

AUST PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING

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

Present: Councillors Steve Meredith (chairman), Heather Bayston, Julian Cooper, David Spratt, Jeremy Warren

In attendance: Ward Councillor Matthew Riddle (SGC), no members of the public

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

Approved at the subsequent meeting held on 8th April 2025.

Signed copy held by the Clerk.

2025-03-1 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ian Jenkins and Anne Wiseman.

2025-03-2 To receive declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

2025-03-3 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

2025-03-4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 11th February 2025

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th February 2025 be approved as a correct record subject to the following modifications:

Item 2025-02-6.1, final bullet point – add to end of the first sentence “though this has not been confirmed.”

The amended minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

2025-03-5 Parish matters for decision

2025-03-5.1 To receive an update on EDF’s plans for saltmarsh creation

Cllr. Warren reported that EDF have announced a change of preferred strategy. They are moving back to installation of an Acoustic Fish Deterrent, as they believe technology has now improved such that this can be done without excessive risk. If the new version of the AFD is approved, this will mean there is no need for additional mitigation through creation of saltmarsh. All planning and design work on the various saltmarsh proposals has therefore been stopped.

EDF reserve the right to resurrect the saltmarsh plans in the future if required, but at the present time they do not expect to do so.

Wildlife survey work may still be carried out around Littleton, but only with permission of the landowner. No other survey work will be happening and the compulsory land entry orders have been removed.

It was RESOLVED that no further action is required of the council at this time.

2025-03-5.2 To consider an application to register ownership of Littleton Pond

It was RESOLVED that the clerk should apply for a caution against first registration to be put on the pond and surrounding area of common land.

2025-03-6 To note items of report

2025-03-6.1 To receive the clerk’s report

The clerk reported the following matters:

- Annual Assembly – the Village Agent, police neighbourhood beat time and the Linking the Levels project have agreed to speak.
- Woodwell Meadows - the Local Nature Reserve designation application is due to be considered on 3rd April.

- SGC consultation re: on-street electric charging points in Aust – clerk has responded as requested. The outcome is due to be published by 28th March.
- Internal audit – ALCA small councils matrix now confirmed; Aust PC will be audited by the clerk from Dyrham & Hinton PC.

2025-03-6.2 To receive any reports from councillors

Cllr. Warren reported that the White Hart, Littleton (a registered Asset of Community Value) is on the market. The clerk was asked to check whether notification of the current owners' intent to sell should have been given to the council.

Cllr. Cooper reported that a Tree Protection Order has been confirmed for the remaining trees at Whale Wharf.

2025-03-7 Planning

2025-03-7.1 To note any applications received and resolve response

No new applications have been received.

2025-03-7.2 To consider response to the Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation

It was RESOLVED that an objection should be put in against the identified location for a travellers' site at the B4461/Foxholes Lane junction. Objection on grounds of road safety, inappropriate development in the Green Belt, not realistically deliverable due to the number of services crossing the site, and not consistent with policy.

2025-03-8 Council administration

2025-03-8.1 To review and re-adopt the Standing Orders

It was RESOLVED that the Standing Orders (v1.6) should be adopted with no amendments.

2025-03-8.2 To review and re-adopt the Financial Regulations

It was RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations (v2.0) should be adopted with amendments as proposed.

2025-03-8.3 To agree the schedule of meetings for the coming council year

It was RESOLVED that the council should continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month, except for August and December.

2025-03-9 Finance

2025-03-9.1 To note the following payments made under prior approval

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

Supplier	Item	Amount	Minute (where applicable)
Clerk	Staff costs for month to 16 th February 2024	£ 285.86	2024-11-9.5
Elberton PCC - St John's	Grant - churchyard grass cutting	£ 450.00	2025-02-9.3
Littleton PCC - St Mary's	Grant - churchyard grass cutting	£ 450.00	2025-02-9.3
Aust DCC - St John's	Grant - churchyard grass cutting	£ 450.00	2025-02-9.3
Thornbury Town Council	Donation - Citizens Advice	£ 100.00	2025-02-9.4
Severn Area Rescue Ass ⁿ	Donation	£ 50.00	2025-02-9.5
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges February	£ 6.00	2024-05-9.9

2025-03-9.2 To approve the following 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.

Supplier	Item	Amount	Power to spend
Information Commissioner's Office	ICO annual fee	£47.00	LGA 1972 s111
Elberton Village Hall Committee	Hall hire Apr24-Mar25	£176.00	LGA 1972 s111
South Glos. Council	Litter bin Q4	£47.70 +VAT	Litter Act 1983 s5-6

2025-03-9.3 To review & approve the levels of financial reserves

The financial reserve levels as of the end of the current financial year were reviewed and APPROVED. A general reserve equivalent to 7 months income will be held as of 31/03/2025, consistent with the Reserves Policy.

2025-03-10 Any other minor matters of report (no decision required) or items for next agenda

A discussion on recent works at Woodwell took place.

Cllr. Riddle is chasing SGC for various highways repairs including the deep gully alongside the B4461 on Vattlingstone hill.

2025-03-11 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 8:49pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 8th April 2025, to follow the Annual Parish Assembly which will start at 7:00pm.

Items for the council meeting agenda should be with the Clerk by 1st April.

Signed on approval:(Chairman)