

## DEERHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 January 2024 in Apperley Village Hall

Present: Len Attard – Chairman  
Laura Bromberg  
Matt Dimond-Brown  
Jim Pollard  
John Rutter  
Jonathan Smith (partial attendance)  
Fiona Wallbank – Clerk

Members of the Public: 1 (partial attendance)

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillor Oldham, CC McLain, BC McLain. Councillor Smith would be late.

**2 MINUTES OF MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday, 8 November 2023, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None**

**4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MCLAIN: No report**  
**REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MCLAIN: No report**

**5 PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

### **Agenda item 8.1 Apperley Village Hall (AVH) brought forward:**

Malcolm Booth from the AVH Committee reported as follows:

**BACKGROUND:** AVH had a long-term energy deal which expired at end of September 2023. At this point our electric went from 16.9pKwh to 39.9pkwh (236% increase) and our gas from 5.47pkwh to 29.9pkwh (546% increase). To put this into context with the running of the hall AVH would have spent £1600pa and now £8000pa as standing charges have also increased. The hall has an income of circa £10000pa, so you will see that our biggest outlay of 80% would be on energy, which is unsustainable.

**INVESTIGATING SOLUTIONS:** AVH took the decision to increase hall hire charges by on average 25%, and hope that this will not discourage bookings from our local community.

The hall was built in 1984 and has very limited loft insulation and no cavity wall insulation. It is well documented that by increasing insulation AVH would save significantly on heating costs of circa 25% per annum. Multiple competitive estimates were obtained to tackle these, but at a price of circa £8000/£10000 to complete AVH could not afford to undertake the work.

The hall has two 28kwh gas boilers which are still serviceable but are around 10 years old. At some point they would need replacing. AVH spoke to several suppliers about the potential for putting new heat pumps in to replace the gas boilers. Many suppliers were too busy to visit as they are inundated with residential work due to easy residential grants. Those that did visit sized the systems and advised that the current 100amp single phase supply would not be sufficient and that AVH would need to increase to 3 phase supply. They would not waste their time/money putting full quote together until AVH had firm commitment and timescale for updating supply. They also advised that AVH must have the insulation completed and further pipework changes to enable the heat pumps to run efficiently. AVH undertook an analysis of energy costs with heat pumps at current prices and usage and found that ignoring capital costs for installation these would reduce ongoing energy by circa 25%, as well as reducing carbon footprint. AVH also investigated putting some “smart controls” on the central heating system as a means of controlling costs but would

need to ensure that any such controls would be compatible or reused with any future heating system to avoid the cost being wasted.

**SOLAR PANELS:** Apperley Village Hall has a large south facing roof which is ideal for solar panels and associated battery storage. With only a single phase 100amp supply our maximum is the same amount as a house 3.56kw. This is not financially viable, as it is much more cost effective to have an 11kw array on a 3-phase supply, which AVH do not have. This would provide energy for the hall, and also some income from energy sold back to the grid. Quotes have been obtained but cannot be progressed at this point.

**EV Chargers:** AVH cannot fit EV chargers at the hall on the current 100amp single phase supply. If AVH could AVH would like to investigate these and have space available for the charging bays.

**NATIONAL GRID:** Request for 3 Phase Supply 4958609 AVH have submitted a request to National Grid under 4958609 for the work to be done to upgrade to 3 phase.

This is proving to be a “chicken and egg” as they want the following information to proceed to quote as per attached email, but AVH do not have these at the moment, and they need to find a way to expediate the process based on best information available.

**EPC / ENERGY AUDIT:** Apperley Village Hall did not have an EPC since 1984. They commissioned a commercial building certificate, and this was completed December 2023 at a cost of £299.

AVH were unable to get any supplier to undertake an Energy Audit before January but were quoted around £1000.

**GRANT APPLICATIONS:** Energy Efficiency For Community Buildings Capital Grant Scheme. This was announced on 17<sup>th</sup> November across councils in Gloucestershire. Each council set their own criteria for approval. Tewkesbury Borough Council had by far the shortest window with applications to be submitted by 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Only Tewkesbury Council required an Energy Audit, whereas others made it clear that energy efficiency such as loft and cavity wall insulation was covered by a grant.

**It was agreed the Councillor Dimond-Brown would write to his fellow Councillors asking why TBC require an Energy Audit costing thousands of pounds whilst adjoining District/Borough Councils only require an EPC inspection to enable a grant application to be made.**

**It was also agreed the Parish Council would show support for grant applications made to third parties by the AVC committee.**

*Councillor Smith entered during the above agenda item*

#### **6.1 Applications: Applications considered by the planning sub-committee prior to the meeting:**

**23/00951/FUL & LBC** Oak House, Deerhurst: Installation of woodburning stove & associated flue to extension

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

In line with the conservation officer’s approval of this flue (which is considered to have no detrimental impact on this Grade 2 listed building), the Parish Council also has no adverse comment.

