

AUST PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 10th December 2024 @ 7:30pm at Elberton Village Hall

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

In attendance: none

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

Approved at the subsequent meeting held on 14th January 2025.

Signed copy held by the Clerk.

1 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Jenkins,

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 present.

4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th November 2024

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th November 2024 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 EDF plans for new saltmarsh at Littleton

Liaison with EDF

Cllrs Meredith and Jenkins attended a virtual meeting with EDF and representatives of the other affected parishes. It was reported that EDF are becoming more open to considering other mitigation options – though the saltmarsh creation proposals have not been taken off the table.

Other options may include finding alternative locations or already proposed projects for voluntary saltmarsh creation (along the lines of the one at Steart Marshes), or altering the project timeline so that the actual fish loss due to the power station intakes can be measured before mitigation is put in place. The latter would mean that the mitigation could be proportional to the actual impact rather than the very uncertain estimates of impact, but would require a legislative change.

EDF are holding discussions at company board level to determine their preferred way forward; this will probably mean that the proposed consultation timetable will be delayed.

It is still not clear which (if any) of the current proposed sites would be preferred if EDF stick to their original plans for saltmarsh creation, but they are now aware of constraints at the Littleton site including the water and oil pipelines which cross the site, and areas of possible archaeological interest.

Liaison with Oldbury Parish Council

Cllr Warren had attended a meeting of Oldbury PC to brief them on EDF's proposals for the area. Oldbury PC intend to hold a village meeting in January to discuss with their residents.

Littleton action group

The volunteer action group has had strong support from the village. The group has been split into small teams of volunteers who are each looking at particular issues. It is hoped that this approach will mean that the group has the information needed to respond to the EDF consultation once it opens.

EDF have been asked for some information to assist the group, particularly the parameters on which they intend to base their decision on site selection, and the timings of the decision process. This information has not yet been made available.

Survey work

Cllr Spratt reported that there has been a significant amount of survey work being carried out on the proposed site.

A survey company has recently been carrying out traffic monitoring on roads and public rights of way around Littleton and Elberton, on behalf of EDF.

5.2 Woodwell Meadows management

Caroline Gaze (SGC) has reported that the pedestrian entrance gate at Woodwell Meadows has been damaged. SGC will source a repair or replacement. Cllr Meredith has a spare gate they can use if they wish.

The planned volunteer group session was cancelled due to stormy weather. The next session is planned for 4th January 2025.

The ground has been too wet recently to access with machinery. As previously agreed, Cllr Meredith will try to top off some of the scrub once the ground conditions permit.

6 Planning

6.1 To note applications received and resolve response

No applications have been received.

6.2 To note the following SGC planning decisions

The following planning decision was NOTED:

- i. P24/02114/RVC - Wharf Lodge, Passage Road Aust - Removal of condition 4 attached to planning approval PT07/3215/F to remove the restriction for the ground floor levels to be used as habitable rooms (retrospective), following the recent installation of flood defences to the front of the property - Conversion of barn to residential accommodation and erection of front extension (Amendment to previously approved scheme PT04/0179/F). *SGC decision: Refusal.*

7 Finance

7.1 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	£285.86	March '24 item 7.3
Unity Trust – banking charges October '24	£5.40	May '24 item 9.9
Unity Trust – banking charges November '24	£6.00	May '24 item 9.9
South Gos. Council – Litter bin emptying Q3	£47.70 +VAT	May '24 item 9.9

There were no new payments for approval.

8 To review correspondence received and determine response

None received.

9 To consider responses to consultations received

9.1 South Gos Council – Council budget 2025/26

RESOLVED: No response.

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

Cllr Wiseman has attended the first meeting of a new volunteer group set up to help maintain the wetland nature reserve at Aust, created as part of the flood defence works. The group plans to meet every other week to work on the reserve.

11 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 8:12pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 14th January 2025.

Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk by 7th January.

Signed on approval:(Chairman)