

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF AVENING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 7.30 PM**

The following Councillors were in attendance. Cllr M Williamson (Chairman), Cllr A Slater (Vice Chairman), Cllr J Parsons, Cllr J Catterall, Cllr Mrs C Mitchell, Cllr Mrs G Parsons, Cllr Mrs E Oliver, Cllr T Beardsell.

Also in attendance: Mrs D Cook (Clerk), Cllr A Hicks (GCC), PCSO Sue Fellows.

### **47/10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cllr Hicks (County Councillor) had attended to talk to Council about the "Meeting the Challenge" spending consultation and the electoral boundary review.

Gloucestershire County Council were consulting on the possible ways to reduce spending over the next 4 years to be in line with government targets of spending cuts.

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell arrived at 7.45pm.

Councillor Hicks explained the boundary review. It would take place in four stages with the final recommendations presented in August 2011.

Cllr Hicks was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 8.05pm.

Cllr Mick Williamson presented Cllr J Parsons with a gift for his long service as Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Clerk briefly explained to Council the proposed changes that had been put forward/consulted upon by the coalition government over the summer recess: the consultation on the power to veto excessive rises in council tax by referendum, the possibility of capping, proposed budget cuts by CDC and GCC and the proposed national referendum on voting reform in May 2011 that may impact upon the date of parish council elections.

### **48/10 PCSO REPORT & CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

PCSO Sue Fellows went through the monthly crime report. Concern was expressed over the theft from the Church, the theft of the caravan and burglary at the Cross Inn.

The adoption of the telephone boxes by the Parish Council, at High Street and Nag's Head had been noted by the Police, in the event of criminal damage in the future.

### **49/10 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

none

### **50/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Jim Parsons declared an interest in all planning matters because of his position as District Councillor sitting on the Planning Regulatory Committee at CDC. He did not vote.

**51/10 ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2010.**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

**52/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

APFA wished to advise Council that the stumps and fence around the swings at the playing field had now been repaired and the top wall rebuilt.

It was noted that there were no signs to indicate when the road to Nailsworth (B4014) would be closed to traffic. The signs were expected by now as the work was supposed to have been carried out before Christmas. The Clerk would enquire of County Highways.

Council was advised that the Old Hill/Powis Lane appeal had been delayed as the site visit had to be delayed. It was now rescheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> October.

There were no other matters arising from the minutes that were not already on the agenda.

**53/10 CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR**

A member of the public was interested in being a Councillor, they would attend October's meeting. Advertising would continue in the meantime.

It was considered prudent, even though there were no members of the public present, that in view of the business to be discussed, the meeting should be placed in closed session for agenda point 8.

**It was therefore unanimously RESOLVED that the meeting move into closed session under the terms of The Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as the business to be discussed included sensitive information, legal advice and contracts which could be prejudiced by being in the public domain at this time, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.**

**54/10 VILLAGE HALL**

The Solicitor had been instructed following instructions from the management committee and negotiations had been taking place through the summer. There were a couple of outstanding matters to be dealt with and this was ongoing.

Two members of the Hall Management Committee would then be asked to sign the top copy of the lease.

**55/10 PLANNING**

**55.1/10 Planning Applications**

S.10/1487/COU	Neighbouring Authority Application (Stroud District Council) Change of use of Building 15 to a vehicle maintenance use At Aston Down Frampton Mansell Gloucestershire The application had been sent to the Parish Council by CDC in error. As the deadline had been short a response had been submitted
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	expressing concern at the level of HGV's using the site and the possible knock on effect into Avening Parish.
10/03478/FUL	79 The Sunground, Avening, GL8 8NW <b>Proposal:</b> Amendment to planning application and permission 10/01304/Ful to include a staircase and window to side Councillors had no objections to the application.
10/03612/FUL	14 Sandford Leaze, Avening, GL8 8PB <b>Proposal:</b> Erection of single storey extension to lower ground floor to rear, with part two storey to extend the ground floor, creation of balcony at ground floor level at rear, installation of 3 new dormer windows to front and 2 new dormer windows to rear, together with other external alterations. Councillors had no objections to the application.
10/03650/FUL	Little Fields, Cherington Lane, GL8 8SE, <b>Proposal:</b> Erection of a summer house and plant room Councillors had no objections to the application.

