

Aylburton Parish Council: Annual General Meeting

Minutes of AGM held in the Memorial Hall on Friday 1st May 2009 at 7:30 PM

Present

Michael Praker (Chairman), Alan Edwards, Maurice Bloomfield, Jane O'Donnell, Simon Newman (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (Clerk), Terry Glastonbury (District Councillor).

Members of the public: Bob Berryman, Ray Woodward, Margaret Edwards, Mark Sargent, Bernard Fisher, Claire Bloomfield, Simon Rutherford.

Apologies

Kath Harris, David Thorne (councillors). Huw Dyer, Con Dubois.

Minutes of AGM held on 23rd May 2008.

Were agreed and signed as a true record.

The chairman opened the meeting by thanking council members for their attendance & efforts throughout the year and also thanked Councillor Glastonbury for his attendance and advice.

Matters arising from the previous minutes:

Yearly Summary:

The following were listed as completed items:

- 2007-08 Audit completed without comment from external auditors.
- Increase in donation to AUCA agreed upon.
- Licence to cultivate received (for use outside Cascade).
- Ordering & placement of dog-fouling / penalty signs.
- Upper Common ditches cleared.
- Hedges on Chapel Hill cut back.
- Upper Common allotments wall checked & found to be satisfactory at present.
- Litter remit & funding extended to cover more of village outer limits.
- Japanese knotweed dealt with by Glos. Highways.
- Stockwell lane bank cleared by Andy Jones, to maintain as required.
- Declaration of Member's Interest forms returned to FoDDc.
- Formal adoption of Paragraph 12 (2) of Code of Conduct.
- Location of Wayleave payment pole found.
- Road resurfacing by Glos. Highways.
- Remembrance Day observed and wreaths placed at the Memorial hall.

The following were listed as items pending:

- Drains & sewers still require work.
- The Parish Plan is ongoing.
- Provision of more allotments (or land for).
- Parish Patch registration / assessment of realistic rental value of land.
- Maintenance of footpaths / The Tack.
- Notice boards to be replaced throughout the village.
- Churchyard path/ trees to be maintained.
- Two Rivers grass cutting proposals.
- Adoption of telephone kiosk in village.
- Millennium Wood maintenance.
- Condition of the village pavements.
- Damage to Sandford road junction bus shelter.

Items requiring no further action:

The investigation into the provision of street light at Chapel Hill Close will not be pursued by the Parish Council as the land is privately owned by Lydney Park estate. The council advised residents that if they wish to proceed they must do so via the landowner's agents.

General comments / complaints:

The Parish Plan continues to proceed with no unusual matters being thrown to light following the steering group's findings. Some subjects will require the help of the District council as they are outside the remit of the Parish Council.

Bob Berryman raised the possibility of a village car park & confirmed that the village hall trustees would support such a venture if it were to go ahead. This would obviously assist in making the hall more user-friendly as at present parking in the village is difficult to say the least. Mark Sargent urged the council to act as mediator in the instance of access for a car park needing to go through private land as this has been a major obstacle in the past.

Mark Sargent made the point that the Hall is maintained solely by voluntary works & the profits from local events such as the carnival & the local produce show etc. (The annual cost of keeping the hall going is £7000). He feels that the trustees should make more of this matter & raise awareness in the village of the general state of affairs & also that the Parish Council should offer more financial assistance. He further suggests that the area behind the hall be given over to the school to cultivate, perhaps as part of a healthy eating/ grow your own campaign.

Access to the footpath known locally as the Tack, still presents problems for people trying to walk it. Mr Berryman advised the meeting that Lydney Park estate had wanted to go ahead with an occasional usage system but Glos County Council will not insure for this type of use. Some of the stiles on the footpath require maintenance & at present may be a danger to walkers. It is very much hoped that the Footpaths Agency will get involved & offer its assistance in this matter.

The church yard currently has within it a large potentially dangerous tree. A tree surgeon will be contacted to assess the dangers & offer advice as to how to proceed.

There is no further news on the Two Rivers Housing problem (whereby residents are requested to pay for grounds maintenance even if they purchased their property when it was council owned). Councillor Glastonbury reported that the District Council is trying to stay out of the affair.

With regards to the phone kiosk in the village which the council is hoping to "adopt" it was suggested that a use be found for it. However, no-one could suggest a use at this time!

Lydney park estate wishes to transfer the Millennium Wood to the Parish. This does of course mean that the Parish council will be responsible for its maintenance in the future which may be problematic & expensive although in principle it appears to be a generous gift. (Indeed LPE argues that this was the general idea when the land was proposed as a Millennium Wood although no official records can be found). It was suggested that a path be cut through the wood to give people a clear idea of a walk. The area by the pond seems to be much abused with a great deal of litter left there. Maurice Bloomfield suggests that a site meeting is held with both members of the council & LPE representatives to fully appreciate the future involvement required.

The pavements within the village have seen some improvement but some work still needs to be done to bring them all up to a satisfactory condition.

The clerk is still awaiting quotes for the repairs needed to the bus shelter. Mr Bloomfield told the meeting that the police require all incidents of damage to be reported so that a picture can be built up to ascertain a pattern of events, if any. It is possible that the Crime Reduction Partnership may get involved with this issue.

The grassed area outside the Cascade building has now been blocked off by bollards & tubs of plants & flowers have been placed here. Ray Woodward & other local residents will maintain this. It is certainly a big improvement & the council is very grateful to those involved for their efforts. Ray will also report any damage to the police (see item above).

Mike Praker wishes it to be known that no councillor is paid for their time or efforts in carrying out their duties. The clerk confirms that very few even take up their expenses options. The finances of the council are very healthy in line with the external auditors' recommendations.

The village school is currently suffering from a lack of pupils with seemingly fewer local parents choosing to send their children there. It is also possible that in the future the Governors will face more problems as so much administration is required.

Mark Sargent asked the council what, if anything, was to be done about the issue of affordable housing. Affordable housing would hopefully encourage more young families to stay in the village. Rumours abound as to possible chosen sites but none can be confirmed as yet although Terry Glastonbury reported that a site has been identified for the Community Land Trust somewhere on LPE land. He kindly offered to pursue this matter & advise the council in due course. Maurice Bloomfield went on to say that according to the findings of the Parish Plan questionnaire this is not actually a principal concern for most residents.

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Financial Summary 01/04/2008 to 31/03/2009:

Opening balance	£2819.52
Payments	£7017.27
Receipts	£8203.40
Closing balance	£4005.65

Affiliations:

GAPTC	£132.88
Street wardens scheme	£100.00
A48 Committee	£8.00

Donations:

AUCA	£500.00
Village club	£500.00
Miss A. Bailey	£100.00
Friends of Bathurst Pool	£300.00
SARA	£25.00
CAB	£25.00
Poppy Appeal	£45.00

Business concluded 8:25p.m.