

Avening Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr P Mulligan, Cllr A Slater, Cllr C. Howell, Cllr R King, Cllr D Bendall,
Cllr J Hetterley, Cllr Hamilton, Cllr G Parsons,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Baker (Clerk),

VISITORS: Bob Scurfield, PCSO Sue Fellows, PCSO Kimberley Collins

17/22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME –

18/22 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Forster (work Commitments) Cllr Stephen Hirst (GCC) & Cllr Morgan (CDC) (full CDC meeting)

19/22 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

20/22 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held 19 January 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record with one amendment. Cllr Hetterley requested a change to item 09/22 and to remove the district council elections from the statement as it was yet unclear if the Parish would be charged for contested district elections.

21/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2022.

22/22 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

- i. Memorial Hall – Cllr Bendall reported the power had failed twice whilst the WI were using the hall. He had engaged an electrician who has reported a circuit problem and although the electrics meet the legal requirements the distribution board needs updating. The thermostat is also faulty on a heater and needs replacing. The Clerk mentioned an email that had been received from an infrared heating specialist. The Clerk will forward the email onto the PC so as they can review the option.
Cllr Bendall reported that Cllr Hirst has agreed to donate £5,000 towards the hall upgrade from the GCC grant fund. This will be available in the new financial year.
Cllr Mulligan is meeting with a contractor to get a quote for the roof repairs.
GCC have carried out a survey and produced a list of necessary work. This will be discussed at the meeting of the Trustees on the 15th March.
Mr Scurfield remarked that with so many celebrations coming up in 2022 it was vital to start work on improving the décor of the building.
Cllr Hamilton said that the date for the hall booking for Church Fete had been changed to September 11th.
- ii. Playing Fields Update
The Playing field committee has met to discuss the work needed to prepare for the Rospa inspection. Some work can be carried out by individual members of the committee, but a handyman is needed for some of the bigger jobs. Cllr Mulligan said he would put an article in the villager asking for a volunteer.
- iii. A new dog bin is needed in the playing field. The Clerk will contact CDC to order one.
- iv. The Canal Trust have offered to remove some of the diseased and take the logs as payment. Cllr Mulligan will meet with them to see if they can remove some of the bigger diseased trees. This needs to be carried out before the nesting season. Bromford Housing Contractors have identified 48 trees that need to be removed on their land.

- v. The installation of the new play equipment has been delayed due to shortages. The contractor is hoping to complete the work before May. There has been an increase of £364+ VAT in the cost this is mostly due to increase in transportation costs.

23/22 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The highways report was noted.

Cllr Mulligan attended a meeting with a highways representative to discuss issues on the roads.

Highways have responded to the issues (attached)

The Clerk will order two traffic mirrors.

The Clerk received an email complaining about the removal of the drop kerb at Sunground. A complaint was made to a highways representative which resulted in a misunderstanding as to who authorised the removal. Highways agree that removal of the drop kerb was the correct course of action and the matter is closed.

24/22 POLICE REPORT

During the period of 1st December 2021 – 1st February 2022, four crimes were reported in comparison to ten crimes for the same period the year before. One theft - stolen number plates, One criminal damage- vehicle, two violence – allegations of harassment.

Women Staying Safe - The police are promoting the Flare app. It is recommended downloading the app to enable women and girls to share and report everyday experiences including verbal abuse, sexual comments in public spaces, as well as issues such as drink spiking, harassment, and indecent exposure. The app is available at flarereport.co.uk

PCSO Sue Fellows has announced she is moving to pastures new. The Parish Council thanked her for all her hard work. Sue's replacement is PCSO Kimberley Collins. The Parish Council welcomed Kim and look forward to working with her.

25/22 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Hirst sent his apologies but distributed his report prior to the meeting. (attached)

26/22 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Morgan sent his apologies.

27/22 FINANCE

Finance Report up to 31 Jan 2022

- i. The finance report was circulated in advance of the meeting.
- ii. Approve Bills for Payment - Schedule was circulated, and payments were approved.
- iii. The Clerk reported that she emailed every parish in the Cotswold district, informing them of the Parish Council's stance on the proposed election charges. The response from most was "they never need an election, so not concerned. The Clerk has also been contacted by Angela Claridge (Director of Governance at CDC) who asked why the Parish Council had taken their stance on the election charges. She remarked that she didn't want to make things difficult for the Clerk and that she hoped the dispute could be resolved. She was reporting back to Joe Harris, Leader of the District Council and that a response should be received before the meeting. Unfortunately to date this response has not been received.
- iv. An email has been received from Jennie South stating that Play Gloucestershire have agreed to two play days during the summer holidays at a cost of £534 per day. Jennie South is requesting the £1,000 towards the cost. The PC had agreed to a donation if it could be proved that numbers attending were sufficient enough to warrant the outlay. Cllr Mulligan will contact Jennie South to ascertain how many children will be attending.

28/22 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

21/02282/FUL – Plum Patch Cottage – Erection of earth sheltered accommodation - Updated details. - Support.

