

AUST PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 @ 7:30pm at Elberton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Steve Meredith (chairman), Heather Bayston, Ian Jenkins, David Spratt

In attendance: Ward Councillor Matthew Riddle (SGC)

Minute taker: Cllr. Heather Bayston

Approved at the subsequent meeting held on 12th November 2024.

Signed copy held by the Clerk.

1 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Julian Cooper, Anne Wiseman and Jeremy Warren.

The clerk could not get to the meeting due to flooding of the roads between her home and Elberton.

2 To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Cllr Meredith declared an interest in item 6.3 as a landowner affected by the proposals.

3 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th September 2024

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th September 2024 be approved as a correct record. As the hard copy minutes were not available (since the clerk was unexpectedly absent) it was further RESOLVED that they will be signed at the next meeting.

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

5.1 Woodwell Meadows

5.1.1 To receive report on volunteer group sessions & determine further resource requirements

Two scrub clearance sessions led by Cllr Warren have been successful and useful lessons have been learned. Cllr Bayston will lead two further sessions during October.

5.1.2 To note receipt of annual report from South Glos. Council

The report was NOTED. The Council were surprised that the Conservation Volunteers charge £350 per day for volunteer work.

6 New items of business

6.1 To consider and agree response to the provisional Tree Protection Order made for various trees at Whale Wharf

A provision Tree Protection Order is in place from 5th September and will last for 6 months or until confirmed by SGC. The order will last for six months or until confirmed by SGC. It covers all the significant trees across the roadside front of the property and around the south end of the long pond.

Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the council should express support for confirmation of the provisional order.

6.2 To receive reports from external meetings attended by councillors

No matters to report.

6.3 To note arrangements for a parish meeting with EDF Energy regarding possible saltmarsh creation at Littleton

It was NOTED that a parish meeting has been called for Thursday 17th October, to be held in Littleton upon Severn Village Hall from 7:00pm. It was RESOLVED that, to allow the greatest range of topics to be covered in the limited time available, questions should be requested in advance and collated to ensure the same thing is not being asked multiple times. Also that Cllr. Jenkins should chair the

meeting as Cllr. Meredith has a close personal interest – although declaration of interests is not required at a parish meeting it was felt that a more neutral chairman would be preferable.

Action: Cllrs to invite their respective villages and request questions in advance.

7 Planning

7.1 To note applications received and resolve response

The following applications were noted and responses RESOLVED as recorded:

- i. P24/02114/RVC - Wharf Lodge, Passage Road, Aust - Removal of condition 4 attached to planning approval PT07/3215/F (Conversion of barn to residential accommodation and erection of front extension) to remove the restriction for the ground floor levels to be used as habitable rooms, following the recent installation of flood defences to the front of the property. *RESOLVED: No objection.*

8 Council administration

8.1 To consider adoption of a Complaints Procedure

It was RESOLVED that the Complaints Procedure should be adopted as presented.

8.2 To identify a solution for storage of council paper records

Item carried forward to next agenda.

8.3 To note the outcome of the clerk's annual review

Cllr Meredith confirmed that he and the clerk have carried out her annual review and that performance has met expectations.

The clerk is studying for the Certificate in Local Council Administration, which is being funded in full by another council. It was RESOLVED that it would be acceptable for some working hours for Aust parish council to be used to complete study assignments where these are relevant to the clerk's usual workload.

9 Finance

9.1 To receive the quarterly finance report and budget statement

Item carried forward to next agenda.

9.2 To note receipts

Item carried forward to next agenda.

9.3 To note payments made under prior approval

Item carried forward to next agenda.

It was NOTED that there were no new items for approval.

10 To review correspondence received and determine response

10.1 Bristol Water – access to assets within Woodwell Meadows

The request for access was NOTED.

Post meeting note - Bristol Water wished to access the Woodwell site to inspect a sewer air valve in the lower meadow. The notice was sent to a previous clerk in hard copy, so was out of date by the time it reached the current clerk. Bristol Water have been asked to update contact details so that future notices are received in a more timely manner.

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

Cllr Meredith raised the issue of the steep drop off the side of Redhill Lane on the hill going towards Alveston. Cllr Riddle advised he would raise with SGC.

It was agreed that Cllr Riddle would make contact with National Highways regarding Aust Roundabout issues, particularly the jams which occur when the M48 diverts traffic.

12 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 12th November 2023.

Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk by 5th November.

Signed on approval:(Chairman)