

# AVETON GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

[www.aveton-gifford.co.uk](http://www.aveton-gifford.co.uk)

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER 2023

<b>Present</b>	Cllr Sarah Marcus Cllr Ros Brousson Cllr David Davis-Berry Cllr Mark Smith Cllr Rosie Warrilow Cllr Peter Smith Cllr Peter Wade	SH in the Chair RB DDB MS RW PS PW
<b>In attendance</b>	Amy Clayton Cllr Lee Bonham Cllr Rufus Gilbert	Clerk LBon (District Councillor) RG (County Councillor)
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Louis Bodmer Cllr Niki Harrop	LB NH
<b>Members of the public</b>	0	

### 159/23 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Harrop and Cllr Bodmer sent apologies

### 160/23 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS

No declarations of interest received

### 161/23 OPEN FORUM

It was noted that the pipes under the road between Timbers car park and the first set of stakes are quite backed up, due to being blocked up after heavy rainfall.

### 162/23 PARISH REPORTS

#### ARC Report

The ARC is concentrating on setting up the Citizen Science project for volunteers to test and monitor the water quality of the Avon so that appropriate tests and methods for pollutants will be used for the results to be taken seriously by the various agencies and water bodies, and the right kits are purchased. Cllr Lee Bonham confirmed that funding will be available from SHDC.

#### Shop Report

No report given.

### **Parish Paths Report**

The Clerk read out a report sent by the Footpath Warden, including the following points:

The surveys which have previously been sent out at the beginning of December are now due to be sent in the new year. The paths that have been walked recently have had nearly all had their wooden stiles replaced with metal gates and the wobbly finger posts have mostly been dug in or replaced. Generally the paths are in reasonably good condition, and although the recent bad weather has resulted in a lot more mud they are usable and passable. Thanks to the footpath maintenance volunteer for the sterling work he is doing with clearing fallen timber and checking on paths which are further out from the village.

It was requested by the council that the footpath maintenance volunteer could be asked to trim the path over the bridge on the A379.

AC

### **163/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The persistent flooding after heavy rainfall by Bantham roundabout was discussed. Cllr Gilbert will contact highways as a priority.

Potential repairs to the tidal road were discussed following on from an enquiry from a MOP regarding pot holes. It was agreed with Cllr Gilbert that the most significant pot holes would be repaired and it was noted that work to address these would have to be planned carefully in order to avoid high tides. Cllr M Smith agreed to inspect the tidal road and report the worst holes back to Cllr Gilbert

MS

Cllr Gilbert informed the council about Modbury Church Street closure commencing from the 8<sup>th</sup> January for 6 weeks. The bus route was queried and Cllr Gilbert reassured the council that the bus companies were working on an appropriate solution.

Airband had put another order for road closure which Cllr Gilbert challenged and the order was stopped. Airband have now put in another order for an overhead cable.

Discontinuation of Mobile Libraries. Cllr Gilbert stated this had been a difficult decision, but it has been determined too expensive to continue. However there are no closures of static libraries and there is also home delivery service. Cllr Gilbert to send Clerk link.

The council thanked Cllr Gilbert for the Locality Grant from DCC for the spare defibrillator pads.

### **164/23 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Please see ANNEX A for Cllr Bonham's full report.

Community Resilience Grant. The council asked whether it would be appropriate to apply for funding for the solar panelled defibrillator unit. Cllr Bonham will send the link to the Clerk so an application can be investigated.

The delayed Allianz report was queried with Cllr Bonham who will investigate.

### **165/23 MINUTES**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the Minutes from the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

### **166/23 UPDATE ON PROGRESS FROM THE MINUTES (NOT ARISING ELSEWHERE)**

**Min Ref 155/23: Sewage Leak**

Cllr Brousson reported speaking to a SWW representative who said that the leak that is still visible doesn't come from the sewer, but comes from a surface water drain. It has been established that there is no sewage leaking into the stream through thorough testing.

## 167/23 MAINTENANCE OF PARISH OWNED AREAS

### **a) Play parks and playing field**

#### To receive an update on progression of quotes to address faults

It was noted that only two of the supporting legs of the junior slide tower need replacing. Cllr P Smith spoke to Outdoor Playpark UK about doing a repair on it, however they seemed reluctant to take on the work. Earthwrights had also been contacted who will quote for a repair.

Outdoor Playpark also confirmed the Council could buy replacement shingles for the main climbing tower at a minimal cost. Council can then repair tiles that need replacing.

The mis-alignment of the gates into playground have been fixed.

