proposal.
- IV. Approve draft Risk Assessment.

09/25 POLICE REPORT – Unavailable.

10/25 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT – Cllr Slater reported that the Time Team have been digging at a site in Cherington for a number of years. Many of their finds are on display at the Coronium Museum. They also have a film on YouTube.

There are still some issues with the bin collections. If anyone has a problem, please pass it on to Cllr Slater.

11/25 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Fifield explained that whilst County Councillor Hirst was unwell, he would be taking over his role. He is deputy leader of the Council and soon to be a resident of Leighterton.

Cllr Hirst has a remaining £6K of unspent funds for community projects and £3K for educational projects. Cllr Fifield invited applications and offered to help the Parish Council complete the forms/ Cllr Mills and Cllr Hamilton will ensure the Church Educational Charity and the Playgroup are aware of the availability.

The Clerk said she would forward Cllr Fifield's email to the Parish Council for ease of contact.

Cllr Fifield reported that the main challenges for County and District Councils are the proposal for Gloucestershire to become a Unitary Authority. GCC does not have a choice making this change as Government policy is for all Councils to become combined authorities. This is in very early discussions.

GCC has requested the delay of County Council elections until 2026 whilst they navigate the process.

There is an opportunity to combine Councils. The District Councils will be disbanded with more authority being given to Parish Councils. It is thought that Parish councils are better placed to make planning decisions, as the Councillors know the area.

Cllr Fifield said it is an exciting opportunity to review and make changes to long standing procedures. Whilst the changes are progressing GCC and District Councils will be run as shadow councils working side by side until the final transfer.

Cllr Fifield invited questions.

Q: How much is this going to cost and who is paying for it?

A: At this stage it is unclear. It is very early days and a lot of negotiations to sort out contracts etc...

Q: Would it be possible to have a local Highway repairs team? Currently they are often from South Wales.

A: This again is part of the discussions and yet to be decided.

Q: Why have Ringway been reappointed when their performance has been so poor?

A: In a market where competition is very limited, it is better to work with the contractor and try to improve performance through negotiation. We must do the best we can with limited contractors.

Q: Is most of the roadworks budget spent in Cheltenham and Gloucester?

A: We are actively trying to push the contractors out to more rural areas.

Q: In the news it reported that GCC was purchasing a machine to fill potholes. There was a choice of four reported. Which one was chosen?

A: I believe the JCB has been chosen. An announcement will be made shortly.

Cllr Fifield thanked the Parish Council and left the room.

12 /25 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

24/03783/FUL - 12 Star Lane - Demolition of detached garage. Erection of replacement garage with ancillary accommodation over. - Support

2403746/COMPLY – Church Farm, Point Road. - Compliance with conditions 3 (details - new openings), 4 (method statement - boot room), and 5 (details - oil tank enclosure) of permission 24/02080/FUL and conditions 2 (details - new openings), 3 (details - vents and pipework), 4 (details - oil tank enclosure) and 5 (method statement - boot room) of permission – 24/02081/LBC. Internal and external alterations, erection of single storey extension and associated works. – Support

24/03832/FUL- 1 Tetbury Hill Creation of new vehicular access and driveway.

Replacement boundary walling and screening. - Support

24/03921/TCONR -Holy Cross Church sycamore (T1) - Reduce the western side of the crown from 17m to 12m high and remove the lowest limb to help balance that trunk which is attached to the main tree by a poor union. Hawthorn (T2) - Fell as it is a poor specimen and leaning heavily. Sycamore (T3) - Reduce the crown height from 22m to 18m and the radial spread from 12m to 8m to improve integrity of the crown following a number of recent limb failures. Yew trees (G1) - Reduce the height of the trees from 10m to 4m and reduce the eastern side of the crown behind the railings to allow more light into the school playground and reduce the chance of the poisonous berries landing in the play area. - Support

13/25 Planning Correspondence and Decisions

24/03045/FUL - 12 Star Lane - Erection of two storey side extension, first floor extension to rear and rear porch – Permitted.

24/03056/FUL - 11 High Street Replace ancillary residential garage door – Permitted.

24/03439/AGFO- Brandhouse Farm West End - Prior notification for the formation of a drainage and conservation pond- Refused.

14/25 CORRESPONDENCE

GRCC Update

GAPTC - Gloucestershire has won funding from the Southwest Net Zero Hub and UKSPF (Shared Prosperity Fund) for three retrofit engagement officers to work with homeowners across the area to provide advice on identifying and initiating energy efficiency improvements. initially be focused on Cheltenham borough, Cotswold and Forest of Dean.

Winter edition of The Circuit newsletter

Cotswold National Landscapes - Lion Issue 52

National Association of Local Councils - Newsletter

15/25 COUNCILLORS

Cllr Bendall expressed concern that when the County Council becomes a Unitary Council most of the funding will be taken up by Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Cllr Hetterley reported that Knead Bakery will be in the village on the 25th of January. The Villager Editor has asked if there is any scope to increase the Parish Council funding.

The Clerk asked why they didn't ask for additional funding when they submitted their grant application. Cllr Hetterley said it was a new editor who is hoping to produce more coloured editions. Cllr Hamilton said she thought it should wait until their next grant applications. This was agreed.

Cllr Hetterley asked if the fundraising letter will be put in February edition of the Villager. It was agreed that project had not progressed enough at this stage to issue the letter.

Cllr Hetterley asked who was attending the opening of the Affordable Housing project by HRH Princess Ann. 5 members of the Council will be in attendance.

Cllr Bendall said it is to start at the Social Club. And then progress to the AH site. 40 people are expected to attend. Would it be possible to park cars on the playing field. It was agreed that due to the saturated ground, it would not be a good idea and that there would be plenty of space to park at the social club and on street parking.

Cllr Mulligan said that with the increase in cold, flu and viruses and hospitals requesting patients attending wear face masks. He has been promised 10,000 masks that he is willing to donate to residents in need. It was agreed to put an article in the Villager informing residents that they can collect a pack from the social club, church, or by emailing the Clerk who can arrange delivery.

The Clerk said that the Parish mobile phone no longer works. It was agreed that the Clerk purchase a new phone.

16/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Actions

06/25	Meet with Roofing Contractors	Cllr Mulligan
08/25	Make Payments	Clerk
12/25	Planning Response	Clerk
173/24	Produce signs for Grit Bins	Clerk