

## Avening Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 7.30 pm Via Zoom.

**PRESENT:** Cllr A Slater, Cllr G Parsons, Cllr R King, Cllr D Bendall,  
Cllr P Mulligan, Cllr J Hetterly, Cllr C. Forster, Cllr C. Howell,  
Cllr Hirst - GCC, Cllr Morgan - CDC

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

**18/21 VISITORS:**

**19/21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - None

**20/21 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr S Hamilton - Sickness

**21/21 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

**22/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

**Minutes**

- None. The minutes of the Zoom meeting held 20 January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record with minor change to item 07/21 v. Hampton Hill traffic cuts across Tetbury Hill.

**23/21 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS**

Community Issues

- Memorial Hall Management Update - The Clerk contacted Hayley Fearnside from GCC requesting a copy of the surveyors report for the Memorial Hall. The Clerk was informed the Ms Fearnside was currently on leave and would return on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.  
It was agreed to proceed with the AGM sometime during mid – March. Cllr Bendall will liaise with the other members of the Memorial Hall committee to organise a date.
- Notice Boards – Cllr Bendall has received a quote for a replacement notice board. It was agreed that an aluminium board in dark green would be a suitable long-lasting replacement. £378 + VAT. This was agreed. Cllr Bendall was asked to get a quote for an ‘Avening’ sign.
- GCC agreed to supplying 150 mixed tree whips. They will be delivered next month. This is part of the County Council’s Ash Dieback replacement program. Cllr King asked for village trees could be put on the agenda.
- Cllr Slater said he had been approached by Jennie South requesting the council fund the hanging baskets on the Memorial Hall. The Parish Council agreed to fund 5 hanging baskets this spring approximate cost £40 per basket.
- Playing Fields Sub-committee – Cllr Slater suggested forming a sub- committee to drive the playing fields project forward. Cllr’s King, Hetterley and Howell agreed form this committee. Phoebe Carter will be asked to join as she is leading the community orchard project.
- The Clerk reported that the ROSPA playground inspection has been scheduled for April.

**24/21 Traffic and Highways**

- The Highways report was noted.  
Cllr Slater is meeting with Gill Portlock to discuss outstanding projects. He will ask for clarification on the decision to reject the request to resurface in the lane between Cherington and Star Farm.
- Following receipt of a letter asking the Council to consider sharing the cost of introducing a 20MPH speed limit, the Council discussed the options available. It was felt that the costs involved would be prohibitive, and for little benefit. Cllr Slater agreed to speak to Gill Portlock to enquire if there would be a possibility of having a flashing speed alert sign installed on the Avening to Nailsworth Road.
- Grit Bins and Gritter – Most of the grit bins still have grit left after the snow event, with only the top of Sandford Leaze having used most of the grit available to them. Cllr Mulligan said he had attempted to use a hand gritter during the recent snowstorm. This had proved cumbersome. It was suggested that a

mechanical/towable grit spreader would be an advantage. The Clerk was asked to contact the relevant department to ask what the community can do for themselves with Support from Highways.

### **25/21 Police Report**

The Clerk received a police report showing that in the period 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021- 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 there had been 6 crimes reported. This compares with 6 at the same period 2020:

Assault without injury – 1, Fraud – 1, Other – 4

The report highlighted scams being reported throughout the Cotswold Policing Area, many of these are automated phone calls asking for National Insurance Numbers and other personal information.

### **26/21 County Councillors Report**

- This was distributed prior to the meeting.

The recommended GCC budget is £483,008 million an increase of £14.825 million or 3.17%.

The Budget contains:

£25.445 million of extra investment into services, particularly those for vulnerable children and adults as well as economic development. £4.079 million to cover for increased costs due to inflation and pay awards.

£6.761million for efficiency savings. £7.938million reduction due to the removal of 2020/21 one off cost investments. £119.053 million of new capital investment in roads, schools, and other services.

Highways – 41 sites have been micro surfaced. 196 sites have been patched and surfaced dressed.

495 sites have been resurfaced with new tarmac. Over 562 miles of roads have been resurfaced, including a major resurfacing scheme in the centre of Tetbury and between Avening and Nailsworth.

