

# Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at 7:00 PM

## Present

Michael Prakel (Chairman), Maurice Bloomfield, Simon Newman, Jane O'Donnell, Alan Edwards (Councillors), Terry Glastonbury (District councillors), Karen Blackwell (Clerk), PC Peter Timmins (Police Community Support Officer), Nick Brain and Rob Carpenter (Street Wardens)

## Apologies

Dave Thorne, Kath Harris (Councillors), Marion Winship (District councillor)

## Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

Agreed and signed as a true record.

## Address by PC Timmins

PC Timmins informed the council that he is a full time PCSO, along with two fellow officers. He is aware of the problem of speeding traffic through the village and will attempt to get a hand held speed camera in place soon, as well as bringing pressure to bear on his inspector with regards to slowdown signs. He plans to visit the village as often as possible and stressed that the role of the PCSO relates to community based issues and hopefully their presence will act as a deterrent. He hopes to hold surgeries in the village at some point in the future. Councillor Glastonbury added that the presence of the PCSOs in Lydney has proved largely efficacious. Councillor Edwards asked his advice with regards to the possibility of lowering the speed limit on the A48 approach from Alvington to 40mph, thus matching that from the Lydney side. A further suggestion is that the 30mph signs on Sandford Hill be moved further out of the village.

## Address by Street Wardens

Nick Brain and Rob Carpenter gave a brief presentation to enlighten the council as to the roles and duties of the street wardens. Their aim is to be community led, i.e. they will attend any problem within their jurisdiction as and when reported by the public. They exist to complement the police presence in the area. Their remit is likely to increase over the coming years in line with central government legislation. The council decided to donate £100 to the scheme and this will be invoiced next April.

## Matters arising from the minutes.

### 1. Condition of roads

The council has received a letter from the local Dial-a-Ride operators expressing concern over the condition of Church Road outside Mr Thomas's house, a copy of which the clerk will forward to Doug Smith at Cannop to highlight previous requests for remedial work to be undertaken. Councillor Glastonbury stated that he had visited the site, following the last council meeting and agreed that it is a dangerous condition.

### 2. Parish Plan

Councillor Bloomfield wishes to proceed with this and request help to launch a public meeting. A preparatory meeting for the volunteers was arranged for the 1<sup>st</sup> of August at Councillor Bloomfield's home.

### 3. Allotments

Councillors Newman and O'Donnell (the allotment committee) had visited the Kear's Moor allotments and found that some are, at present, neglected. The clerk was to provide names and addresses of those people renting the allotments in the hope that the tenants of the neglected plots could be identified. Councillor Prakel had also paid a visit to the allotments on the Upper Common. These are currently all rented by one individual and if demand continues to exceed supply, he may be requested to relinquish one or more of the plots.

### 4. Stockwell Lane bank

The clerk had received a letter from Mark Harper MP requesting clarification of the situation regarding the bank following correspondence from one of his constituents. Councillor Prakel had persuaded a council grass cutter to cut some of the area. It was decided to ask Andy Jones to attend to the rest with the associated costs being absorbed by the council for the present. In the future, such costs will have to be passed on to the parish residents through an increase in the precept.

### 5. Overhanging trees

A parish resident raised the issue of the pavement being obstructed by overhanging trees near the roundabout between Aylburton and Lydney. Councillor Glastonbury informed the meeting that these trees are the responsibility of Lydney Park Estate since it was the estate that originally requested that these trees be planted. Furthermore, they do not fall within the boundaries of the parish.

### 6. Churchyard path/tree

Councillor Prakel informed the meeting that the potentially dangerous tree in the churchyard will be cut by Brian Reece. The path needs remedial work and the possibility of laying tarmac will be investigated.

**7. Mead Lane footpath**

Following complaints regarding the inaccessibility of this footpath, Councillor Glastonbury sought advice as to where responsibility for the maintenance of this footpath rests. He reports that it lies with Lydney Park Estate. Lydney town council will contact Lydney Park Estate directly with regards to this issue.

**8. Audit**

The clerk reported that the audit was signed by the chairman prior to being dispatched to the external auditors.

**Any Other Business**

**9. New litter bins for Sandford road**

Councillor Bloomfield informed the meeting that he had had cause to contact the Environmental Department of the FoDDC with regards to several items of rubbish, including household appliances, having been dumped immediately outside his property on Sandford Road. He was told that Richard Aston was already looking into this problem and that he hoped to provide a couple of large refuse bins at the bottom of Sandford Terrace for people to put their rubbish in. These bins are now in situ.

**10. Litter collecting**

With regards to the litter remit, Councillor Bloomfield requested that the clerk ascertain, as far as possible, which areas are meant to be covered and if this could be extended, i.e. to cover more of Stockwell Lane, Chapel Hill, Church Road and Sandford Road. The clerk will liaise with Andy Jones to gauge his feelings on the subject and also ask Richard Aston for his advice. Councillor Bloomfield also mooted the point of the advisability of a contract between the litter collector and the parish council.

**11. Corporate plan**

Councillor Glastonbury raised the issue of the corporate plan and advised the meeting that the FoDDC would appreciate the input of the parish council. A special meeting will be arranged to discuss the key issues of the plan.

**12. Upper common allotments wall**

Councillor Prakel reported that he had carried out an inspection of the upper common allotment wall and believed it to present no immediate danger to the public. The condition of the wall will be monitored in the future.

**13. Speeding vehicles on Stockwell Lane**

Mr Peter O'Donahoo of 22 Stockwell Lane has asked the council to examine the possibility of the placing of slowdown signs on the road. This has been prompted by concern over the number of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds on Stockwell Lane.

**14. Stockwell Lane footpath**

The clerk was asked to approach the Footpaths Agency with a view to diverting one of the footpaths which emerges onto Stockwell Lane as it is generally felt that, due to the speed of vehicles using the lane and the lack of visibility, there is an "accident waiting to happen".

**Correspondence**

Items #6050 to #6072 were reviewed and dealt with.

**Planning**

**15. Granted**

#6070	Mandala House	Swimming pool enclosure
#6071	George Inn	Erection of smoking shelter
#6072	Chapel Hill Barn	Alterations to garage

**Finance**

**16. Balances**

Current account	£1537.55
Deposit account	£4820.64

**17. Authorisations required:**

K. Blackwell – Salary (Jun/Jul)	£160.54
A. Jones – Litter collection (Jun/Jul)	£105.00
K. Blackwell – GAPTC course reimbursement	£60.00
Lydney Town Council – Cemetery upkeep	£150.00
FoDDC – Election expenses	£134.58

**18. Payments made:**

#576 A. Jones – Litter collection (Apr/Mar)	£102.00
#577 K. Blackwell – Salary (Apr/May)	£133.33
#578 AUCA – Grant	£250.00
#579 R. Morgan – School grass (x3), Churchyard grass (x3)	£300.00
#580 Village Club – Hall rental	£70.00
#581 Village Club – Donation	£500.00
#582 R. Morgan – School grass (x2), Churchyard grass (x2), hedge	£220.00

**19. Payments pending:**

Street Wardens – Donation	£100.00
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**Business concluded 9:35 p.m.**

**Next Meeting**

7:00 PM Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007 in Aylburton Memorial Hall.