

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 22nd January 2008 at 7:00 PM

Present

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

Apologies

Terry Glastonbury (District Councillor)

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2007

Agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes

○ **Roads/speeding vehicles**

It was reported that a letter had been received from Neil Maxfield of Gloucestershire Highways stating that following a site visit to the area the work required had been prioritised and is now due to take place in "the near future". The current problems have been exacerbated by a lack of funds due to resources being relocated to those areas worst affected by last year's flood damage, with recent heavy rains once again adding to the problem.

The drains in the Aylburton area are also having trouble coping with the run-off from local fields, a situation that is not helped by lack of culvert maintenance. Councillor Winship offered to contact the County Council with regard to this matter.

Vehicle speed through the village continues to be of great concern and Councillor Edwards raises the point that this is not helped by the differential approach speeds to the village.

Cllr Winship had received a complaint concerning the lack of a 'hidden' junction sign near the loop rd on Chapel Hill. It is very much a safety issue and the clerk will contact Neil Maxfield to ascertain what can be done.

The final issue raised in this section pertains to the bank on Sandford road, which gives access to the terrace & the fields behind it. Excess water running down the bank brings with it lots of gravel which then covers a large area of the road causing hazardous conditions for both drivers & pedestrians alike. The suggestion was made that a drainage pipe be laid to divert the water into the opposite field thus minimising the problem. It is believed that the bank is probably Lydney Park Estate owned and as such will be their responsibility. The clerk will contact the estate office to discuss the matter & arrange a site visit if possible

○ **Parish Plan**

This is currently on hold, as it requires further organisation to start the process. Alan Edwards proposed that the council makes available the sum of £500 to help with initial set-up costs. The proposal was seconded & the motion carried. Cllr Bloomfield will investigate possible ways to decrease the set-up costs, in particular the printing charges, which seem steep.

○ **Allotments**

The clerk had received confirmation from Nick Brown of Lydney Park Estate that further land on the Kears Moor allotment site would be made available at a cost of £25 per annum. The allotment committee will check to see how many allotments can be made on this extra land & decide on rental costs.

Whilst on this subject Cllr Harris reported that Matt Harding of 5, Upper Common is still concerned with the condition of the wall surrounding the Upper Common allotments. The chairman & cllr Edwards had visited the site on a previous occasion & believe the wall to be in a good state of repair but a further site visit will be undertaken & LPE once again informed of the problem.

○ **Litter collection and remittance**

Cllr Bloomfield expressed disappointment that there is no further funding available to increase the area covered by Andy Jones, our resident litter collector. He believes that there is a need to extend the area covered & to this end the clerk will continue to check on insurance cover through the Parish council.

○ **Bus shelter repair**

It was agreed that councillor Bloomfield should contact the company who will carry out the repair & ask them to do it when they are already in the area as this will decrease the overall cost of the repair as no special call out fee will apply. This should bring the price down to a level at which it will not be viable or necessary to claim under insurance.

○ **Upper common ditches**

As requested the clerk had reported the problem of blocked ditches to Gloucestershire Highways whom it is hoped will undertake remedial work in the near future.

○ **Precept request**

It was agreed after much deliberation to apply for a precept of £6,000 for the coming year.

- **Church path repairs**
The chairman reported that he is still awaiting a quote for the cost of repairs to the worn & damaged tarmac path in the churchyard.
- **School waiting area**
Mr Bloomfield stated that he believed potential problems exist with regard to planning permission for the shelter to be erected outside the school, whilst Mr Thorne is concerned about access for coaches etc once the shelter is in place. It was decided that each would liaise with the relevant agency with regard to position & design. A letter from Gloucestershire highways giving permission for the shelter to go ahead is coming via Neil Maxfield.

New Business

- **Missing cheque**
The clerk reported that a cheque (no.592) sent in Sept '07 to GAPTC to cover course costs had failed to reach its destination according to GAPTC who had issued a second demand for payment. However bank statements showed that this cheque had indeed been cashed in Dec 07. The clerk will chase this issue to ensure it has not been fraudulently cashed.
- **Sandbags**
Councillor Winship raised the subject of a supply of sandbags for those houses in the village affected by possible flooding. It was agreed that during the recent rains the distribution of sandbags had been largely successfully completed to individual households but a storage area would be useful. The clerk was asked to contact District to check if any spare garages exist in the village, which may be used for this purpose (although the same request elicited a negative reply when last made 2 years ago).
- **Planning Applications online**
The meeting was reminded that planning applications for the area are now online & as such it is necessary to check, as paper copies will not automatically be issued.
- **Parking charges**
Councillor Winship discussed the contentious issue of the proposed parking charges to affect all Forest towns. The proposals have caused much bad feeling locally with some people believing that they will adversely affect local small businesses. However the car parks are expensive to maintain & the money must come from somewhere, but before the plan can be put into effect there must be more consultation. Councillor Winship also confirmed that with the decriminalisation of parking offences wardens would be evident in the towns as of April '08 to enforce parking regulations.

Correspondence

Items #7056 to #7081 were reviewed and dealt with.

Planning

No planning applications had been received.

Finance

- **Balances**

Current account	£756.10
Deposit account	£3385.06
- **Payments made:**

#598 K. Blackwell – Salary (Aug - Nov)	£280.00
#599 A. Jones – Litter collection (Oct/Nov)	£105.00
#600 R. Morgan – School grass (x1), Churchyard grass (x1)	£100.00
#601 AUCA – Grant	£250.00
- **Authorisations required:**

K. Blackwell – Salary (Dec/Jan) plus expenses (£20 voucher, R. George)	£160.00
GAPTC – Training course (x2)	£120.00
A. Jones – Litter collection (Dec/Jan)	£105.00

Business concluded 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting

7:00 PM Tuesday 25th March 2008 in Aylburton Memorial Hall.