

**AMPNEY CRUCIS PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY,  
14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

Present: Cllrs Doug Crook, Jan Mills, Lis Courtown, Jacky Leadbeater, Ross Leadbeater, Nick Wright. Clint Grimmer  
 Presiding: Cllr Doug Crook  
 Clerk: Roz Morton  
 In attendance: Cllr Lisa Spivey (part) 1 x Member of the public

No:	Item:
032 23/24	<b>To note apologies for absence</b> None
033 23/24	<b>To note declarations of interest &amp; gifts or hospitality given or rec'd</b> None
	Cllr Crook announced that he would be stepping down from the Council later this year. All members thanked Cllr Crook for his years of service to his community.
034 23/24	<b>To approve minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b> <b>Resolution 17/23-24.</b> It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Mills, seconded Cllr Courtown, 6 in favour, 1 abstention.
035 23/24	<b>Matters arising from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b>
35.1	Training dates for new Councillor training – still tbc
35.2	To note installation of defibrillators. Nigel Thornton, (1n2Groundworks), has installed the two new defibrillators at no cost to the Council. The Council would like to thank Nigel for his generosity in doing this.
036 23/24	<b>To receive reports from County and District Councillor</b> Cllr Spivey reported on the following: Attended the LGA conference which was an opportunity to learn from other Councils and find out that most Councils are facing similar challenges re budgetary constraints, staff recruitment and retention etc. GCC budget for child and adult social care is already £11M overspent in the first Q of this year. At a GG Council meeting, Cllr Dom Morris stated that local communities could clear weeds from footpath and pavements on the Highway should they wish to. The Adult Social Care & Communities Committee will start the budgeting process shortly. The Chief Fire Officer has put in a plea for more funding to employ additional coroners and trading standards officers as there are too few in the County.

	<p>GCC now has White Ribbon accreditation.</p> <p>GCC is looking for more people to become foster carers – this need not be a fulltime commitment as respite foster carers are also required.</p>
	<p><b>ACTION: Cllr Spivey to send information for inclusion in the Ampney Times.</b></p>
	<p>The Bus working group is feeding into Dept of Transport and looking at ways to improve rural connectivity.</p> <p>Cllr Crook asked why Stagecoach run a double-decker bus for the 56 service that runs between AC &amp; Cirencester.</p> <p>Cllr Spivey – the operation of the service is down to the company, not the Council.</p> <p>Cllr Mills noted that the weight of the double-decker buses is causing potholes to form in the village and therefore creating a cost implication for the County.</p> <p>Cllr Crook called on the working group to engage with Stagecoach.</p> <p>The A419 missing link works should result in very few total road closures.</p> <p>Cllr Crook asked whether the County could cut back hedges that obscure access to roadside verges (which GCC already mow) in order to create a safe space for pedestrians?</p> <p>Cllr Spivey agreed to bring this up at the next road safety partnership meeting.</p> <p>Cllr J Leadbeater asked if ACPC could clear roadside ditches?</p> <p>Cllr Spivey advised that ownership should be established in the first instance but if there are areas that are particularly concerning (e.g. Ashbrook Lane) then Cllr J Leadbeater should send her photos and she will see what action can be taken to clear the ditch.</p> <p>CDC full council is next week.</p> <p>The recent Town &amp; Parish Forum was useful.</p> <p>There are two funds coming onstream soon that may be of interest to the Village Hall – UK shared prosperity fund &amp; Rural England shared prosperity fund. Applications will be open soon.</p> <p>Cllr Spivey has some Build Back Better funding left that could be used for the playground renovations.</p>
	<p><b>ACTION: Cllr Mills to contact Sarah James Sparrow to make a request for funding from Cllr Spivey.</b></p>
	<p>There was general disappointment with the lack of enforcement following the unauthorized removal of the hedge at Butchers Arms Lane. The refusal of CDC to act in this instance sets a terrible precedent. Cllr Spivey encourages ACPC to write to Rob Weaver (CEO) to express their dismay at the situation.</p>
	<p><b>ACTION: Cllr Crook to draft a letter to circulate for approval.</b></p>
<b>037 23/24</b>	<p><b>To receive questions from the Public</b></p> <p>A concern was raised over the open ditch that runs along the road from A417 towards the</p>

