

Aylburton Parish Council: Annual General Meeting

Minutes of AGM held in the Memorial Hall on Friday 27th May 2011 at 7:30 PM

Present

Maurice Bloomfield (Chairman), Simon Newman, Frankie Evans, Colin Newman, Lorna Coates, (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (Clerk), Terry Glastonbury, Marion Winship (District Councillors).

Members of the public: Alan & Margaret Edwards, Clare Bloomfield, Stella Newman, Jon Ridley, Mr & Mrs H. Clarke, Bryan Pugh, Jim Winship.

Apologies:

Jane O'Donnell.

Minutes of AGM held on 25th May 2010.

Were agreed and signed as a true record.

The chairman began by thanking Mike Praker & Alan Edwards for their contributions to the council over the years. Each of them has served on the council for many years & we will be sorry to lose their insight & humour following their decision to stand down this year. We all wish them the very best for the future.

Maurice also thanked Both Terry & Marion for their unstinting support & offered congratulations on their successful re-election to office.

Following this the Chair then went on to précis the achievements of the council over the past year. These included the provision of more allotments, the successful application for the Quick Wins Grant, the distribution of a regular newsletter (although there have been problems in getting information from local clubs & societies to put in the newsletter) & the near-completion of the Website. However there is still more work to be done to address the remaining aims of the Parish Plan.

He also raised the idea of a Portfolio system for future use by the Council, whereby each councillor would effectively be in charge of certain topics of interest or concern. This system would cover such subjects as planning, the environment, roads, allotments, finance, & local government issues. It is hoped that in this way councillors would gain a clearer understanding of various topics & also of the powers & limitations of the Parish Council as a whole.

Matters arising from the previous minutes:

Yearly Summary:

The following were listed as having been completed by the Council:

The Parish Plan is up & running!

Newsletters are being issued & enjoyed by all.

The website (in trial format) is available for the public to access.

Registration of the Parish Patch has at last been successfully completed.

Tudor Carpentry has provided a further notice board placed outside the school.

The Council had received payment for the insurance claim for the repairs to the bus shelter.

More allotments have been issued to village residents.

The trees in the church yard which required attention have been dealt with as necessary by a tree surgeon. Any further work will be deferred for now.

The audit for 2009-10 had passed with no comment from the external auditors.

A Vehicle activated Sign (VAS) had been placed at the approach to the village from the Alvington side.

The clerk had reiterated the need for Andy Jones to clean all 3 bus shelters as part of his remit following complaints as to their poor condition. Also that the areas outside the immediate village need to be cleared of rubbish on a regular basis.

The annual laying of wreaths at the Memorial hall had taken place & a suitable donation made to the Royal British Legion for the poppy appeal.

Line painting on the High street lay by was completed.

The noisy drain cover on the High street had also been repaired.

Elizabeth Ball of Taurus Crafts attended a meeting to see how Taurus & the Parish Council may work together in the future.

The clerk had written to Mark Harper MP regarding the issue of safety along the A48.

The Quick Wins grant application has successfully been completed; funds should be through soon.

The clerk had contacted the relevant agencies to complain about the poor condition of Lydney bus station on behalf of Aylburton residents.

Lydney Park Estate had been contacted regarding the placing of electric fences over public footpaths, causing difficulties for residents attempting to use the paths.

The clerk had been awarded a pay rise to £1200 per annum for which she is very grateful!

The Council advertised for people interested in becoming councillors in the light of the decision by both Alan Edwards & Mike Praker to stand down following many years of service. Several people expressed an interest but ultimately only 2 followed this interest through & will be welcomed onto the Council in May. This prevented the need for an election thus also saving the Council money.

The Council has agreed to pay Lydney Park Estate an increase in the rent for the allotment land. This increase brings the cost involved more in line with the national average & will be passed onto the allotment holders.

Following a complaint by Mr Clarke of Orchard Close regarding parking problems a request had been forwarded to PCSO Dan Wilce to monitor the situation & report back with advice as to how to proceed with this issue.

The new pipes laid along areas of Upper Common ditches were examined at the request of Matt Harding & found to be unfit for their intended purpose.

GAPTC membership was renewed for the coming year as the clerk feels the support gained is well worth the money.

Sandford Road street light satisfactorily repaired after many delays!

All correspondence & planning reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

All correspondence & planning had been reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

The following were listed as items still pending further action:

The clerk is investigating alternative banks & insurance providers to maximise returns & value for money.

The proposed adoption of the Millennium Wood is still awaiting completion. Matters are currently with Lydney Park Estate's solicitors.

