

Avening Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 March 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 S Hamilton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Baker (Clerk)

35/21 VISITORS: Marilyn Jones, Jane Maud, Hannah & John Fitzgerald, Julia Tu, Click Mitchell, Celia Carter, Naomi? Imi?

36/21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public expressed concern regarding the speed of traffic in the West End area from the triangle at Greenway Head, down to the bend at Avening Park and Vale Farm. The speed limit changes from 30 to the national limit of 60 mph at the triangle, and there are no footpaths making it hazardous for residents, walkers, and riders. Several families reside in the area with small children and animals. There are also horses and riders from the horse therapy centre. The residents asked if the PC could do anything to get the speed reduced. Cllr Slater said the speed reduction would require a road order and legal costs alone would be in the region of £20k - £30K. Cllr Slater said that he would approach Highways to request a lower speed limit and request additional warning signage. Residents could install signage on private land warning that children and animals were in the area, as long as they didn't cause a distraction to motorists. Cllr Mulligan asked if mirrors would be considered. Highways do not install mirrors, but again they could be installed on private land.

37/21 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Hirst - GCC, Cllr Morgan - CDC

38/21 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

39/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17th February 2021.

- None. The minutes of the Zoom meeting held 17 February 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

40/21 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

- i. Memorial Hall Management Update – The memorial hall held its AGM on the 11th of March. A small committee was formed, but additional members were needed. A resolution was passed to make the Parish Council Trustees of the hall. The legal aspects of this were currently being investigated before contact is made to the Charity Commission. The Clerk and Cllr Hetterley will arrange to hand over the finance to Sarah Campion, the new treasurer before 15th April. Bob Scurfield was elected as Chair. David Bendall and Patrick Mulligan are PC representatives on the management committee. Hayley Fearnside from GCC responded to the request to renegotiate the lease and review the charges negatively. The PC are seeking legal advice.
- ii. Playing Fields Update – The majority of the whips have been planted at the playing field, filling in the hedge and around the copse with a lot of help from Mr Alan Watson who also provided expert informal advice. Mr Watson said he would be happy to give informal advice in future and would be willing to be involved with the village wide tree survey to identify trees that could be protected by a TPO.
- iii. AGM – The Clerk said that the current legislation giving permission to hold virtual PC meetings ends on the 7th of May 2021. NALC are lobbying Government to extend this date. This is not due to be discussed in parliament until after the Easter break. NALC are advising Parish Councils not holding elections to hold their AGMs before the 7th May in order to continue with social distancing. If the date is not

extended, then the council must prepare to hold meetings and follow strict guidelines over distancing and hygiene, and the wearing of masks.

- iv. It was proposed that the April and May meetings be amalgamated to May the 5th along with the AGM. This was agreed.
Cllr Slater expressed his intention to resign as Chair. Any councillors wishing to be considered for the position should contact the Clerk before the end of April – councillors will need to be nominated and seconded prior to the AGM. Cllr Bendall said he was happy to stand again as Vice Chair.
- v. Protecting PROW – GCC are researching historic rights of way that may not be in regular use, but part of the Parish's history. They are asking for Parish councils and local groups to identify these routes so they can be added to the Definitive Map. In order to protect any currently unrecorded routes they will need to be identified and claimed before 1st Jan 2026. It was agreed the PC will list any footpaths that they feel are unused and submit them before the date.
- vi. Gloucestershire Stone Stiles Project – CPRE are requesting help from Parishes to identify and document stiles in the county. They are asking for people to photograph stone stiles and send the photos with their location details. CPRE are not concerned about the Stiles being duplicated, they will pick the best photos to use for the register. Cllr Parsons will send a list of locations.
- vii. CDC Community Funding. Cllr Hetterley said the CDC are now using Space Hive to issue grant donations. This is being carried out on similar lines to crowd funding. He said that he will make an application for the remaining costs of the zip wire using the funding already raised to show community support. Cllr Hetterley has also applied to Tesco Bags for Life fund.
- viii. The grass cutting contract is due for renewal. The Clerk invited 3 companies to tender. Two quotes were received. Greenville Grounds Maintenance Service and the current contractor Avendale Maintenance. Greenville quoted £280 per visit for regular cuts and £310 for any additional visit. Avendale quoted £206 per visit fixed for 3 years. It was agreed to award the contract to Avendale Maintenance due to the known quality of work and lower costs.

41/21 Traffic and Highways

- i. The Highways report was noted.
Cllr Slater and Cllr Mulligan had a productive meeting with the Highways manager Gill Portlock. The issues with regularly blocked drains were highlighted and she agreed that some drains needed to be cleared more often. The overhanging tree on Nailsworth Road is to be removed. Chavenage Lane to Chavenage Green will be patched along with the dip towards Star Farm. Cllr Slater also requested that the curb around the Memorial Hall is extended to avoid further flooding.
The budget has already been allocated for 2021-22, so the New Inn Lane to Farm Hill improvements will be budgeted 2022/23. Cllr Slater will contact Cllr Hirst to see if he is able to add it to his list.

