

AUST PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 14th July 2026 @ 7:30pm at Elberton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Steve Meredith (chairman), Heather Bayston, Ian Jenkins, David Spratt, Robert Taylor, Anne Wiseman

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

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the subsequent meeting, and may be subject to change until that time.

2026-07/1 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Julian Cooper.

2026-07/2 To receive declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

2026-07/3 Public Forum

2026-07/3.1 Introduction from Simone Shephard, Community Development officer, West of England Rural Network

Simone Shephard introduced herself and her role. She is covering the Severn Vale and will work alongside the Village Agents, focussing on community development and addressing wider issues, rather than the one-to-one focus of the Village Agents. Key issues identified in the Severn Vale area are transport (e.g. to medical appointments or social opportunities) and digital inclusion.

Simone hopes to work with parish councils alongside community groups and organisations to identify issues and possible ways to put improvements into place.

2026-07/3.2 Other public forum matters

No members of the public were present.

2026-07/4 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th June 2026

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th June 2026 be approved as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2026-07/5 Parish matters for decision

2026-07/5.1.1 To request that the appropriate agencies install sound barriers along the M48 off slip above Sandy Lane and air pollution monitoring adjacent to the closest houses

Residents of Aust, particularly those in Sandy Lane adjacent to the off-slip from the M48, are concerned that the new arrangements for HGV filtering will lead to increases in queuing traffic along the slip road, with consequent impacts on noise and air pollution.

The council has asked SGC to investigate installing air pollution monitoring equipment; Cllr Riddle agreed to chase this up with SGC officers.

It was agreed that until the results of modelling studies are available, there is little chance of National Highways (NH) agreeing to any mitigation measures such as barriers. It was therefore RESOLVED that once the modelling data is received, the clerk will request another meeting with NH to discuss the likely impacts on residents and request mitigation.

2026-07/5.1.2 To consider possible application for National Highways community impact grant funding

NH have a community grant fund which can be used towards infrastructure improvements in communities impacted by major NH schemes.

The preferred application would be for air quality monitoring equipment. The clerk will check whether this would be a valid item of funding.

Alternatively, a grant application towards repairs to Aust village hall will be considered.

2026-07/6 To note items of report

2026-07/6.1 To receive the clerk's report

The clerk reported on the following items not otherwise on the agenda:

- Reply from Claire Young re: return of HGVs to the bridge. She has contacted National Highways to ensure we receive modelling results once available. Also contacted by a resident on the same matter – resident has also approached SGC to ask how air pollution will be monitored. NH reply as expected; modelling data due end July.
- Resident query re: Aust Nature Reserve and adjacent footpaths. Appropriate contacts at SGC were provide.
- BDO (external auditor) have confirmed exemption certificate received.

2026-07/6.2 To receive any reports from councillors

None received.

2026-07/7 Planning

2026-07/7.1 To note any planning applications received since issue of the agenda and resolve response

No planning applications had been received.

The clerk had submitted delegated responses on the following applications since the last meeting:

- P26/01225/CLE - Severn View, The Green, Littleton Upon Severn - Verification of building use (Class C3) for a period of time exceeding 10 years, and the installation of new wall cladding for a period of time exceeding four years prior to 25th April 2024. *Responded: no evidence to offer.*
- P26/00942/F - Brightside House, Brightside Park, Sandy Lane, Aust - Erection of 2.4-metre-high security fencing to the rear of site. *Responded: no objection.*

2026-07/7.2 To note the following SGC planning decisions

- P26/01022/PN1 - Car Park at Brightside Park, Sandy Lane Aust - Prior notification of the intention for development of a Gateway Ground Station Antenna Site consisting of 40no. Satellite antennas, a fibre supply equipment cabinet, and cables set within a compound secured by 2.4m high fencing with vehicular access gates, and development works thereto. *SGC decision: Prior approval granted with conditions*
- P26/01054/CLE - Home Farm, Village Road, Littleton Upon Severn - Continued use of land and buildings for equestrian use and use of Menage in breach of condition 2 of PT13/0550/F. *SGC decision – Approve Certificate of Lawfulness*

2026-07/8 Council administration

2026-07/8.1 To note Freedom of Information request and response, and confirm clerk's overtime due to dealing with the request

A request was received under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) regarding communications around the planning application P25/00131/F for a poultry unit at Village Farm, Elberton. The search undertaken covered councillor and clerk email addresses and council electronic files. No relevant hard copy information was held.

All information requested was supplied; following communication with the requestor, the response was extended to include communications between councillors and residents as much of the internal correspondence would not have made sense without this.

Personal data was redacted, as required under the General Data Protection Regulations.

An FOI page has been created on the council's website and the log of FOI requests uploaded.

It was RESOLVED that the clerk should receive payment for overtime of 8.8 hours for the time taken to deal with the request and provide the response.

2026-07/9 Finance

2026-07/9.1 To receive the quarterly finance report and budget statement

The quarterly finance report and budget statement were NOTED. The bank reconciliation was checked and signed by Cllr Jenkins.

2026-07/9.2 To note receipts

The following receipt was NOTED:

Source	Item	Amount
Unity Trust Bank	Bank interest Q1	£60.66

2026-07/9.3 To note payments made under prior approval

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

Payee	Item	Amount	Prior approval
Clerk	Staff costs	£313.80	2026-05/11.4
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charge June	£ 7.00	2026-05/11.4

2026-07/9.4 To approve 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.

Payee	Item	Amount	Power to spend
Clerk/HMRC	Overtime – Freedom of Information request	£122.32	LGA 1972 s112

2026-07/10 To consider responses to consultations received

2026-07/10.1 SGC “Climate and Nature Strategy 2026 to 2023”

It was RESOLVED that no response should be submitted.

2026-07/11 Any other minor matters for discussion (no decision required) or items for next agenda

Cllr Riddle has received complaints regarding speeding in Elberton and HGVs breaking the restriction. Police and SGC have been notified. If HGVs are seen and the company details reported, Cllr Riddle will inform the police of specific offenders.

Cllr Jenkins reported that the Boar's Head in Aust has changed hands and requested information about applying for Asset of Community Value status for the pub.

Several vehicles are present at Greenacres. SGC has an ongoing investigation. Cllr Riddle will provide an update.

2026-07/12 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 8:31pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 8th September 2026.

Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk by 1st September.

Signed on approval:(Chairman)