	Dudley Farm junction as it is obscured, and a car could easily fall into it whilst trying to pull over to allow another car to pass.
	<b>ACTION: Clerk to raise the issue with Glos Highways.</b>
<b>038 23/24</b>	<b>Financial matters</b>
<b>38.1</b>	To receive bank reconciliations for July & August 2023 Received without comment.
<b>38.2</b>	To consider and agree to approve statement of accounts and expenditure for the period up to 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 <b>Resolution 24/23-24.</b> It was RESOLVED to approve the statement of accounts as presented. Proposed Cllr Crook, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.
<b>38.3</b>	To consider and agree to approve payments in the normal course of business <b>Resolution 25/23-24.</b> It was RESOLVED to approve the payments as presented. Proposed Cllr Crook, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.
<b>38.4</b>	To consider and agree to approve insurance renewal (continuation of 3 year contract as agreed Sept 2022) <b>Resolution 26/23-24.</b> It was RESOLVED to approve the insurance renewal. Proposed Cllr Crook, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.
<b>38.5</b>	To consider and agree the way forward with regards to defibrillator spares and ongoing support. The two newest defibs have come with a spare set of pads for each unit. A spare set had already been ordered but is now surplus to requirements. It was resolved to return the purchased set to Community Heartbeat. It was further resolved to store the two spare sets in the Village Hall so they can be most easily accessed if required. The Council agreed that it was not necessary to enter into an annual service contract at a cost of £185 per unit per year. <b>Resolution 27/23-24.</b> Proposed Cllr Mills, seconded Cllr Crook, all in favour.
<b>39 23/24</b>	<b>Planning Matters</b>
<b>39.1</b>	To receive planning decisions: Noted without comment. <b>23/01227/FUL</b>   Two storey side extension, demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage (revision of 19/04190/FUL)   53 Hilcot End Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5HG – PERMIT <b>23/01985/LBC</b>   Construction of partition wall, extension of underfloor heating, new surrounding joinery for the fireplace, raising of the ceiling in the dining room, and Introduction of ensuite bathroom   Ampney Brook House School Lane Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5RT – PERMIT <b>23/01278/FUL</b>   Addition of glazed lobby to main entrance   Ampney Crucis C Of E Primary School School Lane Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5SD - PERMIT
<b>39.2</b>	To consider and agree response to the following planning applications:

	<p><b>23/02107/FUL</b>   Mobile home for equestrian rural worker   Talland School Of Equitation Ampney Knowle Barnsley Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5FD deadline 31.08.23. No comment.</p> <p><b>23/02175/LBC</b>   Addition of glazed lobby to main entrance   Ampney Crucis C Of E Primary School School Lane Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5SD. No comment.</p> <p><b>23/02729/FUL</b> / Full application for the erection of one and half storey rear extension, new dormer windows to front elevation and associated works at Ash House Bungalow, Ampney Crucis, GL7 5RY – The property has a covenant that stops any changes being allowed to the roof height. It is not clear from the submitted drawings whether any changes are proposed.</p>
	<p><b>ACTION: Clerk to submit the comment above.</b></p>
	<p><b>23/02312/COMPLY</b>   Compliance with Condition 10 (Drainage) of permission 21/04443/FUL - Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling with basement and attached garage   Land South Of Back Lane Ampney Crucis Gloucestershire</p> <p><b>23/02309/COMPLY</b>   Compliance with condition 15 (drainage) of permission 20/02285/FUL- Demolition of existing Class B1 building and erection of 3 no. dwellings together with associated ancillary development   Land South Of Back Lane Ampney Crucis Gloucestershire</p> <p>The Parish Council has serious concerns over the validity of these applications due to the confusing drawings which appear to contradict one another. The allowance of discharging 1ltr of water p/second seems excessive and it is not clear from the drawings where the water will discharge should the holding tank be full in a period of excessive rain, which is not uncommon. An email will be sent to the Planning Officer requesting further clarification and will be kept with these Minutes.</p>
	<p><b>ACTION: Cllr Crook to draft a submission and the Clerk to submit the email.</b></p>
<b>39.3</b>	<p>To consider and agree response to tree work applications and note decisions:</p> <p><b>23/02354/TCONR</b>   T1 - Costal Redwood - Perform approx. 4m lateral cutback on east side with out unbalancing the crown of the tree   16 Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5RY</p> <p>No comment.</p>
<b>40 23/24</b>	<b>Burial ground</b>
40.1	<p>Update on marking out burial plots</p> <p>Cllrs Crook &amp; R Leadbeater and the Clerk marked out two rows of grave plots and one row of ashes plots with a square metal plate marking centre of the back of the headstone position for each plot. A post has been driven into the ground on each side of the burial ground which can be used to delineate a straight line for the installation of headstones.</p>
40.2	<p>To consider and agree to get quotes for and allocate funds for roof repairs to the Lych Gate. One quote has been received, for £6748 to reroof the Lych Gate. Two additional quotes will be sought and a sum of £7k nominally set aside in the budget for repairs.</p>
	<p><b>ACTION: Add budgeting to November Agenda.</b></p>

