

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 23rd January 2007 at 7:00 PM

Present

Michael Praker (Chairman), Maurice Bloomfield, Dave Thorne, Alan Edwards, Jane O'Donnell, Simon Newman, Kath Harris (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (Clerk)

Apologies

Marion Winship (District councillor)

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2006.

Agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Chapel Hill loop road**
No further progress has been made on this issue.
2. **Condition of roads/ New Traffic Management Coordinator**
Following on from the progress report for the Chapel Hill loop road, the issue of the generally poor condition of the local roads and drainage system was again raised. With little or no progress having been noticed in either area, Councillor Edwards reported that Jason Humm, the new Traffic Management Coordinator for this area, has shown little interest in helping or cooperating with our needs and wishes. The clerk was asked to contact him again, stressing the possible hazards faced by those using the local roads. It was suggested that if the relevant body is aware of inherent dangers and yet does nothing to offset these, it may be guilty of contributory negligence in the event of an accident. There has certainly been a distinct refusal to supply the village with any form of activated slowdown sign. Further to this, Councillor Harris queried the road markings at the area of the new crossing by Bathurst pool. No satisfactory answer was given as to their meaning.
3. **Litter collector**
Mr Andy Jones, the new litter collector, has also been cutting the grass on the triangular section of Millbrook Green and has requested a bin for composting the resultant cuttings. It is unclear exactly who has responsibility for the maintenance of this patch of land and the clerk was instructed to attempt to ascertain this. Chairman Praker went on to say that he has asked Mr Jones to check the condition of the bus shelter as part of his duties.
4. **Annual precept for 2007/2008**
It was agreed to request a precept of £5,000 for the coming year in order to increase the council's reserves in line with advice from the external auditors following last year's completed audit. This amount reflects the wishes of the council to donate a substantial sum to the Village Club in respect of the new play area. It should be noted, however, that the council is aware of the knock on effect this is likely to have on local taxes.

Any Other Business

5. **Parish Plan**
The Parish Plan may yet proceed, as Councillor Bloomfield reports that there may be government money left over for this cause which he will investigate. Further to this, he requested members of the council to volunteer to help and to which Councillors Harris, Newman and Edwards and the Clerk offered their services.
6. **Donation to Aylburton Village Club**
It was agreed to pledge £500 to the Village Club for the replacement play area. This donation is subject to certain criteria and may be reassessed in the future.
7. **Bledisloe Trust**
Councillor Bloomfield gave a brief overview of the Bledisloe Trust for whom he is the council's representative. The trust exists to facilitate travel to New Zealand, giving financial assistance to those eligible to help with costs.
8. **Primary school**
Chairman Praker reported that the grassed area outside the primary school, on which many parents wait for their children, has become slippery and dangerous and is in need of maintenance. The clerk was asked to ascertain where this responsibility lies and to contact the relevant agency. Furthermore, the Chairman suggested that a school warning/flashing light would be beneficial to school safety given the speeds at which some cars travel in the immediate vicinity and the fact that the existing signs are often obscured and hard to spot.

Correspondence

Items #5944 to #5974 were reviewed and dealt with.

Planning

9. **Received**

#5972	Taurus	Conversion
#5973	8 Upper Common	Placement of mobile home during work
#5974	83 High Street	Conservatory

10. Granted

#5971	Allingwood, Church Road	Conservatory
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Finance

11. Balances

Current account	£1357.82
Deposit account	£1796.20

12. Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell – Salary (Oct - Jan)	£266.66
K. Blackwell – Expenses (Review advertisement)	£20.91
A. Jones – Litter collection (Jan)	£51.00

13. Payments pending:

Street Wardens – Donation	£100.00
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Business concluded 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting

7:00 PM Tuesday 27th March 2007 in Aylburton Memorial Hall.