#### Sand levels in play park

More sand is needed for whole tower area, with at least 12 tonnes being required. E.J.Tarr has 3 tonnes in storage for the council. Initial quote is £1000 for sand but currently still awaiting a quote from Padstow Sea Sand who provided the cheapest quote previously.

It was suggested in order to finance the replacement sand that the Car Show funds or the Community Resilience Grant was approached.

Sand will be added under both sets of swings to the recommended safety depth by using surplus sand from the sandpit area, and all swings will then be raised to guideline height above the sand.

### **b) Parish owned car parks**

#### General update

School bus is now not moving. Police won't take any action if it is a privately owned car park. SHDC has been contacted for advice on how they handle issues in their car parks and Cllr Wade is awaiting a response.

The owner of the Black VW Polo in Jubilee car park needs determining. Cllr Brousson to post on Facebook

The soft top VW on road outside The Rectory entrance has been re-taxed but MOT has expired. Cllr Wade to investigate and contact owner if he can.

#### To receive an update from the Car Park working group

MOP approached has said he would help working group to monitor car parks.

### **c) Replacement tidal road sign**

MOP now has the signs but not all the fixings, but is chasing supplier.

### **d) Allotments**

#### To receive an update on the risk assessment

Draft risk assessment completed by Cllr Bodmer has been received by the Clerk. It needs reviewing, in particular with regard to that what falls under the Council's responsibility and the Allotment Association's responsibility. Clerk to contact insurance company to try and get clarification on this issue.

RB

PW

It was noted that there is concern over a tree in the hedgerows near allotment entrance that is potentially the Council's responsibility.

**e) Moorings**

**To receive an update on the moorings and abandoned boats**

The Council is in the process of preparing to serve an eviction notice on the owner of the Avon Rib inflatable tender on Mooring 18. Progress is being made and owner should be contacted shortly.

A notice has been placed on the Dory, and time limit will be reached on the 10<sup>th</sup> December. If it hasn't been claimed the Council can then approach the community to see if anyone wants to take on ownership.

The time limit from the notice placed on the red canoe been passed, so that can now be offered to public.

It was noted that two new mooring posts will have to be sunk to replace those that the Dory damaged.

**168/23 PLANNING MATTERS**

**a) To examine relevant applications and to receive result of decided applications**

Please see ANNEX B

**b) Planning training**

Two online planning training sessions being held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January were reported to the Council. Clerk asked to sign up along with Cllr Brousson, Cllr Wade and Cllr Warrilow. Clerk to contact SHDC.

AC

**169/23 FINANCE**

**a) To receive the Finance Report**

The Clerk submitted Financial Statements for November 2023 (See ANNEX C).

**b) Invoices for payment**

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree to the following payments with invoices being presented and signed by the Chair:

Invoice date	Payee	For / Reason	Net Payment £	Payment inc VAT £
23/11/2023	Nick Walker Printing	Printing for December Edition of mAGpie	£229.00	£229.00
27/11/2023	Tall Orders Landscaping	Gounds maintenance for the period of 5th Sept - 21 Nov	£930.00	£930.00
28/11/2023	The Good Heat Company	Winter frost protection service of the pool solar heating panels	£141.67	£170.00
30/11/2023	Flete Gardens	Grounds maintenance on Area 2 on 06/11/23	£200.00	£240.00
30/11/2023	Amy Clayton	Clerk wages	£543.22	£543.22

<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,043.89</b>	<b>£2,112.22</b>
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The Clerk also informed the council of the Direct Debit payment taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> December for £966.36 for the latest 6 month instalment of the allotment land loan repayment schedule.

More dog bags were required for open spaces. The council **RESOLVED** to place an order for 4000 dog bags costing £88.68 (£73.90 ex VAT) with JRB Enterprise.

**c) Online banking access**

An application for online banking access for Cllr Brousseau has been made and now awaiting a card reader from Lloyds. The council **RESOLVED** to agree to further temporary suspension of item 6.15 from the Financial Regulations so that the Clerk can continue to process payments until online access has been gained for Cllr Brousseau for approval of payments.

**d) Donation to pub for Christmas lights**

The Council **RESOLVED** to donate £250 for Christmas lights.

**e) Clerk salary**

The Clerk informed the Council of the Local Government Service Pay Agreement, noting that the pay rise needs to be backdated to April 2023 and that moving forward the new rate of pay will apply.

**f) Clerk overtime**

No overtime submitted for November.

