

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 25th March 2008 at 7:00 PM

Present

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

Also attending; Mr Roger Garbett of the Environment department ,FoDDC.

Apologies

Simon Newman.

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2008

Agreed and signed as a true record.

Presentation by Roger Garbett.

It was agreed that Roger Garbett should make his presentation to the council prior to the routine meeting. He was in attendance to discuss the issues of fly posting & dog fouling & the possible avenues of discourse & action open to the parish council pertaining to these and other environmental issues.

The main thrust of the environment department's ethos seems to be that of prevention being better than cure. Legislation does exist which governs dog fouling/dogs on leads but it is difficult to enforce especially in small communities where "offenders" may be well known to those trying to enforce the law. It is suggested that perhaps the wardens take over the responsibility for ensuring guidelines are adhered to, & issuing fixed penalty notices in the case of an offence being committed. The future policy will, it is hoped, be one of guidance & advice, with a legal team in place to assist with queries & a more open system of consultation existing between all parties concerned.

Mr Berryman of the Village club has also raised the issue of people abusing the facility placed on the playing field for the disposal of dog litter, i.e. actually bringing dog mess from elsewhere for disposal. This is necessitating more frequent emptying of the bin & of course increasing associated costs.

Fly posting is not a big problem within the village at present although the length that some posters remain up seems to be give some cause for concern. It was suggested that the 7-7-7 approach be adopted, whereby posters are in place for 7 days prior to an event within 7 miles and removed within 7 days of said event, again perhaps utilising the services of the street wardens to facilitate this.

Matters arising from the minutes

- **Roads/Speeding vehicles**
Again there has been no move towards a satisfactory conclusion to this issue with the Highways department being keen to stress the need for funding to be diverted to those areas most severely affected by last year's flooding. This response is unsatisfactory to say the least & the parish council will continue to press for a resolution.
- **Parish Plan**
Councillor Bloomfield confirmed that he had managed to obtain more reasonable printing costs for the posters for the Parish Plan meeting, i.e. £95 rather than the £295 originally quoted. This represents a huge saving on the initial costs. The flyers & posters had been distributed & the meeting was planned for Friday 4th April.
- **Allotments**
The 3 allotments gained on the Kear's Moor site will be charged at £9.00 per annum each. All rental charges are to be reviewed in the next year to bring them more in line with national prices. Current prices are minimal & indeed do not even cover the cost of administration charges paid by the council.
- **Litter collection and remittance**
The clerk was able to confirm that following a further discussion with Richard Aston at FoDDC the litter remit paid to the council will be increased thus enabling Andy Jones to cover a wider area of the village environs.
- **Bus shelter repair**
The repair to the broken glass in the bus shelter (opposite Sandford road) has now been completed and paid for at a cost of £303.15.
- **Church path maintenance**
No progress made. This issue to be suspended at present.

- **School waiting area**
This work has now been completed & paid for using school funds. Safety has been improved on the waiting area although no shelter has been erected as yet and it is reported that the parents are generally pleased with the addition.
- **Missing cheque**
The clerk confirmed that this cheque had in fact been found & cashed by the company for whom it was intended! No further action required.
- **Sandbags**
Two Rivers housing confirmed that there are currently no spare garages available for the storage of sandbags in the village thus alternative storage will be needed.
- **A.G.M. date**
It was decided to hold the A.G.M. on Friday 23rd May this year. The clerk will advertise the event in the Review & place posters in obvious sites to hopefully attract more attention. The need to advertise regular meetings was also reiterated.

Further to this it is hoped that perhaps as part of the Parish Plan a newsletter for the village may be produced in the future in which it would be possible to inform readers of the workings & achievements of the council as well as covering all other local matters.
- **Parish patch**
Following complaints that the area is not being properly kept & used as a dumping ground it was decided that councillors Edwards, Praker, & Thorne would visit the site to assess the situation.

Furthermore the clerk was asked to continue with the quest to register this land on behalf of the parish council.

New Business:

- **Planning applications**
Councillor Bloomfield raised the need for the planning sub-committee to be increased to 3 people (at present only 2 councillors) in order to follow recommendations from the Standards board. He also advised that the sub-committee may only make recommendations to the council as a whole & that the final decision rests with the entire council. This issue along with others relating to procedure & protocol will be reviewed in the future with sub-committees being placed on the AGM agenda.
- **Clerk's salary increase**
The chairman proposed an increase of 4% in the clerk's salary taking it to £876 per annum. This was seconded by Alan Edwards & the clerk was pleased to accept the increase.

Correspondence

Items #7082 to 8017 were reviewed and dealt with.

Planning

#8017 Prior's Mesne Meat processing/packaging development No comments.

Finance

- **Balances:**

Current account		£976.95
Deposit account		£2385.06
- **Payments made:**

#603	A. Jones	– Litter collection (Dec/Jan)	£105.00
#604	GAPTC	– Course fees	£120.00
#605	Clerk	– Salary (Dec/Jan) + expenses (voucher, R. George)	£160.00
#606	M. Hewitt	– Brook clearing	£91.00
#607	Bus Shelters Ltd	– Replacement glass	£303.15
- **Authorisations required:**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Feb/March) plus expenses	£165.00
GAPTC	– Annual subscription	£132.88
GAPTC	– Books	£70.30
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Feb/March)	£105.00
Prontaprint	– Flyers (Invoice no 932813)	£95.00
- **Next Meeting:**
Date of next meeting: Tuesday 27th May 2008.

Business concluded 8:40 p.m.