**23/01001/FUL** Bushey Court Drive, Apperley: Variation/removal of conditions 2 (approved drawings) 5 (ecological enhancement), 6 (lighting), 7 & 8 (landscaping) of 22/01177/FUL

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council does not object to this application but draws attention to (1) the addition of the dormer window feature for the two additional bedrooms, making the house appear bigger to the neighbouring dwellings north and south; and (2) there is no explanation for condition 5 not being met. Since 22/01177 has been approved, there are no planning policy matters to raise.

**6.2 Decisions: 23/00931/FUL** 12 Severn Way, Apperley, Demolition of existing outbuildings. Construction of a single storey rear extension and new dropped kerbs – Granted

**23/00860/FUL** Land Adjacent to, Fox Covert, Court Drive: Erection of a single storey self-build dwelling and detached garage/store utilising the existing access – Refused

**23/00922/FUL** Apperley Hall Farm, Apperley: Retention of static shipping style containers for storage use (Class B8) (Retrospective) - Granted

**6.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions:** None

**6.4 Neighbourhood Plan:** A Neighbourhood Planning project group (drawn from Steering Committee members living in Apperley) has been meeting regularly with a planning consultant to explore the issues around defining a settlement ‘edge’ in Apperley as has been done in some Parishes. The group will make a recommendation to the Parish Council before the next meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council have delegated the responsibility to the Steering Committee for making this decision on their behalf, but would like to be kept informed of the outcome. **It was agreed Councillor Bromberg would forward a short paper to Councillors ahead of the next Parish Council meeting.**

**6.5 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** It was agreed that the CIL meeting would be with Paul Hardiman on Wednesday, 17 January at 7pm. Clerk to request that the meeting be recorded as Councillors Bromberg and Attard are unable to attend and to send Paul the spreadsheet of houses built/proposed for clarification.

## 7 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

**7.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:**

**7.2 Financial Statement:**

December Payments:

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk’s salary – December Back pay as agreed by NALC 1.4.23-30.11.23 Less Tax	452.51 232.93 <u>79.60</u> 605.84		Paid
2	Inland Revenue	79.60		Paid
3	Apperley Village Hall – meeting 8.11.23	10.00		Paid
4	Tape to block off playing field fence Basketball stencil Marking paint Refund due to Mr B Oldham	11.89 56.38 <u>45.95</u> 114.22		Paid
5	Clerk’s Expenses: Wfh allowance 1.7.23-31.12.23 Wfh allowance 1.1.24-30.6.24 ½ cost of Office 365 ½ cost of trip to Shirley Fowler	100.00 125.00 39.99 <u>9.00</u> 273.99		Paid
6	Wa+erplus monthly invoice for November and December	35.70		Paid
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1119.65</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	

Circulated with the agenda - the Chairman signed this.

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk’s salary – January Less Tax	452.51 <u>33.00</u> 419.51		Paid
2	Inland Revenue	33.00		Paid
3	GPFA – Annual subscription due 1.10.23	50.00		Paid
4	Wa+erplus monthly invoice for January	24.96		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£527.47</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	

**7.3 Fencing Quotes:** Three tenders had been sent out however only two quotes received. **It was agreed the Clerk would clarify that the quote from Ridley's included cutting back the vegetation and removing from site.**

**It was agreed that the Clerk would check with GPFA that a strand of barbed is acceptable close to a playing field.**

**7.4 Budget 2024/25: It was agreed that the precept for 2024/25 would be £9770 which represents an increase of 99p per household over last year. Clerk to submit request to TBC.**

## **8 MATTERS ARISING**

**8.1 Apperley Village Hall:** Brought forward.

**Allotment:** Nothing to report.

**Play area:** Nothing to report.

**Playing Field:** Request from a parishioner to use the playing field on her husband's birthday and she would like to organise a sports day type event for friends and family to travel and spend the day with. The date is Saturday 29th June. If possible she would like access to the village hall toilets some of her friends might like to camp overnight. Clerk has emailed Chris Freeman re use of toilet but has not heard back. **Clerk to chase.**

**8.2 Highways: Saw Pit Lane:** Deep pot hole

**Flooding Road Closed Signs:** Glos Highways are very slow at reversing the signs once the flood water has egressed and the road is fit for purpose. **Councillor Pollard to take up with Glos Highways.**

**8.3 Public Rights of Way:** Nothing to report.

**8.4 Community Speedwatch Camera:** Councillor Pollard reported there has been very little traffic as the road has been closed.

**8.5: Review of Standing Orders:** Clerk to recirculate the amended version.

**8.7 Risk Assessment for Pond at Village Hall:** **Defer to the February meeting.**

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE: None**

## **10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:**

**Garden Town Initiatives:** Place on the agenda for the February meeting

**Strategic Local Plan:** Place on the agenda for the February meeting

**11 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 14 February 2024 at 7.15pm

**Close of meeting 20.52pm**