

**AUST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 @ 7:30pm at Elberton Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Ian Jenkins (vice-chairman, in the chair), Heather Bayston, David Spratt, Jeremy Warren, Anne Wiseman, Julian Cooper (from item 5 onwards)

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor Matthew Riddle (SGC), no members of the public

**Clerk:** Emma Pattullo

Approved at the subsequent meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Signed copy held by the Clerk.

**1 To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Steve Meredith.

**2 To receive declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

**3 Public Forum**

**3.1 Presentation on West of England Rural Network “Village Agent” scheme**

Elizabeth Woodland, the new Village Agent for WERN, gave a brief introduction to the Village Agent project aims. Her role is to help people to live healthy, independent lives through signposting to relevant services and promotion of community-based groups. The project has a steering group which ideally will include a key contact from each village in Severn Vale, who can act as ambassadors for the project and put people in touch with Elizabeth when needed. Councillors agreed to circulate details of the project to residents and to consider whether they know of anyone suitable for the steering group role.  
ACTION: All to consider possible key contacts who might attend steering group.

**3.2 Other public forum matters**

No members of the public were present.

**4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 be approved as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Vice-chairman.

**5 To consider co-option to the vacant council seat**

It was RESOLVED that Julian Cooper should be co-opted to the vacant seat. Mr Cooper signed the declaration of acceptance of office and subsequently joined the remainder of the meeting as a councillor.

It was further RESOLVED that a place should be booked for Cllr Cooper to attend an ALCA Essential Councillor course.

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

**6.1 Greenacres planning – to receive update**

No updates, although Cllr Riddle gave an overview of the recent history of the site, for the benefit of newer councillors. It was RESOLVED that as there has been no progress for a long time, this item should be removed from future agendas until needed.

**6.2 To receive feedback from meeting with National Highways**

The clerk gave a report on this meeting attended by Cllrs Meredith & Spratt and herself, along with Cllr Riddle and representatives from National Highways. Issues discussed included the practice of filtering traffic off the bridge in high winds (which has now stopped), maintenance of the bridge and nearby local roads/cycle paths, and the continued closure of Sandy Lane underpass. It was noted that the Sandy Lane/Manor Farm tunnels are not official public highways, although many residents saw this

route as a safer way to enter or leave Aust village rather than using the A403 junction where many near misses have occurred.

It was RESOLVED that the clerk should write to Mark King (Head of Streetcare, SGC) to request (i) repainting of road markings on the roundabout and (ii) that SGC should consider adopting Sandy Lane tunnels into the public highway network once repair works are complete.

It is planned that the council and National Highways will meet annually in future.

### **6.3 Speeding in Aust village – to consider issues and possible actions**

It was noted that there are two main problems, being traffic travelling too fast along Main Road within the village, and the speed and poor behaviour of drivers on the A403 around the exit from Aust.

Cllr Riddle explained his proposed scheme for the A403 junction, which involves a reduction from two lanes to one from the roundabout to beyond the Aust junction as well as a reduction in speed limit to 30mph along the same stretch. This scheme has to compete with others across South Glos. for funding; Cllr Riddle asked that any evidence such as details of near misses at the junction should be reported to him as this will help to strengthen the case for the scheme in the next round of funding decisions.

ACTION: All to report details of incidents to MR

Speeding within the village is more difficult; it would not be possible to install any physical traffic calming measures as these are not allowed in areas with no street lighting. Cllr Riddle agreed to add a proposal for a reduced 20mph speed limit on Main Road to his proposed A403 junction scheme.