42/21 Police Report

The Police report was unavailable.

43/21 County Councillors Report

COVID 19 GOOD NEWS

- As of 4.30pm Tuesday 16th March the total number of positive cases in Gloucestershire is 22,053. The number of new confirmed cases last week stands at 132, to date the number of new confirmed cases this week stands at 11.
- Tackle climate change
Extra £1.8 million investment in Gloucestershire
A report being presented to cabinet next week shows a projected underspend of around £1.79m which will be allocated as follows:
£1m to create a 'Gloucestershire Restart Fund', which will allow a range of activities to help the county get back to normal as quick as possible following the COVID – 19 pandemic.
£220,000 to the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund to fund 500 new charging points around the county, continuing ongoing efforts to tackle climate change. It is estimated there are in the region of 50-60 public charging points in the county and these extra ones will aim to encourage greater take up of electric vehicles.

The Highways Local schemes for this year will total £530,000, each councillor will be provided with £30,000 to fund local works including resurfacing, road safety and drainage works.

- Extra work to be carried out on the M5 improvements.
Homes England will finance the upgrade of Junction 10 on the M5, this will complement works to be carried out on Junctions 11 and 12.
- Rural bus investments - Gloucestershire County Council has successfully bid for £1,352 towards improving rural bus transport in rural areas.
- An extra £7m to be invested in county schools - The County Council will invest £6.7m additional funding for schools across the county building on the ongoing £100m school improvement programme.
- New funding for school holiday activities - The County Council has been awarded £1.5m of new grant funding for a programme of holiday activities and food for schoolchildren eligible for Free School Meals. The programme will include one week at Easter, four during the summer holidays and one at Christmas.

44/21 District Councillors Report

Cllr Slater reported that he had spoken to Cllr Morgan, who has informed him that it has been agreed the affordable housing that has been agreed at Sunground will have air-source heat pumps and electric car charging points installed. Although it was agreed this was an improvement it was felt the developers could have gone further by installing solar panels and enhanced insulation. Cllr Morgan advised that residents should register an interest in the housing as soon as possible. It was agreed that a leaflet be developed and put in the newsletter, and possibly to visit households to promote local take up.

45/21 Finance

Finance Report up to 28 February 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. The Clerk reported that as she had worked for the PC for 2 years, her salary scale moves up 1 point, making her hourly rate £11.08 per hour.
- iv. Cllr Mulligan asked the Clerk why the Asset Register did not show any depreciation. The Clerk explained that Parish Councils do not depreciate their assets. Cllr Mulligan asked the clerk to check this.

46/21 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

- 21/00513/comply - Herons Mead, West End.
Compliance of condition 3 of permissions 20/01127/FYL & 20/01128/LBC – No Objections
- 21/00510/FUL – 11A High Street. Change of use of commercial floor space at live/work unit to residential use - No Objections.

47/21 Planning Decision Notices & Correspondence

Decisions

- 21/00232/TCONR - 14 Star Lane. Remove Willow, Ash & Horse Chestnut, coppice mature Hazel stems – No Objections.
- 21/000565/TCONR – Avening Court. Fell dead Horse Chestnut, Silver Birch and Cherry trees. Reduce Beech tree and remove limb on Hornbeam. – No objections.
- Cllr Slater reported that work on Owl Barn had commenced, and the old roof has been taken off. Cllr Slater remarked that the walls must not be worked on until the environment protection plan has been approved by CDC as they are adjacent to the stream and must be protected.

48/21 Any other New Applications since publication of this agenda

None

49/21 Correspondence

Public Rights of Way
 CDC funding
 NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme
 Parish Online
 Public Sector Executive – Net Zero emissions 2050
 CDC Covid 19 Business Matters
 Buses – Rebuilding & Improving
 NALC – Bulletin
 Mobile Testing Centres
 SLCC Minutes and Accounts
 Cotswold National Landscapes News Update
 GCC – Recycling centres 0 Summer timetable 21st march, not 28th March

50/21 COUNILLORS

Cllr Hamilton reported that the Church Fete has been scheduled for September 12th.
 Cllr King said that he had discovered that there is a list of protected verges (Conservation Road Verge Register) and two verges in Avening are on the list. The east side of Hampton Hill and the North side of Nags Head Lane.
 Cllr Forster said there is approximately 1 year's life left in the battery of the Defibrillator. The cost of £150 for a replacement. This should be budgeted for 2022/23
 Cllr Mulligan said that the dogs are still running free and fouling in the playing field. Cllr Hamilton said the Church were having the same problem. The only way to resolve it is if the people report the offence to CDC. This can be done by completing the online form.

51/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 7.30pm Via Zoom.
 The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.