

AUST PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 @ 7:30pm at Elberton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Steve Meredith (chairman), Heather Bayston, Ian Jenkins, Anne Wiseman

In attendance: Ward Councillor Matthew Riddle (SGC), one member of the public

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

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

Signed copy held by the Clerk.

2025-01-1 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. David Spratt.

2025-01-2 To receive declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

2025-01-3 Public Forum

No matters raised.

2025-01-4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th December 2024

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th December 2024 be approved as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2025-01-5 Parish matters for decision

2025-01-5.1 To receive an update on EDF saltmarsh plans and determine further action

EDF have announced that the decision on which (if any) saltmarsh sites are selected has been delayed until later in the year. No new date has been announced, but there will still be a period of public consultation once their preferred way forward has been decided. Affected landowners have received letters.

Some survey work may still go on in the meantime.

Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Meredith and the clerk are now on the circulation list for update meetings between EDF and the council chairs of the affected parishes. The next meeting is due to be held on 10th February. As neither Cllr Jenkins or Meredith will be available on that date, it was RESOLVED that Cllr Bayston will attend on behalf of the council.

2025-01-6 Items of report

2025-01-6.1 To note the clerk's report

The clerk explained that this standing agenda item has been introduced as a way to keep councillors updated on matters which do not require a full agenda item.

The clerk has written to a resident who is understood to be considering installing a private sewage discharge into Littleton pond. The Environment Agency have confirmed that such a discharge would require a consent from them. The resident has not responded to the clerk's letter. It was agreed that, having made the resident aware of the EA's stated position, there is nothing more the council can do at this stage.

The clerk reported on a NALC presentation from a member of staff at Via, who provide the technical management of the WestLink demand responsive transport system. She explained how Via assess ride data to plan and implement improvements to the service.

2025-01-6.2 To note any reports from councillors

Cllr Warren will be speaking at an Oldbury-on-Severn parish meeting on 20th January, to discuss the EDF saltmarsh proposals.

2025-01-7 Planning

2025-01-7.1 To note applications received and resolve response

No applications have been received since the last meeting.

2025-01-8 Council administration

2025-01-8.1 To review the Publication Scheme

It was RESOLVED that the Publication Scheme should be readopted with no amendments

2025-01-8.2 To review the Scheme of Delegation

It was RESOLVED that the Scheme of Delegation should be readopted with one amendment, to increase the review frequency to every four years rather than two.

2025-01-8.3 To review the Reserves Policy

It was RESOLVED that the Reserves Policy should be readopted with the suggested amendments, to reflect changes in banking arrangements since the last review and to note that the bulk of funds will be held in the interest-bearing reserve account, with the RFO making transfers to the current account as required to cover outgoing payments.

2025-01-9 Finance

2025-01-9.1 To receive the quarterly finance report & budget statement

The finance report and budget statement were NOTED. Bank reconciliations were checked & signed by Cllrs Jenkins and Wiseman.

2025-01-9.2 To note receipts

The following receipts were NOTED:

Item	Amount
Bank interest Q3	£96.30

2025-01-9.3 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 16 th November 2024	£299.72	Nov '24 item 9.5
Unity bank charge October 2024	£5.40	May '24 item 9.9
SGC – emptying of litter bin Q3	£44.70 +VAT	May '24 item 9.9
Unity bank charge November 2024	£6.00	May '24 item 9.9
Clerk's salary & home working allowance for month to 16 th December 2024	£299.72	Nov '24 item 9.5
Unity bank charge December 2024	£6.00	May '24 item 9.9

2025-01-9.4 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
Storage boxes – Rymans (clerk's expenses)	£ 21.65 +VAT	LGA 1972 s111
Printer cartridge – Amazon (clerk's expenses)	£ 34.91 +VAT	LGA 1972 s111
Printer paper – Amazon (clerk's expenses)	£ 8.32 +VAT	LGA 1972 s111

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 the following donation should be made:

Item	Amount	Power to spend
Donation – CPRE The Countryside Charity	£50.00	LGA 1972 s137*

2025-01-9.5 To set a budget for the 2025/26 financial year

Following consideration of the proposed budget, including new entries for equipment for the Woodwell Meadows volunteer group, it was RESOLVED to adopt the proposed budget as amended during the meeting.

2025-01-9.6 To determine the precept for the 2025/26 financial year

As a result of the adopted budget, it was RESOLVED that a precept amount of £6,952 should be set for the financial year 2025/26. This equates to £28.73 over the year for an average (Band D) property.

2025-01-9.7 To confirm internal audit via the ALCA small councils audit panel

It was RESOLVED that internal audit should be carried out through the ALCA small councils audit panel.

2025-01-10 Any other minor matters for discussion (no decision required) or items for next agenda

The venue for future council meetings was discussed. Any future move to allowing remote/online attendance would mean that an alternative venue with a broadband internet connection would be required.

Cllr Riddle reported that he has asked for the gullies alongside the B4461 main road in Elberton to be cleared, and for the large rut alongside the B4461 at the top of the hill towards Alveston to be repaired.

2025-01-11 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 8:26pm.

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

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

Signed on approval:(Chairman)