

AUST PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 @ 7:30pm at Elberton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Steve Meredith (chairman), Catherine Collinson, Claire Hawkins, David Spratt, Jeremy Warren

In attendance: Ward Councillor Burchell (SGC), 2 members of the public (*to end of item 3*)

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

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

Signed copy held by the Clerk.

1 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Wiseman and Ian Jenkins.

2 To receive declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

Cllr Meredith declared interest in item 6.1(i) as he is the applicant.

3 Public Forum

Two members of the public presented their planning application to councillors and answered questions.

4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th February 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th February 2023 be approved as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

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

5.1 Greenacres planning

No update

5.2 Congestion at Aust roundabout

Councillors reported that the congestion has been slightly better recently but that it would still be useful to meet with National Highways to discuss future plans.

The clerk will write to National Highways requesting that they send a representative to the annual assembly in April.

5.3 Replacement noticeboard at Elberton

The clerk reported that the board has been ordered and payment made. It is hoped that delivery will be in mid April.

5.4 Coronation celebrations

As previously resolved, the clerk has applied for grant funding from the SGC King's Coronation Fund. The request was made for £900 total, as the £1200 discussed at the previous meeting was over the upper limit for fund applications. A decision should be received in early April.

It was agreed that any funds received will be shared evenly between the three villages but that residents should be asked to decide how they are spent.

5.5 Renewal of registration of the White Hart, Littleton as an Asset of Community Value

SGC legal services have confirmed that in order to renew the registration, a full application is required. To ensure continuity, they have advised that any application should be submitted eight weeks before the expiry of the current registration (which expires on 14th May 2023.)

It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Collinson and Warren should work with the clerk to revise the previous application and submit it on behalf of the council.

5.6 Dog waste along Whale Wharf approach road

Cllr Riddle (SGC) had reported that he is looking into getting additional signage or road markings to remind visitors to clean up after their dog.

6 Planning

6.1 To note applications received and resolve response

The following applications were noted and responses resolved as recorded:

<Cllr. Meredith left the meeting due to declared interest in the next item. In the absence of the vice chairman, it was RESOLVED that Cllr Collinson should take the chair for item 6.1(i) only>

- i. P23/00507/F - Land at Village Farm, Marshacre Lane, Elberton - Extension to agricultural building. *RESOLVED: No objection.*

<Cllr. Meredith rejoined the meeting and resumed the chairmanship>

- ii. P23/00592/PNCD - Building at Manor Farm (Office 3 And 5) Aust Road Aust BS35 4AT - Prior notification for the change of use from commercial (Class E) to 3 no. dwellings (Class C3) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1985 as amended. *RESOLVED: No objection.*
- iii. P23/00613/PNCD - Building at Manor Farm (Office 6) Aust Road Aust BS35 4AT - Prior notification for the change of use from commercial (Class E) to 2 no. dwellings (Class C3) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1985 as amended. *RESOLVED: No objection.*
- iv. 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. *RESOLVED: No objection but with a comment to request removal of permitted development rights for the site, so that any further development would be subject to full planning process.*
- v. P23/00268/F - Construction of M49 Link Road with associated works at Land Between M49 Avonmouth Junction and Goldcrest Way, Western Approach Distribution Park - Land At Western Approach Distribution Park, Severn Beach. *RESOLVED: Support, due to significant road safety risk posed by the increased traffic currently using the A403.*

6.2 To note the following SGC planning decisions

The following planning decision was noted:

- i. P23/00084/HH - The Widgeon, Elberton Road, Olveston BS35 4AB - Erection of incidental outbuilding. *Refused*

7 Council administration

7.1 To review and re-adopt the Standing Orders

It was RESOLVED that the Standing Orders should be re-adopted with no change.

7.2 To review and re-adopt the Financial Regulations

It was RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations should be updated to include items 6.8 to 6.15 of the latest NALC model financial regulations document. This will allow the council to make payments using online methods. It was further RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations should be re-adopted subject to such change.

7.3 To approve final closure of NatWest current account and switch to Unity Trust current account

It was RESOLVED that an application should be made to close the NatWest account and switch all the council's banking to Unity Trust. The application was signed by Cllrs Meredith, Collinson and Hawkins.

8 Finance

8.1 To note the following payments made under prior approval

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

Item	Amount	Minute (where applicable)
Clerk's salary & home working allowance for month to 16 th February 2023	£263.12	May 2022 item 9.9

8.2 To approve the following payments

The following payments were resolved to be made. All will be paid via bank transfer.

Item	Amount
Mike Taylor (maintenance services) – Refurbishment of Littleton noticeboard	£90.00
ALCA – “Finance for Councillors” training, I Jenkins	£30.00
Elberton village hall – hire charges March 2022-February 2023	£120.00
Clerk's salary increase January to March 2023	£72.00

It was noted that the payment for next year's ALCA subscription, listed on the agenda, cannot be paid as ALCA have changed their systems and will not now be sending membership invoices until 1st April.

9 To review correspondence received & determine response

9.1 West of England Rural Network re: Village Agents scheme

WERN currently employ Village Agents in several areas and want to extend the scheme to rural parts of South Gloucestershire. The Village Agents' role is to help people in the community, particularly those who are vulnerable or isolated, and ensure they get the services and help they need.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Meredith should attend the initial steering group meeting on behalf of the council.

9.2 Keep Britain Tidy re: Great British Spring Clean 2023

It was RESOLVED that the council should take no action.

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

Cllr Hawkins reported that SGC have cleared the ditch alongside the main road in Elberton. The clerk was asked to send thanks on behalf of the council.

Cllr Spratt had attended the recent ASEA Flood Defence Project community forum. He reported that Passage Road should be reopened for cycling in the next few months but that it seemed likely the footpath would be closed for longer.

The clerk will invite the local police beat team and the Citizens Advice service to speak at the Parish Assembly in April.

11 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 8:28pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 11th April 2023 (to follow the Parish Assembly which starts at 7pm)

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

Signed (Chairman):