

AMPNEY CRUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, AMPNEY CRUCIS.

Present: Councillors Rosanna Armitage, Barry Dent, Adrian Grazebrook, Alan Lewis and David Vessey
Presiding: Councillor Barry Dent
Clerk: Jayne Webster

Also present: District Councillor David Fowles, Janet Campbell, Harold Stevens and Douglas Crook

ACTION

Apologies for absence

Councillor Holt

Co-option of new councillor

Resolution 51/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved to co-opt Mr Douglas Crook as a member of the Parish Council.*

Councillor Crook joined the meeting and agreed to complete the Register of Members' Interest form. He also agreed to take on the responsibility of the Council's assets.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2014

Resolution 52/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September, 2014 be signed and adopted.*

4. Matters arising from the meeting held on 8 September 2014

- 4.1 Proposed solar farm in Preston – a letter was sent to CDC, from the Chairman, outlining the Council's concerns, a copy was sent to District Councillor Sir Edward Horsfall.
- 4.2 Planning application 14/02266/FUL – a letter was sent to CDC, from the Chairman, supporting the Village Hall committee's application.
- 4.3 Assets Register – the clerk amended the location of the Burial ground deeds on the register and increased the value of the Burial Ground Gates, with the recent actual cost of replacement (a copy appears in p.1213 of the minutes).
- 4.4 Planning application 14/03037/FUL – a letter was sent to Mr Field at CDC Planning Department confirming Resolution 50/14, a copy is attached to the September minutes together with the Decision Notice (p.1219–1227).
- 4.5 Crucis Park Farm has very kindly cut the playground hedge. The clerk thanked Mr Ponsonby, the farm contractor.
- 4.6 Councillor Armitage wrote an article for The Ampney Times regarding the reporting of potholes and the use of grit on the public roads.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor David Fowles gave a report on behalf of Sir Edward Horsfall. He advised that the Local Government Boundary Commission has completed their review and there will be less wards, all with one representative. Ampney Coln will combine with Hamptons making it one of the largest wards, with 2,100 electors. David Fowles has been selected to represent the Conservatives. In addition, CDC are looking at ways to further encourage residents to recycle including adding messages to recycling vehicles and introducing kerbside collections of tetra packs, textiles and electrical waste. They have also introduced a competition to find communities who introduce innovative ways to Recycle, Reuse and Reduce waste called the 'gRRReen awards'. The three best performers will qualify for funding to finance further improvements. Councillor Lewis asked if the large ward would bring any problems or advantages. David thought that less wards and only one representative would reduce costs.

6. Questions for the Public

Mr Harold Stevens asked if the community fund had been received from Sun Edison. The Chairman confirmed it had and would be discussed later in the meeting. He also advised that along the Village Street, beside Old Barn Farm and opposite Dunn Building, one of the drain covers is the wrong way round, with the bars running parallel to the verge which caused a child on a scooter to have an accident. The clerk agreed to contact GCC.

JW

7. Planning matters

Decisions

648	14/02886/FUL	14 Ampney Crucis	CDC permit
649	14/02887/LBC	14 Ampney Crucis	CDC permit
654	14/03424/FUL	21 Ampney Crucis	CDC permit
656	14/03377/COMPLY	The Lodge	CDC permit
659	14/04279/COMPLY	14 Ampney Crucis	CDC permit
For information only			
660	14/04086/NONMAT	Crucis Park Farm	CDC permit

7.2 Outstanding applications

650	14/02266/FUL	Village Hall	Replacement of existing windows to UPVC windows
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Councillor Vessey advised that if the application goes before the Planning Committee at CDC either the Chairman or himself may have to speak in support of the application. The Council agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Vessey should make enquiries with GRRC regarding the proposed grant.

7.3 Tree works

For information only

653	14/03639/TCONR	Waterton Farm House	No objection
657	14/04381/TCONR	Melita	No objection

8. Financial matters

8.1 Current financial position

Resolution 53/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the financial statements prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer should be adopted by the Council as an accurate reflection of the Council's financial position on 28 October 2014.*

JW

8.2 Transfer of payments

Resolution 54/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that £250.00 be transferred from the Lloyds Treasurers account to Imprest account.*

8.3 Agreement of payments

Cottage Garden Services (£339.36 includes £100 for clearing the southern boundary of the Burial Ground), Clerk's expenses (£36.53) and Cottage Garden Services (£219.36)

Resolution 55/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the above amounts, totalling £595.25, be paid.*

Resolution 56/14 *The Council agreed, retrospectively, that £18 should be paid to Cirencester Band for the Bugler at the Remembrance Service. This amount should be taken from the General Contingencies reserves.*

JW

The Chairman reported that the Council had received a request to reimburse Mr John Ducker, from the PCC, for four wreaths purchased for the Remembrance Service. Each wreath was £18. The Chairman advised that this was not a budget item and the Council had not paid for a wreath in the past. A short discussion followed and the Council agreed to reimburse Mr Ducker. However, the Chairman agreed to clarify with the PCC that the Council would only pay for one wreath at future services and would continue to pay for the Bugler when services are held in Ampney Crucis.

