

AUST PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 @ 7:30pm at Elberton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Steve Meredith (chairman), Heather Bayston, David Spratt, Jeremy Warren, Anne Wiseman

In attendance: Ward Councillor Tony Williams (SGC), no members of the public

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

Approved at the subsequent meeting held on 11th March 2025.

Signed copy held by the Clerk.

2025-02-1 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ian Jenkins and Julian Cooper

2025-02-2 To receive declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

Cllr. Meredith declared an interest in item 7.1(i) as the applicant is a family member.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr. Bayston would take the chair for that item only.

2025-02-3 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

2025-02-4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th January 2025

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th January 2025 be approved as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2025-02-5 Parish matters for decision

2025-02-5.1 To sign agreement with SGC for Woodwell Meadows to be designated as a local nature reserve

It was RESOLVED that the agreement to register Woodwell Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve should be signed. The agreement was signed by Cllrs Meredith & Bayston and witnessed by the clerk.

2025-02-6 To note items of report

2025-02-6.1 To receive the Clerk's report

The clerk reported on the following matters:

- Precept notice was submitted to SGC and acknowledged.
- Notified ALCA of council's wish to join the small councils audit panel for this year's internal audit.
- Received notice of the next EDF meeting with councils, on 10th March. It was agreed that one of the Littleton councillors will attend.
- Cllr. Cooper has reported that the owner of a property adjacent to Littleton Pond is understood to have applied to the Land Registry to register ownership of the pond, though this has not been confirmed. Clerk has taken advice from SGC Commons officer; any registration of ownership will not remove the common land status and the pond area would need to be kept open for public access. The council would no longer have the power to protect and maintain the pond, responsibility would transfer to the registered owner. The clerk will look into the possibility of a counter-registration application by the council.

2025-02-6.2 To receive any reports from councillors

Cllr Bayston had attended the last meeting between EDF and the parish councils. The focus was largely on the implications of saltmarsh creation on flood risk in the surrounding areas, and on other possible mitigation measures. EDF now have a better understanding of potential issues at the proposed sites and are considering other options, for example a number of smaller sites rather than one or two large areas. However no final decisions have yet been made.

Cllr Warren attend the joint Oldbury/Berkeley Site Stakeholders Group meeting. Decommissioning of both sites is going well and is ahead of planned timescales. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is planning a series of roadshows around the area to explain what is happening at their local sites.

2025-02-7 Planning

*** Cllr. Meredith left the room due to declared interest. Cllr. Bayston took the chair. ***

2025-02-7.1 To note applications received and resolve response

The following applications were noted and responses resolved as recorded:

- i. P25/00131/F - Land at Village Farm, Marshacre Lane, Olveston - Erection of 1no. agricultural building (free range egg unit), 2no. feed bins, installation of hardstanding and associated works.
RESOLVED: No objection.

*** Cllr. Meredith returned and took the chair ***

2025-02-7.2 To note publication of South Glos. Local Plan and consider arrangements for final phase of consultation

The final version of the new Local Plan has now been published (<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/new-local-plan/>) and will go to SGC full council on 12th February. Public consultation is expected to start around 28th Feb for six weeks.

Consultation comments will go to the Planning Inspector who is examining the Plan. These have to be in a specified format and must address the reasons why commenters believe the plan should be altered – most comments will focus on whether the plan is “sound” or not. This will be the last round of consultation.

The clerk will circulate details of the consultation once received, with a view to determining the council's responses at the next meeting.

2025-02-8 Council administration

2025-02-8.1 To review the Risk Register

It was RESOLVED that the revised Risk Register should be adopted, subject to correction of the target date for consideration of moving to a .gov.uk domain for website & emails, which had not been updated to the present year.

2025-02-8.2 To agree arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly

It was RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Assembly should be held on 8th April at 7:00pm in Elberton village hall. The police beat team and the Village Agent will be invited to speak. Cllrs Warren & Cooper will give an update from the Littleton saltmarsh group.

2025-02-9 Finance

2025-02-9.1 To note payments made under prior approval

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

Item	Amount	Minute (where applicable)
Clerk's salary & home working allowance for month to 16th January 2024	£299.72	Nov '24 item 9.5
Unity bank charge January	£6.00	May '24 item 9.9

2025-02-9.2 To approve payments

The following payments were resolved to be made. All will be paid via bank transfer. A record of authorisation will be held by the Clerk.

Item	Amount	Power to spend
Clerk's expenses – travel to Glos Archives – 55 miles @ 45p/mile	£24.75	LGA 1972 s111
SLCC – membership subscription share (split with Cromhall PC)	£70.30	LGA 1972 s143

2025-02-9.3 To consider grant awards to the three churches for maintenance of open churchyard spaces

It was RESOLVED that a grant of £450 should be made to each of the three churches, towards costs of maintaining the publicly accessible churchyards, under the Local Gov^t Act 1972 s214(6).

2025-02-9.4 To consider a donation to Thornbury Town Council for provision of Citizens Advice Service

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £100 should be made to Thornbury Town Council towards provision of the Citizens Advice Service, under the Local Gov^t Act 1972 s142.

2025-02-9.5 To consider any grant awards under Local Government Act 1972 s137

In accordance with the council's powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, it was RESOLVED that the following expenditure is in the interests of the inhabitants of the council area and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure, and hence that a donation of £50 should be made to the Severn Area Rescue Association.

2025-02-10 To consider responses to consultations received

2025-02-10.1 South Glos. Council - On-street electric vehicle charge points

SGC are proposing to site two on-street charging spaces in Aust outside Old Post Office. It was RESOLVED that a response should be made stating that this would cause problems for residents who currently use the area for parking, having no space to park in front of their properties. Anecdotal reports suggest there is little local demand for on-street charging.

2025-02-11 agenda **Any other minor matters for discussion (no decision required) or items for next**

Cllr Bayston is progressing purchase of tools for the Woodwell volunteer group.

2025-02-12 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 8:37pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 11th March 2025.

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

Signed on approval:(Chairman)