

AUST PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 13th June 2023 @ 7:30pm at Elberton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Steve Meredith (chairman), Ian Jenkins, David Spratt, Jeremy Warren, Anne Wiseman, Heather Bayston (*from item 5*)

In attendance: Ward Councillor Tony Williams (SGC), no members of the public

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

Approved at the subsequent meeting held on 11th July 2023.

Signed copy held by the Clerk.

1 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Matthew Riddle (SGC ward councillor).

2 To receive declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

3 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 16th May 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th May 2023 be approved as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

5 To consider co-option to the vacant council seats

It was RESOLVED that Heather Bayston should be co-opted to one of the vacant seats. Mrs Bayston agreed to take the seat and signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

It was noted that this leaves one vacancy still to be filled.

6 To review ongoing matters and agree action required, if any:

6.1 Greenacres

The boulders at the entrance to the Greenacres site are proving effective in preventing access, there have been no further instances of waste dumping since they were put in place. There is no update on the planning issues.

6.2 Nomination of the White Hart, Littleton as an Asset of Community Value

The clerk reported that the nomination of the White Hart as an Asset of Community Value has been accepted. The registration will be in place until 25th May 2028.

6.3 Congestion around Aust

The clerk has managed to contact the local route manager for National Highways, who has suggested some possible dates in July for a meeting to discuss the various issues.

It was RESOLVED that National Highways should be invited to attend a meeting on 17th July with Cllrs Meredith, Jenkins, Spratt, Wiseman (if available) and the clerk. This will be held at Aust village hall if available.

Action: EP to make arrangements and confirm date, time and venue. All councillors to notify EP of any particular concerns which they wish to be raised to Nat. Highways prior to the meeting.

7 New items of business

7.1 To discuss traffic speeds around the parish and what action can be taken to improve safety

A discussion was held on speeding issues across the parish. Littleton village, Main Road in Aust and the A403 were identified as particular problem locations. The main road in Elberton has traffic calming

measures and vehicle speeds on that stretch are monitored by SGC, on a quarterly basis, using vehicle activated speed signs. However there is apparently no monitoring in other parts of the parish.

It was suggested that a "Speed Watch" volunteer group could be set up, but discussion revealed that this would require sourcing of equipment, liaison with the police, identification of volunteers and provision of training. It was also thought unlikely that the police would allow speed watch patrols to be held on the A403 as there would probably be safety concerns. It was therefore agreed to pursue other possible actions first.

Councillors agreed that better knowledge of the actual speeds of traffic at the key locations would be useful. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should contact SGC Highways to enquire about the process towards getting monitoring strips installed at the following locations:

- Littleton approach by the junction with Field Lane;
- Main Road, Aust;
- A403 near to the approach onto/exit from the roundabout. *Action: EP to progress*

It was noted that both Oldbury and Olveston parish councils have their own vehicle activated speed (VAS) signs which can be erected at locations of concern. Cllr Warren agreed to approach those councils to find out more about how they sourced their equipment, how it is deployed and whether they feel the signs have been successful in reducing traffic speeds.

Action: JW to report back to next meeting

8 Planning

8.1 To note applications received and resolve response

The following applications were noted and responses resolved as recorded:

- P23/01586/F - Manor Farm Aust Road Aust - Internal and external alterations to facilitate a change of use from offices to 5 no. dwellings (Use Class C3) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). *RESOLVED: No objection.*

8.2 To note the following SGC planning decisions

- P23/00921/HH - Westfield Village Road Littleton Upon Severn - Erection of a single storey front extension to existing garage to facilitate conversion to accessible living accommodation with front canopy to form covered walkway. *Approved with conditions.*
- P23/01212/HH - The Widgeon Elberton Road Elberton - Erection of incidental outbuilding (resubmission of P23/00084/HH). *Approved with conditions.*

9 Council administration

9.1 To consider adoption of a revised Code of Conduct based on that adopted by South Glos. Council

The clerk had previously circulated a proposed Code of Conduct revision. The draft is based on the SGC Code of Conduct, with appropriate amendments where the original was not applicable to a parish council.

As some councillors have not had chance to read the fairly lengthy document, it was RESOLVED that this item should be carried forward to the next meeting of the council.

10 Finance

10.1 To note payments made under prior approval

The following payments, made under the given prior approval, were noted:

Item	Amount	Minute (where applicable)
Zurich Municipal – insurance cover	£241.00	APC2023-05-11.3
S & C Meredith – Elberton coronation party purchases	£291.40	APC2023-05-12.8
Elberton Village Hall	£8.60	APC2023-05-12.8

It was noted that the approved grant to Aust Village Hall has not yet been paid as no bank details have been supplied.

11 Any other minor matters for discussion (no decision required) or items for next agenda

Dog waste on Whale Wharf road and car park: Council had previously requested “please clean up after your dog” signage in this area of Littleton. Cllr Riddle had reported that these are due to be installed within the next couple of weeks.

ASEA Flood Defences works:

- It was noted that Passage Road will now be open to cyclists outside working hours. The contractors have also said that they will let cyclists through during the working day if it is safe to do so, but this cannot be guaranteed at this stage;
- SGC have extended the existing closure order for various rights of way around the flood defence works. Diversions are in place;
- Several councillors planned to attend the next ASEA community forum on 14th June.

Dangerous tree: Cllr Wiseman enquired about whether the parish council could help with removal of a dead tree on a verge in Aust. The clerk advised that, as the tree is on a highway verge, it is likely to be the responsibility of SGC and could be reported via their online reporting tool (<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/report>).

12 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 8:17pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 11th July 2023.

Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk by 4th July.

Signed (Chairman):