

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 27th September 2007 at 7:00 PM

Present

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

Apologies

Dave Thorne, Kath Harris (Councillors)

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2007.

Agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes.

1. Roads/speeding vehicles.

Several matters were covered under this heading. Firstly, the problem of speeding vehicles using Stockwell Lane (in particular those visiting the farm) seems to have improved since Councillor Praker again approached Lydney Park Estate, who agreed to raise the subject with its contractors.

The second matter raised was that of HGVs using the small local roads due to the use of satnav systems. Recently, several have become stuck along Sandford Road, causing major problems for other road users. Councillor Bloomfield requested that the matter be raised with Gloucestershire Highways in an attempt to get signs placed discouraging lorry drivers from using unsuitable routes.

Finally, following a recent A48 meeting, Councillor Edwards reported that the condition of the A48 has not improved in any way and that the situation is unlikely to change in the near future due to there being no money left for repairs. This state of affairs has been exacerbated by the remedial work needed following the recent flooding. He also stated that it had been arranged for Neil Maxfield of Gloucestershire Highways to visit the village on the 14th of December to assess the problems faced.

2. Parish Plan

Councillor Bloomfield informed the meeting that early stages were going well with a poster/flyer being produced. An open forum meeting is planned for January '08. Nicky Ford (headmistress of Aylburton C of E School) wishes the school and its pupils to be involved. There are possible problems with regard to the price of brochure printing but a small grant may be available from the District Council. Excess funding will be required from the Parish Council and the legality of this procedure will be examined. Councillor Bloomfield also mooted the possibility of forming a warden system within the village, with responsibilities to include grass cutting, litter collection and other such items.

3. Allotments

The Allotments Committee is awaiting a response from Lydney Park Estate with regards to an extra allotment being provided at the Kear's Moor site. The council will also reiterate the need for repairs to be made to the fence at this site. Councillor Newman agreed to visit Nick Brown to discuss developments.

4. Litter collection and remittance

The clerk had received a letter from Richard Aston of the FoDDC Environment Department stating that no further funding would be forthcoming to increase the area covered by Andy Jones. In addition, health and safety regulations covering insurance of council employees will prevent him from cleaning additional areas without official authorisation from the department. The clerk will investigate the possibility of Andy Jones being covered by the parish council insurance.

5. Footpaths

Councillor Praker has spoken to Derek Biddle of Lydney town council with regards to the many problems experienced by footpath users. It is anticipated that a representative from the Footpaths Department will attend a parish council meeting in order to address these issues, with particular reference to the Tack.

6. Bus shelter painting

It was agreed to present Russell George with a £20 Tesco voucher in recognition for his work in painting the bus shelter.

7. Matt Harding thanks

The clerk informed the council that, as requested, a thank you had been sent to Matt Harding with regards to his work in clearing the Upper Common wall.

8. Milling Crescent footpath

This has now been satisfactorily cleared.

9. Bus shelter repairs

The clerk is currently in the process of claiming on the council insurance for the replacement of the broken glass panel. Councillor Bloomfield offered to contact the company to ask that the repairs be carried out when an engineer is already in the area in the hope that this will reduce the overall cost.

Any Other Business

10. Audit

The clerk reported that the audit for 2007 had been completed successfully with no comments from the external auditors.

11. Upper Common ditches

A letter had been received from Matt Harding complaining that the ditches on Upper Common along the Oaks need clearing. The clerk will contact the relevant agency to inform them of the need to carry out this work.

12. Funds transfer

It was agreed to transfer £1000 from the deposit to the current account to cover expenditure.

13. Standards Board - Code of Conduct

The council agreed to adopt the Code of Conduct (including paragraph 12(2)), as issued by the Standards Board of England. Further details of the code can be found in the supporting documentation issued by the board.

14. Precept request

Agreement could not be reached on how much to request for the 2008 precept, so it was decided to delay making a decision on this until the next council meeting.

15. Church path

Councillor Prakel has arranged to get a quote for replacing the tarmac on the church path.

16. Overhanging trees

It was confirmed that the trees overhanging the roundabout on the A48 just outside the parish boundary will be maintained by the Highways Agency twice a year.

17. School waiting area

Councillor Bloomfield had been approached by the school headmistress requesting the possibility of a shelter being placed outside the school for parents to use to wait for their children in safety.

18. Meetings

Councillor Prakel had attended a police & community consultative meeting. It was reported that crime in the area was down, but unsurprisingly, speeding is a big problem. A report from the Chief of Police should be forthcoming. Councillors Prakel and Bloomfield had also attended a Parish Partnership meeting on the 24th of October. They believed that although this meeting was unproductive, the forum itself could be beneficial. There will be another such meeting in April next year.

19. Village Hall committee

Councillor Edwards asked that it be recognised that the Village Hall committee had made a good job of tidying the area outside the Memorial Hall.

Correspondence

Items #7015 to #7055 were reviewed and dealt with.

Planning

20. Received

#7053	Priors Mesne	Conservatory.
#7054	4, High Street	Additional information.
#7055	Mandala House	

Finance

21. Balances

Current account	£516.10
Deposit account	£4347.86

22. Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell – Salary (Aug - Nov)	£280.00
A. Jones – Litter collection (Oct/Nov)	£105.00
R. Morgan – School grass (x1), Churchyard grass (x1)	£100.00
GAPTC – Training course (Replacement cheque)	£20.00
AUCA – Grant	£250.00

23. Payments made:

#593 A. Jones – Litter collection (Aug/Sep) & Stockwell lane bank grass cutting	£135.00
#594 Zurich Insurance – Policy renewal	£413.66
#595 Moore Stephens – Annual audit fee	£141.00
#596 R. Morgan – School grass (x2), Churchyard grass (x2)	£200.00
#597 R. George – Painting of bus shelter	£12.50

Business concluded 8:35 p.m.

Next Meeting

7:00 PM Tuesday 22nd January 2008 in Aylburton Memorial Hall.