40.3	<p>To consider and agree to cut back hedges on the boundary of the burial ground Conifers are encroaching on headstones in the bottom corner of the original burial ground. They need to be removed. An application will need to be submitted to CDC and quotes sought for the work. The trees are very close to the boundary of Mr &amp; Mrs Ede's garden, they will need to be informed of the Council's intention to carry out these works.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Cllrs Crook &amp; R Leadbeater to contact affected residents.</b> <b>ACTION: Clerk to get quotes for the works</b></p>
<b>41 23/24</b>	<b>Village Matters</b>
41.1	<p>To receive an update on playground matters The cost for the replacement swings has increased from the original quote. The shortfall in funds is now £1234.50. The current playground committee is looking to dissolve and has asked if the Parish Council will take on the running of the playground. At the moment the playground committee organise a weekly check of the playground, empty the litter bin and raise funds for equipment and running costs. The Parish Council insure the equipment, pay for the annual inspection, own the equipment and hold the lease for the land. Discussion took place.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Clerk to add to November Agenda</b> <b>ACTION: Clerk to look into costs for regular checks to be undertaken by trained operatives</b> <b>ACTION: Cllr Mills to invite the playground committee to come to the next meeting.</b> <b>ACTION: Cllr Mills to contact Sarah James Sparrow to make a request for additional funding from Cllr Spivey's BBB fund</b> <b>ACTIO: Cllr Mills to advise the playground committee that the Parish Council suggest that they use the funds they currently hold in the bank to fill the shortfall in funding and complete the swings project.</b></p>
41.2	<p>To receive an update on the grass cutting contract including new areas added and to decide whether new tenders should be sought for 2024 onwards. Three quotes will be sought for the grass cutting contract, including from the incumbent contractor. The spec will be revised to request the war memorial grass is cut with a box mower and to include the additional areas already added.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Clerk to obtain three quotes</b> <b>ACTION: Clerk to add to November Agenda.</b></p>
41.3	<p>To receive an update on the verge outside Cobblers Cottage and to consider and agree any steps to be taken to protect the existing verge or improve the pavement. Glos Highways has agreed to resurface the pavement and has written to the nearby</p>

	resident to ask then to cease parking on the bit of footpath. No further action from ACPC is required.
41.4	To consider and agree to request that Butchers Arms Lane is resurfaced. <b>ACTION: Clerk to write to Cllr Spivey &amp; Cllr Morris to ask that this request is made to Glos Highways.</b>
41.5	To receive an update on school parking and to confirm signage requirements including agreement from residents to host the “no parking” signs. Parking is still a problem and it would appear that staff are parking on the road all day which causes issues for other drivers and buses. <b>ACTION: Clerk to write to the school to ask that the staff park in the village car park.</b> <b>ACTION: Clerk to source 2 x “please do not park” signs for installation on the Montrose’s wall and Kate’s Cottage wall.</b>
41.6	To consider and agree to write to various households (list tbc) to request that overhanging foliage is cut back over footpaths. Clerk to write to Cumberland House and Pippins to request that hedges and overhanging foliage are cut back to allow access to the adjacent footpaths. <b>ACTION: Clerk to write to the owners of the above-named properties.</b>
41.7	To receive a report from the Village Hall meeting The wifi has now been installed. A submission to Crowd Fund Cotswolds for solar panels has been made.
41.8	To Consider and agree a date for an Autumn Village Clear up The weekend of 4/5 November was agreed and will be advertised in the Ampney Times. The following activities will be undertaken: Strimming – including around the newly installed defib near Dudley Farm Litter picking Ivy Clearance Hedge cutting. <b>ACTION: Clerk to include in next edition of the AT.</b>
<b>42 23/24</b>	<b>To receive correspondence</b>
42.1	Regular news updates from GCC & CDC
<b>43 23/24</b>	<b>Any other business:</b> to discuss minor matters, not included elsewhere on the agenda, or matters received after the publication of the agenda. Not an opportunity for debate and decision making. <b>ACTION: Clerk to add VOIP and getting a PO box address to the November Agenda.</b>
<b>44 23/24</b>	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15pm.