In the past 4 years we renewed 17% of Gloucestershire’s roads.

The storms over the Christmas period followed by the cold snap have caused damage to fragile parts of the road network and additional pothole gangs have been deployed.

Flood prevention works continue to be delivered across the County.

Ash Dieback - 2489 dangerous ash trees have been removed. By the end of the year 2020/21 we anticipate having removed 3,300 infected ash trees. Many trees have been removed in the area and between Tetbury and Kemble. Natural regeneration has started to take effect, which is great for biodiversity, some 1500 new trees are growing in areas where trees have been felled. During the planting season February/March 2021 the Ash Dieback team have plans for reintroducing 7780 trees and 2410 hedging plants.

- Cllr Hirst said that he had some money in his budget for 2021/22 for road works. He agreed to review the Star Farm to Chavenage Crossroads to his project list.
- Cllr Slater raised the issue of the drains not being cleared regularly. He pointed out that the drains at the Queen Matilda, Longford Mill and Mays Lane need to be cleared twice per year.

### **27/21 District Councillors Report**

Cllr Morgan reported that the local elections are planned to go ahead in the district in May. CDC are recommending residents applying for a postal vote.

The District Council are investing 200K in a Civic Pride Programme over the next two years. One plan is to add the District Crest to the road signs.

The final budget will be agreed at the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February. £750K has been identified for climate change. This will include updating office buildings, encouraging electric car use, and installing more charging points.

The cost of parking is due to rise in the district.

The garden waste charge will increase from £30 to £40 per year and bulky waste collection will rise from £14 per item to £25.

On the 22 Feb, CDC will launch “Fund Cotswolds” – This will be run by Space Hive. Applicants will have to pitch their projects. More information will be available following the launch.

### **28/21 Finance**

#### **Finance Report up to 31 January 2021.**

- i. The finance report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

- ii. Approve Bills for Payment - Schedule was circulated, and payments were approved.
- iii. Cllr Hetterley reported that the spend on the 24k budget to date was 16k. The running costs were near budget level but expected to have a slight overspend by the end of March. The project spend is under, so will be rolled over until next financial year via reserves.
- iv. GCC have awarded a grant of £365. Thanks to Cllr Hirst for helping to secure the grant.
- v. Cllr Hetterley applied to the National Lottery for funding towards the zip wire project. This application was unsuccessful. The project is currently £3k under the amount needed. Cllr Hetterley has applied to Tesco for the Bags for Life funding.

## **29/21 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS**

### **New Planning Applications**

- 20/04442/CLOPUD – 66 Sandford Leaze- Conversion of Integral garage to living space. – No objection

## **30/21 Planning Decision Notices & Correspondence**

### **Decisions**

- 20/04479/TCONR – Folly House, Point Road - Removal of 3 Oversized Sycamores. No objection
- 20/04493/TCONR – Blenham Cottage, 3 Woodstock Lane Work to Beech Trees. – No objection

## **31/21 Any other New Applications since publication of this agenda**

- 21/00565/TCONR – Avening Court – Works to trees in conservation area. - Approved

## **32/21 Correspondence**

CDC \_ Update licensing policy

Email Complaint about dogs of lead in playground – The PC responded and contacted the owner

Rospa - Playground Inspection April 2021

Ash Dieback – Confirmation of donated whips.

GCC Covid Updates

GCC – Growing Communities grant confirmation £365.

NALC - Covid Updates

Paul Morrish 20mph (see above minutes)

NALC Events

NALC Chief Exec Bulletin

Public Sector Exec – Climate Change

Covid Testing

SDC Business Matters.

Air Tattoo cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

CDC Sunground address management

GAPTC Right to Regenerate Consultation.

## **33/21 COUNILLORS**

Cllr Slater reported the death of an ex-Parish Councillor Anthea Beasant.

He requested that arrangements for the AGM be put on the March agenda.

Cllr King reported that £90 was made from the Cafés Valentines Cake fund raiser. Profits going to the Longfield Hospice, The Door, and Mark Townsend Trust.

Cllr Forster reported that the defibrillator battery may need replacing. He will get a price.

## **34/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7.30pm Via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.