### 55.2/10 Decisions Received

The following decisions were noted:

10/02031/FUL	Ayres Cottage, 41 High Street, Avening, GL8 8NF <b>Proposal:</b> Erection of single storey rear conservatory <b>Date Decided:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2010 <b>Decision:</b> Application Permit
10/02905/FUL	4 Spinners Cottages, Longfords Mill, Avening, GL6 9LP, <b>Proposal:</b> Retention of garden shed, childrens playhouse, 2 stores (Retrospective) <b>Date decided:</b> 23 August 2010 <b>Decision:</b> Application Permit
10/02726/FUL	Rodways Place, Point Road, Avening, GL8 8NA <b>Proposal:</b> Revision to approved scheme 09/01519/FUL (involving reduction in width of extension) <b>Date decided:</b> 13 August 2010 <b>Decision:</b> Application Permit

### 55.3/10 Tree Works Decisions

The following decisions were noted.

10/02974/TPO	<b>Location:</b> Land Parcel Ruggers Green Wood And Oldfield Wood, West End, Avening. <b>Proposal:</b> Application is to reinstate all the historic vehicle access/extraction track/roads and footpaths and entry points as shown and highlighted Yellow on the new map dated 1880, clearing the yellow highlighted area of all vegetation and lop/top all over hanging branches 2 metres either side of track/road, creating a 3-tier system with mature standards, coppice understory, bushes below and grass between the tracks. Returning the vehicle access/extraction track/road though the middle of the woodland from West to east to allow light to penetrate through to the woodland floor encouraging growth and enabling vehicle access to compartments for works to be carried out i.e. DDD removal and general woodland management.
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	<p>Track will consist of two tyre tracks with top soil removed/replaced by Cotswold stone surface with a grass strip between the tracks thus minimising the visual impact as much as possible. Reinstatement of old tracks and footpaths, highlighted in yellow on supporting document of map</p> <p><b>Date decided:</b> 18 August 2010  <b>Decision:</b> Application Permit</p>
	<p>It was also noted that tree works had been approved for the Coach House, but no information had been received from CDC.</p>

## **56/10 FINANCE**

### **56.1/10 Budget Status and Balance at Bank**

The current balance at bank was £4,438.13 with £24,275.43 now in the deposit account with projected expenditure and year end balance as set out on the monthly budget sheet.

### **56.2/10 Bills for Payment**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following bills for payment:

▪ Clerk's Salary less Income Tax plus Expenses	£525.27
▪ Memorial Hall (annual grant)	£1,000
▪ APFA (cycle track)	£1,000
▪ HGM Ltd	£400.00
▪ Gloucestershire County Council (Ash Path)	£310.80
▪ Moore Stephens	£334.88
▪ CPRE membership (standing order)	£29.00

### **56.3/10 To approve the following payments issued since the last meeting:**

▪ Clerk's Salary less Income Tax plus Expenses	£593.72
▪ HGM (Grasscutting)	£685.00
▪ Viking Direct	£111.16

### **56.4/10 Adoption of Telephone Boxes**

#### **56.4.1/10 To consider quotes for painting the two telephone boxes (closed session)**

No quotes had been received, so the meeting was not put into closed session. Councillors and Clerk would approach local painters to try and obtain quotes in time for October's meeting.

### **56.5/10 To review signatories and users on the Parish Council Bank Accounts**

There had been some ongoing problems with signatories and telephone users. A letter was signed by signatories to try and resolve the matter with Lloyds bank.

### **56.6/10 To advise of clear audit results for 2009/10 and to approve and accept external auditors report**

Council were advised that a clear audit result had been received. It was **RESOLVED** to approve and accept the external auditors report.

### **56.7/10 To approve the sum of £55 plus VAT (£64.63) for the SLCC Regional Conference on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the sum of £64.63 (incl VAT) for the SLCC Regional Conference on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010.

### **56.8/10 To review council projects for 2010/11 and to consider council projects for 2011/12**

The Clerk advised that under standing orders it was not possible to review the budget again for 6 months, as it had already been reviewed in April by special resolution. Council would instead start looking at the 2011/12 budget in October.

**56.8.1/10 To review Parish Council charges for advertising on the website.**

This matter was deferred until the budget meeting.

**56.9/10 Grant Applications**

**56.9.1/10 To approve the release of grant money for cycle track project to Avening Playing Fields Association in the sum of up to £1,000**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the release of the grant money in the sum of £1000 towards the cycle track project carried out by APFA.

**56.9.2/10 To consider grant funding to cover costs of community first aid training with St John Ambulance**

The Clerk advised that other than from the youth club there had not been any interest from community groups. Council noted this.