29/22 PLANNING DECISION NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE

Decisions

22/00056/TPO -The Coach House, High Street – Reduce Beech Tree, Reduce Horse Chestnut.
- Permitted

21/03201/COMPLY – Land Parcel at Sunground - 12 Landscape, 15 Drainage, 17 Lighting,
18 Biodiversity, 22 Method Statement, 25 Broadband – Permitted

21/0288/FUL – Land Parcel at Sunground – Variation on conditions 2 approved plans and 20 tree
protection plan. - Permitted

20/03727/FUL Norn House 12 Nags Head Lane Alterations to outbuilding to provide ancillary
accommodation to existing private dwelling house – Permitted

30/22 ANY OTHER NEW APPLICATIONS SINCE PUBLICATION OF THIS AGENDA

31/22 CORRESPONDENCE

NALC Update – Open Letter from Chief Exec

NALC Chief Exec Bulletin

GAPTC Updates

SLCC News Bulletin

NLAC Events

Cotswold National Landscape

NALC Report on local elections 2021

Parish Online

Covid Update

NALC Chief Exec

GAPTC Networking advice

Public Sector Executive – Campaigning for greater diversity in local elections.

Mr & Mrs Stevens – Drop Kerb

CDC Speed Enforcement Report

CDC Local Plan Partial Update

Geoffrey Clifton – Brown – Flood Meeting Minutes

Lyndsay Kent - Pig Face Enquiry

GLEAMS – Stop Off Roading in AONB Government Consultation

CPRE – Guided Tour of Colesbourne Arboretum 8th June

SLCC – Bullying in the sector – Civility and respect project

Spring Clean Survey

CDC Omicron Business Grant – Hospitality & Leisure

Armed forces Champion

32/22 COUNILLORS

- Cllr Slater commented that Wessex Water are drilling bore holes in the area to monitor the water table. Once they have the information, they will report to the Environment Agency. Some small brown trout have been seen down stream from the sewerage works. There have been no sightings upstream.
- Cllr King has received a letter from Severn Trent stating that they are investigating the cause of regular sewerage blocks in the area.
- CDC are updating the local plan. A public consultation has opened and will run until 20th March.

- Cllr Howell asked if the youth club was going to be re-introduced. Cllr Hamilton said that since the Vicar retired, there has been no one to organise it. Cllr Mulligan said he would put a notice in the Villager asking for volunteers.

33/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 march 2022 at 7.30pm In the Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2022.

AVENING PARISH COUNCIL.

Council Strategy 2022/26

This strategy is our plan to build a greener, healthier, more prosperous Gloucestershire.

- **Tackling Climate Change**
 - We want to give people options to make more suitable choices: whether that's driving electric vehicles and using one of our 1000 EV charging points or taking public transport thanks to our investment in the Arle Court transport hub or cycling along our 26-mile cycle spine.
 - We will continue to tackle climate change by leading by example (GCC's net carbon output has already reduced by 80%) to achieve countywide carbon targets.
- **Securing Investment for Gloucestershire**
 - Our strategy details our ambition to make Gloucestershire a magnet for innovation and investment in a way which rivals the likes of Bristol, Cardiff, and Swindon.
 - We've also secured a billion pounds of investment into our county to complete transformative projects such as the A417 'Missing Link', Junction 10, Gloucester South-West bypass and the West of Cheltenham Transport improvement Scheme.
 - We will work with partners across the Western Gateway to attract nationally important funding into our region – including the STEP nuclear reactor and essential travel corridors.
- **Levelling Up Our communities**
 - We will level up our county by continuing to invest in our Market Towns and Highstreets, by investing in education and reskilling. Crucially, we will work alongside our communities to ensure our services work for them.
 - We are investing long-term in our roads by continuing our resurfacing programme to reduce the number of reactive repairs and improve customer satisfaction.
- **Customer Service**
 - We are putting customer service at the forefront of all we do to ensure we are providing the best possible services for Gloucestershire **2022/23 Budget**
This budget is a promise to Gloucestershire that we will build back better from the pandemic.
 - Spending for the year ahead will reach £519 million, a rise of almost £37 million on 2021/22 levels
 - Despite the extra investment, we still have one of the lowest council tax levels of any county council.
 - The budget will to raise around £10.2 million to help fund services through a council tax increase of 1.99%. We will also apply the national social care precept at 1% to raise an additional £3.7 million to support the thousands of vulnerable adults we work with each year. Based on a band D property, this equates to a £3.50 monthly increase.
 - We continue to challenge ourselves to work more efficiently and effectively and as a result £13 million in savings have been identified for next year, helping to meet increased demand and costs.

Key headline investments:

- Extra £100 million for our **roads** (manifesto commitment)
- £150 million investment into **schools** in Gloucestershire (manifesto commitment)
- £14 million investment into **Children** and Young People's Services
- £1 million to tackle **climate change** (part of manifesto commitment for a Greener Gloucestershire)
- £20 million invested into **cycle routes** across the county (part of manifesto commitment for a Greener Gloucestershire)
- £9 million extra to support **vulnerable adults** and those living with a disability
- £300,000 will go into a Community **Speedwatch** Safety Fund to support communities where speed awareness activity, like a 20 is plenty campaign would make a real difference.
- £500,000 investment in our **market towns** and high streets and ongoing support and protection of the most vulnerable in our communities.
- £1.4 million is set aside for essential **drainage** highways maintenance.
- Nearly £3 million investment into our **Fire and Rescue Service**.

