

**AUST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 @ 7:30pm at Elberton Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Meredith (chairman), Collinson, Hawkins, Jenkins, Spratt, Warren

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor Riddle (SGC). No members of the public.

**Clerk:** Emma Pattullo

Approved at the subsequent meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Signed copy held by the Clerk.

**1 To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Wiseman,

**2 To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

**3 Public Forum**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 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 – to receive update**

No updates.

**5.2 Elberton addresses – to determine whether to pursue further**

Cllr Hawkins agreed to consider what further action could be taken and will report to the next meeting.

ACTION: CH to consider further actions

**5.3 Highways England re: congestion around Aust roundabout – to agree a response**

A proposed response drafted by Cllr Wiseman had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was RESOLVED that the clerk should amend to reflect comments made during the meeting, circulate the revised draft for final comment, and then send to Highways England. Reference should also be made to the prolonged closure of the Sandy Lane tunnel.

**5.4 Severnvaile Flood Defence Group – to receive update**

Cllr Warren reported on the recent meeting. The Environment Agency are working on behalf of the Severn Estuary Coastal Group to refresh the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for the stretch of coast between Aust and Sharpness. New modelling information will inform the revised SMP, to be published in around 18 months' time. Meanwhile inspections, maintenance and planning continue. Planning is based on a probability of storm surges, meaning concurrence of a large spring tide, a strong SW wind and low atmospheric pressure. Whilst Storm Eunice in March this year was a "near miss", plans reflect the unlikelihood of all these factors occurring at once.

Cllr Warren noted that he was considerably reassured by the EA engineer's report but that he will continue to attend meeting of the group.

**5.5 Refurbishment of Littleton noticeboard – to select supplier**

It was RESOLVED that Mike Taylor should be commissioned to refurbish the council noticeboard in Littleton.

## 5.6 Replacement of Elberton noticeboard

### 5.6.1 To select supplier & model

The clerk has requested samples of the materials from the two preferred suppliers, but these have not yet been received. The decision was deferred to the next meeting.

### 5.6.2 To agree arrangements for removal of old board and mounting of new one

Decision deferred to next meeting.

## 6 New items of business

### 6.1 To consider provision of defibrillators across the parish

There is currently a defibrillator in the centre of Aust village (maintained by a group of residents and funded by the village) and one in the business park in Elberton. Littleton villagers have in the past discussed whether they would wish to have one but concluded that they did not.

Councillors discussed the current provision of defibrillators and concluded that purchase of another would not bring sufficient advantage to be worth doing.

## 7 Planning & Enforcement

### 7.1 To note applications received and resolve response

The following applications were noted and responses resolved as recorded:

- i. P22/06218/HH - The Widgeon, Elberton Road, Olveston BS35 4AB - Erection of single storey front extension and link canopy area to form additional living accommodation. *RESOLVED: no objection.*
- ii. P22/03957/PNA - Land At Villa Farm Main Road Aust - Prior notification of the intention to erect 1 no. agricultural building for the storage of fodder and machinery with an associated trackway (revised plans). *RESOLVED: objection on the grounds that the revised position still represents an unacceptable visual impact.*

### 7.2 To receive updates on current enforcement matters

Councillors received a verbal update on current enforcement matters.

## 8 Council administration

### 8.1 To receive an update on planned changes to banking arrangements

The clerk reported that an application to open current and savings accounts with Unity Trust had been submitted. Once final signature and identification processes have been completed, the account should be opened within the next few weeks.

Closure of the NatWest business reserve account is proving problematic; the clerk will continue to progress.

### 8.2 To note national pay award for council staff & approve addendum to clerk's contract

The national pay award for council staff, due in April 2022, has now been agreed. The clerk's salary will be increased accordingly with the increase backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

An addendum to the clerk's contract was signed to reflect current agreed terms.

## 9 Finance

### 9.1 To receive the quarterly finance report & budget statement to end September 2022

The quarterly finance report was noted and the bank reconciliation was checked & signed by Cllrs Hawkins and Warren.

### 9.2 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 the month to 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2022	£263.12	May 2022 item 9.9

### 9.3 To approve payments

The following payments were resolved to be made. Cheques were signed by Cllrs Hawkins & Jenkins.

Item	Amount	Previous minute (where applicable)	Cheque #
Clerk's salary back pay 1 <sup>st</sup> April – 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	£157.02	Item 8.2 above	534

### 9.4 To approve amendment to standing order for clerk's salary, to reflect pay award

Following item 8.2 above, it was RESOLVED that the monthly bank standing order should be increased to £287.12. This will be implemented once the Unity account is open; in the meantime, any amounts due will be paid by cheque.

### 9.5 To consider the draft council budget for 2023-24 financial year

The clerk presented various possible scenarios for setting the next years' budget. It was agreed that a 'business as usual' approach should be taken, to maintain current commitments and activities. This is likely to require a modest increase in the precept to cover increasing costs.

The clerk noted suggestions from councillors and will present a recommended budget for final discussion and approval at the January meeting.

## 10 To consider responses to consultations received

### 10.1 South Glos Council "Annual Council Budget 2023-24"

RESOLVED: No response

### 10.2 Bristol City Council "Flood risk development policy"

RESOLVED: No response

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

The clerk reported that SGC Street Cleansing team will be working in the parish for one week, probably in late January/early February 2023. Councillors were asked to note possible tasks which the team could carry out and report to the next meeting. ACTION: All councillors to consider possible tasks.

## 12 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 9:15pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk by 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Signed (Chairman): .....**