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Resolution 57/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that £72.00 should be paid for the wreaths at the Remembrance Service. This amount will be paid to Mr John Ducker (who originally paid for the wreaths) and will be taken from the General Contingencies reserves.*

JW

8.4 Risk Assessment

Councillor Grazebrook thought the Council should keep a record for who has inspected the assets during the year.

Resolution 58/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the Risk Assessment as shown on pages 1234 –1241 of the minutes be adopted.*

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The Chairman reported that the War Memorial had algae growing on it. Councillor Lewis and the clerk agreed to check the records for the name of the company who carried out previous repairs.

8.5 Grass Cutting Review

Last year the Council agreed a three year grass cutting contract. The Council agreed that they are very happy with the work that is being carried out.

8.6 Draft Budget 2015-2016

GAPTC has advised that The Secretary Of State has made it clear that he will not be capping our sector with regard to precept requests. However, they do suggest that all Parish Councils have a robust budget and where there are notable increases in expenditure the Parish Council has support from the local community and this has been communicated well.

The draft budget for 2015 – 2016 is shown below:

		2014/15	2015/16	
Staff Costs	Salary	3916	3956	1
	Expenses	100	100	
Grass Cutting		1476	1476	2
Burial Ground		0	0	3
Ampney Times		77	157	4
Admin	GAPTC	137	138	
	Village Hall Hire	40	100	5
	Insurance	725	750	6
	Misc. & postage	180	183	
Playground	Sinking Fund	0	0	
	Replacement	0	0	
	Insurance	210	250	5
War Memorial Fund		0	0	
Other	Grants/Donations	9	9	
	Audit	155	155	7
	Ciren. Band (bugle)	0	0	0
		7025	7274	

The NALC agreed a 1% increase from 1 April 2014.

Last year the Council agreed a 3 year contract.

Burial ground extension work (see item 9).

Figures from The Ampney Times budget.

2014 invoice about to be paid, which will give a clearer idea for charges for 2015.

The long term agreement with Came and Company expires on 30 September 2015. The premium for 2014-15 increased because the policy has reached the maximum 4 years no claims discount.

There were no external auditor costs for 2013 – 2014 but this may not be the case with extra Burial ground expenditure.

The Ampney Times Committee has asked the Council for a contribution of £157 plus £77 for postage. There has been an ongoing debate between the Council and the Ampney Times Committee regarding the provision of electronic copies to eliminate postage. A discussion followed regarding the possibility of residents being given the option to receive an electronic copy. The Chairman agreed to write to residents in Sheephouse Lane for their thoughts and to contact the production team to discuss a way forward.

BD

9. Burial ground matters

Councillor Vessey advised that the Burial Ground reserves would not cover everything that needs to be done for the extension. However, there are probably enough spaces for the next 7 or 8 years. Therefore, the lowest level of expenditure would be to install a gate (to allow machinery into the exclusion zone) and erect stock proof fencing around the internal perimeter. This would be in the region of £800 - £1000. Further work will be needed within the 3 year approval period. The installation of the gate is subject to Mr Kingsley's agreement and Councillor Grazebrook is liaising with Mr Kingsley's solicitor on this matter. In addition, Mr Kingsley's solicitor has suggested that there should be a restrictive covenant regarding the use of the land, the Parish Council should be responsible for a stock proof boundary and 10 plots should be reserved for the Kingsley family. The Council agreed to the suggestions and Councillor Grazebrook will continue will the

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land transfer and registering. The Land Registry fee will be approximately £50. Councillors Armitage and Crook will look into the possibility of using community workers in the future to clear the boundary wall.