The provision of salt / grit bins in the village is currently under review. More are obviously required, but current FoDDC guidelines as to supply mean that some roads requiring bins do not match the necessary criteria. Local residents especially on the two hills would strongly disagree!

The Tack footpath issue is not yet completely resolved but is largely out of the remit of the Parish Council.

Sandford Hill footpath is still awaiting repair.

Chapel Hill still has a problem with surface water despite repeated assurances from Highways that this matter would be resolved.

Church Road subsidence has yet to be resolved.

Stockwell Lane 30mph speed signs still pending.

The replacement of the 2 seats at Millbrook Green is yet to be done.

The drain cover opposite the George Inn requires maintenance.

Orchard Close parking problems. PCSO Dan Wilce to monitor & advise upon.

Carnival; road closure problems due to police refusal to assist. Dan Wilce to be invited to explain reasoning behind this refusal as the procession is a vital part of proceedings.

General matters:

The Lydney Area Action Plan is available to residents wishing to comment upon it.

Financial Summary: 01/04/10 to 31/03/11

Opening balance	£2209.66
Payments	£9798.30
Receipts	£8813.79
Closing balance	£4700.65

Affiliations:

GAPTC	£144.00
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Donations:

AUCA	£750.00
Poppy Appeal	£50.00
FoD CAB	£50.00
Friends of Bathurst pool	£300.00
SARA	£50.00
Dial-A-ride	£25.00
Victoria Centre	£25.00
Memorial Hall garden fund	£25.00

New business/ open discussion:

The local bus service is still giving cause for concern as more proposals to limit the service are raised, with a review being undertaken.

Jon Ridley of the Village Hall committee asked for volunteers to assist with road closures & marshalling duties at the carnival following the refusal by the police to help this year. The carnival is a major source of revenue for the committee (although it now also collects the rent from the cottage adjoining the hall which helps) & is of course a massive draw for the village as a whole. The Parish Council will support it however it can to ensure that the carnival continues.

Mr Bryan Pugh attended the meeting to inform Councillors of the accident that had befallen him at a stile on Upper Common, which had resulted in a hospital visit & broken spectacles. This stile is on Lydney Park estate & as such Mr Pugh had written to them explaining what had happened & asking that the stile be made safe. The Parish Council offered its sympathy to Mr Pugh & will monitor the situation with regard to the stile being repaired.

Mr Matt Harding had also written to the Clerk asking that the council looks into the matter of the bridleway on Upper Common, which is currently rendered almost impassable by pedestrians, due to 4x4 vehicles using the path.

On that subject Margaret Edwards strongly believes that the Footpaths agency is failing in its duty to walkers particularly in this area. Many of the paths are very overgrown thus almost impossible to use. Others are rendered very unpleasant due to dog mess. M.B. offered to walk some of the paths with M.E. in order to see the problems himself & refer them to the relevant agencies. K.B. was asked to contact the County Council to discuss the provision of more kissing gates in the area.

Public concerns / discussion:

(1) Mike Praker raised the issue of the problems experienced by many local residents with regard to the bus service with times & connections which were felt to be largely inconvenient, rendering the service practically useless. Cllr Glastonbury believes that there may be a solution in the future but that no plans were afoot to make changes any time soon. The James Bevan bus company which operates the local service is unable to effect a change due to commitments with school times.

Clare Bloomfield stated that the service as it currently stands renders it nigh on impossible for local people to visit the main hospitals in Gloucester & Cheltenham; at a time when people are already stressed this only adds to their burden.

It is very much hoped that a resolution may be reached soon. The Council will monitor the situation & continue to pressure those involved to make changes to the service they provide.

(2) Alan Edwards will continue to request speed awareness / slow down signs for the village.

(3) Margaret Edwards asked that the Council help with the problem of dog fouling along the Aylburton to Lydney footpath. It was suggested that the Street Wardens be approached to help with this matter.

(4) Mrs Edwards also asked that a vote of thanks be sent to the village Flower club in recognition of their hard work in making the village environs more attractive to residents & visitors alike. It was also suggested that perhaps in the future the Parish Council could offer financial assistance for their schemes which greatly benefit the village as a whole.

Financial Summary 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2010:

Opening balance	£4005.65
Payments	£6600.35
Receipts	£8279.76
Closing balance	£5685.16

Balances as at 11/05/10:

Current account	£7181.11
Deposit account	£3475.50

Affiliations:

Street wardens scheme	£100.00
A48 Committee	£8.00

Donations:

AUCA	£750.00
Poppy Appeal	£50.00

Business concluded 8:40p.m.