**170/23 FIREWORKS**

The Council thanked Cllr M Smith for producing such a comprehensive Firework proposal and noted that all health and safety issues that were previously a concern have been addressed.

It was noted that as there isn't the budget available in 2024 it would need to be self-funding event. Suggested charging at gate and looking into sponsorship as well as approaching the car show funds for support..

It would need confirming with the insurance company that a fireworks event is covered. It was also noted that with regard to a bonfire the contact at Pro Pyro said would only do this if a bonfire was shown to be insured and would prefer fire barrels as they are safer, easier to manage and in theory allow larger capacity. Clerk to contact insurance company to check insurance for fireworks to find out any requirements.

AC

The council **AGREED** to move forward with the proposal and to reflect it in budget with expenditure and income balancing out to reflect it is hoped to be a self-funding event.

**171/23 BUDGET**

*Cllr Marcus informed the council the meeting was due to end and the council **AGREED** to suspend item 3x. of Standing Orders to allow meeting to continue.*

The budget document previously circulated to all councillors was discussed. It was **AGREED** to raise the contingency for Trees to £2000. It was **AGREED** to raise the school pool fees if CPI increase over the last 12 months was more than 3% and to reflect this in the budget. The Clerk will in addition update the budget document to reflect fund applications to the Kitt Will Trust for the defibrillator, the Car Show funds for Fireworks, and the Community Resilience Grant for playpark work and recirculate to councillors.

It was **AGREED** that the council would hold a separate informal meeting to discuss the precept on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 7:30pm.

**172/23 POLICIES**

The Policies Working Group has submitted an initial draft of the Document Retention Policy. The Clerk needs to review and will then circulate the draft to the full council so it can be considered for adoption at the next meeting.

**173/23 EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Postponed to next month

**174/23 TREE WARDEN**

**a) To receive an update on the Trees by Pittens Barn**

Postponed to next month

**b) To receive an update on any other tree matters**

No other matters reported

**175/23 DEFIBRILLATORS**

**To receive an update on DCC locality grant and spare pads**

The DCC Locality Grant application of £200 has been successful and the funds have been received into the bank account. The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase additional spare pads, supplementing the grant amount up to £150 to give a total of £350 to spend if required.

**To discuss grant funding for solar defib unit**

It was **RESOLVED** to apply to the Kitt Will fund for £3000 to cover the costs of a solar defibrillator unit and ground works to site the unit. Cllr Warrilow to approach Kitt Will.

RW

**176/23 COMMUNITY POOL**

There may be an alteration to the access to the pool. The school are unhappy with pool members accessing the pool through the school grounds. It has been suggested by the school that a separate entrance is made from the track that is used to access the Hive. The school has said they would pay for any work necessary if this proposal went ahead.

**177/23 SWOOSH**

The Council **AGREED** they are not prepared to sign the Level Water agreement until there is more information on traffic management, in particular the management of coaches so they don't go through the village and entry to Timber Car park.

It was suggested that the agreement includes a deposit fee for adhering to litter removal and traffic management proposals. To be discussed further in the January meeting.

**178/23 VILLAGE STOCKS**

No update

**179/23 TRAFFIC MIRROR ON CORNER OF TAVERNERS**

A proposal has been put together and the owner of the house has been emailed. As of yet no response.

**180/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR NEXT AGENDA**

None

The meeting closed at 10.25pm

Signed. *S Harcus*

Mrs S Harcus Chair.

Date *04/01/24*

**NEXT MEETING** Thursday 4th January at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

## **ANNEX A: REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, LEE BONHAM, 7 DECEMBER 2023**

### **Some general updates on SHDC:**

Following the public consultation, SHDC is working on its action plans around its new strategy. The focus will be to deliver efficient core services such as waste, recycling, planning & enforcement, together with initiatives to improve Housing, Economy & jobs, Climate & Biodiversity and Community Services.

SHDC are putting forward a new approach to planning enforcement, to make the process faster and more effective. SHDC have scheduled training for town and parish councillors covering planning and development management on Wednesday, 24 January

We have announced a £100,000 fund to help local communities deliver more affordable houses in the areas which need it most.

The council announced additional investment in several areas including climate & biodiversity, the AONB and community engagement. Car parking charges will not increase. There has been an in-depth report on the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport.

### **Regarding Aveton Gifford interests, I am keeping a watch on the following topics:**

The planning application, 3276/23/FUL, for change of use of land for 1 no. pitch Gypsy & Traveller site (Retrospective) (resubmission of 0561/23/FUL) was refused. I will be in touch with the enforcement team in due course.