Resolution 59/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the initial work in the Burial ground extension should include installing a gate to allow machinery to enter the exclusion zone on the west side and erecting a stock proof fence around the internal perimeter of the Burial Ground extension.*

Resolution 60/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the work referred to in Resolution 59/14 should be paid out of the Burial Ground reserves and will be approximately £800/£1000.*

9.2 Burial Ground Entrance

GCC contractor, Amey, has confirmed that they are looking to put together a small footpath works programme to include the Burial Ground, as long as their client GCC agrees. The list is still in the making and Paul Swift, from Amey, will be in contact once he has a date.

JW

10. Village Update

10.1 Playground

The playground inspection invoice has been paid. Councillors Holt and Armitage are very happy how the hedge has been cut. Councillor Armitage is hopeful of receiving a grant for new playground equipment. The plan is to replace the rocker with a more suitable piece of play equipment and purchase a new item. The Council agreed in principle to the purchase of new equipment and the clerk agreed to contact the insurers to see how the proposed new items would affect the insurance premium.

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10.2 Ampney Times

See item 8.6

10.3 Footpaths

The clerk contacted Jon Dearsley, Crucis Park Farm agent, who has agreed to clear the footpaths twice a year. He is also willing to pursue the idea of re-routing part of footpath BAC2 through the spinney off Butcher's Arms Lane as long as the cost is reasonable. The Council agreed and the clerk will liaise with Jon Dearsley. Councillor Grazebrook advised that he would be willing to meet Jon if necessary.

JW

10.4 Newly formed Community Council

The Chairman reported that the payment of £35,000 has been received from Sun Edison. A discussion followed regarding the constitution. The Council approved the initial membership of one representative from the Parish council, one from the Parochial Church Council and 3 others.

Resolution 61/14 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the newly formed Community Council Constitution, shown on pages 1242-1247 of the minutes is approved by Ampney Crucis Parish Council.*

JW

10.5 Dog Waste Bins

Clerk agreed to contact GCC regarding locations suggested by Councillor Holt namely, north of Dudley Farm, Allotment Lane and near The Pound.

10.6 Potholes

See item 4.6

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10.7 Benches at The Pleydells

Bromford Housing advised that a couple of benches were rotten and needed replacing or removing. Councillor Crook agreed to take a look, with a view to replacing the bench at the entrance to The Pleydells with the one further down the road.

JW

11. Highways

A417 - there is still no firm date from GCC or Amey regarding the new 'slow' signs and refreshment of the lining and hatching at the crossroads along the A417. Clerk to continue to liaise with GCC and Amey.

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Village Entry Signs – the design has been sent to GCC. Once GCC's sign manufacturing department has taken a look at the designs GCC will have more idea of the costs involved and will discuss any contributions from GCC at this point.

Notification of future road works in the village - Paul Swift, from Amey, has confirmed that there is no policy to advise Parish Councils of works carried out by utility companies. He uses the website

www.gloucestershirevoyager.com/map.aspx which details the current traffic disruptions in the county. The Chairman received a letter from Mr Andrew Hughes regarding this matter and has replied (item 13.1 refers).

Drainage issues along Butcher's Arms Lane - the Chairman has written to County Councillor Shaun Parsons outlining the Council's concerns. In addition, Paul Swift has confirmed that GCC have installed new gullies which should help to alleviate some problems.

Vehicular Activated Signs – the Chairman wrote to Shaun Parsons detailing the Council's concerns regarding speed along the A417 and asking for his advice on the best way forward.

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12. Community Emergency Plan

The Chairman received a Battle Box from CDC. The Chairman will speak to the Village Hall committee about storing it in the village hall.

13. Correspondence received

13.1 Letter from Andrew Hughes (dated 8th September) regarding the recent road works (carried out by SSE) at the junction of School Lane and Allotment Lane and the continuing erosion of the village verges. The Chairman replied to Mr Hughes and suggested that the Council could explore the possibility of GCC making an area at the School Lane/Village Street junction where parents could park without damaging the verges.

13.2 Letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission regarding the final recommendations for CDC. Letter to be circulated among the Councillors.

14. Matters outstanding

Councillor Vessey noted that some villagers now have provision for high speed broadband.

JW

15. Dates, time and place of meetings in 2015

Dates for 2015: 12 January, 9 March, 11 May, 13 July, 14 September and 9 November 2015. All meetings will be held in the village hall and start at 7.15pm, apart from the May meeting which will be held after the Annual Parish meeting which will start at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Post meeting note: Councillor Vessey circulated a note suggesting that while there was heavy machinery available in the Burial Ground it would be a good time to clear the extension side of the southern boundary, which would increase the cost to approximately £1000/£1200, Resolution 60/14 refers.