.

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**: - Mrs S Baker (Clerk),

VISITORS:- None

33/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None

34/25 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE –Cllr Hamilto, Cllr Blackie

35/25 CODE OF CONDUCT

 166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

P. Mulligan Expenses. Agenda Item 10 Planning 25/00509/TCONR

 166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None

36/25 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th February 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th of February 2025 were signed as a true record.

37/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8th January 2024

 None

38/25 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

 **Community Issues**

Playing Fields Update

The Clerk said The Rospa safety inspection is booked for some time during April.

The Clerk said she had received an email complaining about dog mess in the village and people not picking up. researched the regulations for installing CCTV. It is legally permitted, but the there are regulations that must be followed. The Clerk provided the Chair with a copy. The costs for CCTV are variable, depending on the type of system, but can be purchased at a reasonable price. The Council agreed to research how the solar cameras connect. The Clerk also provided the council with prices for dog waste bag dispensers. The Council agreed to purchase two if the cheaper options to assess if they make a difference to the problem.

It was agreed to apply to the build back better fund to extend the footpath. Cllr Mulligan will collate the information needed and pass to Cllr Mills for submission.

Cllr Mills said he had submitted an application on behalf of the Playgroup.

It has been noted that birds have been hitting the power cables at the pole in the playing field. Cllr King said he had discussed the issue with the Owl Trust, who advised that the cables can be insulated very cheaply and to contact Western Power to make the request. Cllr Slater said he thought the pole in Mr Woodman’s field would probably benefit from insulation. The Clerk will contact Western Power.

Memorial Hall

Cllr Bendall said he has been contacted by Utility Aid, enquiring if the Hall had an energy contract. The clerk informed Cllr Bendal that the energy broker used was Bionic and that it is currently tied into 3-year contract.

FOAS are holding a quiz night April 4th and asked if the Parish Council would attend. Cllr Bendall has also taken a booking from the WI for 2026.

Cllr Hetterley said he has issued the lates invoice to the Athelston Trust. He is concerned that with the rent negotiations still ongoing, the Athelston Trust backdated invoice will be costly. The Clerk said she emailed Richard Blacker last week asking for an update on the application to the Education Secretary to agree to the 18K rent. Mr Blacker said he was chasing the Education Departing and hoped to receive a decision soon.

Cllr Mulligan said following a complaint from the school regarding water dripping from a pipe onto the path, the plumber attended site and reported that the pressure relief valve needed changing. On further inspection, he said that the water heater did not comply to current standards. Mr Mulligan authorised it to be changed.

 Defibrillator

Cllr Mulligan said he has not been able to access the phone box to install the spare defibrillator due to road works.

 Phone Box Refurbishment

A quote for £5800 has been received for the refurbishment of the phone box. Cllr King confirmed that the box was listed. It was agreed that the Council had no option but to refurbish. Some of the cost is covered by the insurance claim of £1750 which has been received. Cllr Mulligan will call the contractor asking him to proceed. The Clerk said that the contractor has requested 50% payment in advance.

Parish Plan Update

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

39/25 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

Cllr Parsons said she was concerned about the speed of traffic on Tetbury Hill. The Council was reminded that County Councillor Fifield agreed to enquire about traffic calming schemed. The Clerk was asked to email Cllr Fifield for an update.

The Clerk was asked to write once again to Sandford House asking them to cut back the trees hanging over the footpath.

Avening Court Wall - CDC agree that the wall is unsafe. They have sent a letter to Avening Court advising them to assess and make the required repairs.

 **40**/25 FINANCE

Cllr Hetterley reported that there is £88,636K in the bank. It is expected to have around £43K in reserves at the end of the financial year (depending on project spend).

1. The Parish Council approved bills for payment.

The Clerk also submitted an invoice for approval for the Memorial Hall to reimburse the cost of purchasing bin bags and toilet rolls.

41/25 POLICE REPORT – Unavailable.

42/25 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT – Unavailable. - Cllr Slater said he had received an update from CDC following a discarded McDonalds wrapper. The offender had left a receipt in the bag which enabled McDonalds to identify the culprit. A fine was of £500 was issued which has now been paid.

43/25 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Unavailable

44 /25 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

11.1

25/00473/FUL The Barn Gatcombe View Stable Woodstock Lane Conversion of a barn to a dwelling (Part Retrospective). The Prish Council strongly object to this application. This barn was given permission on the ground that it would be a store. It has been used as a residence from day one. Enforcement has visited twice and failed to take action. Tis is a blatant flaunt of planning regulation. If the original application had been to build a house, the applicant would never have been given permission. The Clerk will submit the Councils objections and Cllr Mulligan will write a formal letter of complaint to the MP, Head of Planning and Head of Council. The Clerk stated that out of nine submissions of support, only four were resident of Avening.

25/00509/TCONR Brook House Hampton Hill Large, mature poplar' Repollard below previous pollard leaving the new pollard at 6 meters in height. Cllr King said this application was approved on 13th March.

25/00346/FUL 43 High Street Installation of 2no. roof windows to front elevation and patio doors to rear of dwelling – No comment

**45/25 Planning Correspondence and Decisions**

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 – No Objection
Hawthorn (T2) – Fell Sycamore (T3) - Reduce the crown height from 22m to 18m and the radial spread from 12m to 8m. Yew trees (G1) - Reduce the height of the trees from 10m to 4m and reduce the eastern side of the crown behind the railings

24/03666/TCONR Holy Cross Church Sycamore x 2 (G1) – Fell Yew (T1) - reduce the height to match the neighbouring tree line. No Objection

25/00635/TCONR Blenheim Cottage 3 Woodstock Lane - Hazel tree - crown reduction of 50% - No Objection.

25/00107/TCONR - Farm Hill House Point Road - T1- Thuja hedge to be removed to ground level. Re plant of either new hedge row/ specimen trees (Yet To be decided) Two trees have died off. BT Cable and power line growing within canopy – No Objection

46/25 CORRESPONDENCE

GAPTC Devolution Working Group

GRCC Community Buildings Seminar

Avening Court Wall - Dangerous – CDC . They have sent a letter to Avening Court advising them to assess and make the required repairs.

CDC – Sign info needed.

GRCC News bites

Town/Parish Summit 4th June Devolution – Expect an email.

GCC – Budget info

Local Development Guide – Stakeholder engagement

Pension Regulator Declaration.

Complaint regarding dog fouling

**47/25 COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Hetterley attended a zoom seminar “Top Tips for Grant.” This highlighted that you needed to be ready before the grants are announced because so many of them have a shot timescale for applications.

Cllr Hetterley also remarked that he had been contacted by Tesco stating there were fund available should the council wish to apply for the instore blue coin collection.

 It was agreed that a plan of action was needed. Cllr King said that the Parish Council had one prior to lockdown, but it had not been used since then. It was agreed to resurrect it.

Cllr Parsons expressed concern over the Councils bank balance. The Clerk reassured Cllr Parsons that an explanation will be needed to provide to the auditor, but because the council has a major project that it is fundraising for, the auditor will be satisfied.

Cllr King said that Pheobe Carter will commence the biodiversity survey. It is thought that some information will be easier for the Parish Council to do themselves. The Council will be informed what is required.

The Clerk asked the Parish Council to consider what topic and guest speaker they would like to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

**48/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Actions

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| 38/25 | Submit Grant Application build back better | Cllr Mulligan |
| 38/25 | Liaise with Contractor re Phone Box | Cllr Mulligan |
| 40/25 | Pay Bills | Clerk |
| 44/25 | Submit Planning response. | Clerk |