**56.9.3/10 To consider grant funding request from Sue Ryder Care**

The Parish Council **RESOLVES** that in accordance with powers under s137 LGA 1972 the Council should incur the following expenditure which in its opinion is in the interests of the area, and its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure

It was **RESOLVED** to grant the sum of £20 to Sue Ryder Care, Leckhampton Hospice.

**56.10/10 Annual Grants**

**56.10.1/10 To approve annual grant to the Memorial Hall in the sum of £1,000**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the release of the annual grant to the Memorial Hall in the sum of £1,000.

It was considered prudent, even though there were no members of the public present, that in view of the business to be discussed, the meeting should be placed in closed session for agenda point 10.11.

**It was therefore unanimously RESOLVED that the meeting move into closed session under the terms of The Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as the business to be discussed included sensitive information and contracts which could be prejudiced by being in the public domain at this time, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.**

**56.11/10 To consider quotations/estimates for new Parish Council/Community noticeboards in village (closed session)**

The matter would be deferred and some additional quotes would be obtained.

**56.12/10 To consider the advice of the Tree Officer (CDC) in relation to 5 Ash Trees at the Playing Field and to authorise the Clerk to take appropriate action in the light of the Tree Officer's advice.**

The CDC Tree Officer had been in touch over 5 Ash Trees at the Playing Fields. The Clerk had supplied a copy of the Council's title plan and it seemed that 2 of the trees were not on council land and the 3 others were.

The Clerk had discussed how often trees should be surveyed for safety reasons with the tree officer and he advised every 1 to 5 years dependent upon the tree and its position. Some of the trees on the site would need work carrying out shortly.

CDC were able to carry out tree surveys at a cost of £32 per hour plus VAT. This would identify the trees needing work. Using CDC would allow the Parish Council access to CDC's list of approved contractors- they all had appropriate insurance and tipping licences etc and the parish council would not need to make any additional checks of its own. CDC also needed to approve the treeworks on site as the trees are in a conservation area. It was unlikely they would turn down their own recommendations.

APFA had expressed an interest in maintaining the trees. Under the Lease to APFA they were not responsible for the trees and the responsibility still seemed to lie with the Parish Council. The Clerk would approach the Council's Solicitors and double check the situation and see what would need to be done to hand over responsibility of the trees to APFA – and obtain an estimate of costs if appropriate.

It was **RESOLVED** to obtain an estimate of costs for a tree survey from CDC and if it was appropriate to proceed with the survey.

**57/10      Parish Plan/Community Projects**

**57.1/10      Traffic and Highways and Overgrown hedges**

It was noted that a number of properties had trees/hedges overhanging onto public highways or pavements and one was obscuring a streetlight. The Clerk would write to the houses mentioned and ask them to attend to the overgrown trees, hedges etc.

**57.2/10      Avening Forum**

The proposed date of week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> October for the business forum meeting would be delayed now until Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The clerk would organise a venue and reschedule Businesslink.

**57.3/10      Memorial Hall Memorabilia**

Cllr Mrs C Mitchell advised that the display of memorabilia was in hand. A plaque had been proposed, dedicated to those lost in the war and funding was being sought. An event was taking place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November with a talk about the history of the village.

**57.4/10      Emergency Plan Meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> September**

The next meeting of the Emergency plan Group was to take place on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30pm at the Cross Inn.

**57.5/10      Dog Fouling around the village – to consider leaflet drop and provision of dog waste bags.**

The Clerk advised that the PCC had had problems with dog fouling in the churchyard. They had asked if we had information about dog bags, this had been supplied to the PCC but was being shown to the Parish Council in case they wanted to arrange dog bags for Council owned bins. The Parish Council confirmed that it did not wish to invest in dog bags.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the leaflet drop re dog fouling with the December edition of the Villager. The Clerk would obtain photos for the leaflet.

**57.6/10      Mays Lane Bus Shelter**

It had not been possible to repair the small piece of wood that was removed.

**58/10      CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION:**

Council noted the following correspondence and consultations

- Local Transport Plan 3 – consultation
- CDC draft statement of licensing policy – consultation
- CDC consultation on New Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

- Glos LINK – public events invite
- Government consultation re local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases
- Invite to GRCC AGM on weds, 29<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm
- Invite to GAPTC AGM, thurs, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 6pm

**The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010 at 7.30 pm  
At Avening Memorial Hall**

**There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.40pm**

**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

**56.11/10 To consider quotations/estimates for new Parish Council/Community noticeboards in village (closed session)**

The two quotes that had been obtained were discussed. The sizings were double checked. Council would have preferred to have heard from the local contractor, under its local first policy. The matter would be deferred until next month, but in the meantime some additional quotes would be obtained for comparison.