## **7 New items of business**

### **7.1 Request for beacon lighting as part of the D-Day 60th Anniversary celebrations**

Cllr Spratt agreed to light the Aust beacon for this event, at 9pm on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## **8 Planning**

### **8.1 To note applications received and resolve response**

The following applications were noted and responses resolved as recorded:

- i. P23/02510/HH - Old Butchers Shop Elberton Road Olveston - Erection of single storey and two storey side/rear extension to provide additional living accommodation. *RESOLVED: No objection.*
- ii. P23/02442/HH - Wharf Barn Passage Road Aust - Erection of summerhouse (Retrospective). *RESOLVED: No objection.*

### **8.2 To note the following SGC planning decisions**

The following decisions issued by SGC were noted:

- i. P23/00673/F - The Yard Field Lane Littleton Upon Severn - Demolition of lean to and partial demolition of barn/storage shed and associated works. Change of use of stables building to include single storey erection to form a single dwellinghouse (Use Class C3). Alteration to existing access. *Approved with conditions.*
- ii. P23/01818/F - Aust Motorway Services - Installation of 12no. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, with associated equipment and works (Part retrospective). *Approved with conditions.*

## **9 Council administration**

### **9.1 To receive the outcome of the clerk's annual review**

Item deferred to next meeting.

### **9.2 To note the asset inspection report & determine action required**

The asset inspection report was noted.

It was RESOLVED that the fire extinguisher should be donated to the Littleton Cider Club as it is no longer required by the council.

Cllr Jenkins agreed to look at Aust noticeboard to see if he can renew the wood treatment.



## 10 Finance

### 10.1 To note the following receipts

The following receipt was noted:

Item	Amount
Cromhall Parish Council – provision of audit services	£161.03

### 10.2 To note the following payments made under prior approval

The following payments, made under prior approval as listed, were noted:

Item	Amount	Minute (where applicable)
Clerk's salary & home working allowance for month to 16th July 2023	£287.12	May 2023 item 12.9
Clerk's salary & home working allowance for month to 16th August 2023	£287.12	May 2023 item 12.9

### 10.3 To approve the following payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments should be made. All will be made by bank transfer. A record of authorisation will be held by the clerk.

Item	Amount
ALCA – Essential Councillor training course (H Bayston)	£40.00
E Pattullo – overtime for provision of audit service to Cromhall PC	£161.03
Littleton village hall – hire of hall 15th August 2023	£25.00

### 10.4 To consider any significant items for inclusion in the budget for the next financial year

The clerk noted that the draft budget will be drawn up soon so details of any significant items which councillors wish to be considered for inclusion should be sent to her before the next meeting.

## 11 To review correspondence received and determine response

### 11.1 Caroline Gaze, SGC – Woodwell Meadows annual management report

Noted.

Although some scrub clearance work was reported, councillors noted that the scrub areas still seem to be extensive. It was suggested that some residents might be willing to volunteer to help with clearance work. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Bayston should contact Caroline Gaze to discuss the possibility of a community work day.  
ACTION: HB to contact Caroline Gaze

### 11.2 Resident – road safety on Sweetwater Lane

A resident had contacted the council to report a minor collision on Sweetwater Lane. Cllr Riddle is in correspondence with residents of the lane regarding risks due to speeding traffic and has arranged for “20 is plenty” signs to be erected. SGC are investigating possible speed reduction options but no scheme has yet been agreed.

It was noted that, when there is congestion on the local main roads, large volumes of traffic can be routed down Sweetwater Lane by satnav systems. Cllr Riddle agreed to speak to SGC officers to see if they have any means to alter the satnav databases indicating this road is not suitable for re-routing.

*Cllr Warren left the meeting at this point due to a personal commitment.*

### 11.3 ALCA – notification of ALCA AGM (Saturday 7th October 10:30am, via Zoom)

Noted. No councillor wished to attend.

## 12 To consider responses to consultations received

### 12.1 Dep<sup>t</sup> for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities - Consultation on additional flexibilities to support housing delivery, the agricultural sector, businesses, high streets and open prisons; and a call for evidence on nature-based solutions, farm efficiency projects and diversification

Noted. It was felt that no council response was necessary, although councillors were invited to make personal responses if they wished.

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

Report of inappropriate behaviour by an individual at Woodwell Meadows. Noted, but no action required at this time.

**14 Meeting closure**

The meeting closed at 8:52pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk by 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Signed (Chairman): .....**