I see that the application 3429/23/HHO Hillhead Barn was approved with the following condition: That solar panels shall have black frames and be of matt/non-reflective finish and hereafter shall be retained and maintained as such for the life of the development.

I see that the application 2867/23/HHO Primrose Cottage was refused.

I note that AGPC has Opposed application 3402/23/HHO, High Barn, Chillaton on grounds of non-designated barn status

Cllr Lee Bonham



## ANNEX B: PLANNING REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### Applications since last meeting

None

### AGPC responses since last meeting

All responses can be read in full on the SHDC website

<https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk>

**Reference: 3050/23/HHO  
Tree Farm**

Proposal: Householder application for proposed roof extension & alterations to existing dwelling (part retrospective) (resubmission of 0176/23/HHO)

Submitted response: Support with suggested condition for light spill.

**Reference: 2998/23/CLE  
Land At Sx 687 746, Barn at Waterhead**

Proposal: Application for certificate of lawfulness for residential use

Submitted response: AGPC resubmission of previous comments.

**Reference: 3046/23/FUL  
South Efford Barns**

Proposal: Full application for targeted flood defence measures to address flood risk

Submitted response: Support on the grounds of flood prevention.

**Reference: 3429/23/HHO  
Hillhead Barn, Rock Hill**

Proposal: Householder application for creation of small side extension and the implementation of a PV array

Submitted response: Support with reservations regarding impact within AONB

**Reference: 3402/23/HHO  
High Barn, Chillaton.**

Proposal: Householder application for remodelling of existing dwelling, outbuilding and associated external works and landscaping (Resubmission of 0967/23/HHO)

Submitted response: Oppose on grounds of non-designated barn status

**SHDC decisions since last meeting**

All decision documents can be read in full on the SHDC website <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk>

**Reference: 3276/23/FUL**  
**Land At Sx Sx697 464, Aveton Gifford**

Proposal: Retention of a change of use of land for 1no. pitch Gypsy & Traveller site (Retrospective)  
(resubmission of 0561/23/FUL)

SHDC  
decision **REFUSED**

**Reference: 2867/23/HHO**  
**Primrose Cottage, Aveton Gifford, TQ7 4PA**

Proposal: Householder application for demolition of existing single storey garage, rear conservatory & rear extension, internal alterations to existing layout, modifications to existing door & window openings, proposed side & rear ground & first floor extension with new roof, external alterations to garden to include retaining works relocation of existing oil tank & installation of new flue to wood burning stove

SHDC  
decision **REFUSED**

**Planning appeal re South Efford House development**

Still under consideration.

## ANNEX C: NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Financial Statement at November 30th, 2023

Total in Treasury account:	£ 11,643.36
Total in Instant Access account:	£ 17,243.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 28,887.17</b>

### Restricted/Allocated reserves:

Parish Paths Partnership	£ 774.00
Heritage Group Projects	£ 1,370.00
Lottery grant for hall	£ 500.00
Play park fencing	£ 0.00
Play park project	£ 363.00
Pool liner fund	£ 7,000.00
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>£ 10,007.00</b>
<b>Working Surplus</b>	<b>£ 18,880.17</b>

### Payments Made: November 1st – November 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

<b>Folio</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>£GROSS</b>	<b>£VAT</b>	<b>£NET</b>
86	SLCC	Budget webinar training for Clerk	36.00	6.00	30.00
87	Nick Walker Printing	Printing costs for October issue of mAGpi	265.00	0.00	265.00
88	South West Water	Water sample analysis for pool	107.68	17.95	89.73
89	Flete Gardens / Greatla	Grounds maintenance work on 06/10/23	240.00	40.00	200.00
90	Amy Clayton / Clerk pay	Clerk wages	670.89	0.00	670.89
91	Pixl Digital Design	Website work during September & October	125.40	0.00	125.40
92	SafetySigns4Less	Fixings for children playing signs	16.74	2.79	13.95
93	Safety Signs and Notice	Fixings for children playing signs	19.13	3.19	15.94
<b>Total Payments</b>			<b>£1,480.84</b>	<b>£69.93</b>	<b>£1,410.91</b>

### Payments Received: November 1st – November 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

<b>Folio</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>£</b>
34	Let it Out	mAGpie advert	54.60
35	AG Trees	mAGpie advert	54.60
36	Lloyds Bank	Interest	18.66
37	DCC	Locality grant for spare pads	200.00
38	HMRC	VAT return	3,021.74
<b>Total Receipts</b>			<b>£3,349.60</b>