

# Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 7:00 PM

## Present

Michael Praker (Chairman), Alan Edwards, Dave Thorne, Kath Harris (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (Clerk). Also attending; Mr Bailey and Miss Ashleigh Bailey of Milling Crescent.

## Apologies

Maurice Bloomfield, Jane O'Donnell, Simon Newman. Terry Glastonbury (District Councillor)

## Presentation of Donation

The meeting began with the presentation of a £100 cheque to Miss Ashleigh Bailey, a local girl who will be competing in the Horseball World Championships this year. The council was pleased to make this donation in recognition of Ashleigh's achievements so far and wish her continued success in the future.

## Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Agreed and signed as a true record.

## Matters arising from the minutes

- **Roads/Speeding vehicles**

Recent communication with Neil Maxfield of Gloucestershire Highways would seem to indicate that the long-awaited work on the village roads has at last been recognised as a matter of some urgency, and has been prioritised, hopefully to be completed later this year. This work should include repositioning and updating of the school warning signs but count-down markers indicating the 30mph limit will probably not be permitted.

In addition to this Councillor Edwards raised the issue of the drains in the village being unable to cope with heavy usage. It is hoped that this problem will also be resolved when the work on maintaining the highway is undertaken.
- **Parish Plan**

A steering committee has now been formed to oversee the initial running of the Parish Plan and initial feedback from this committee is very optimistic.
- **Allotments**

All of the village allotments are now rented out and more are needed to fill the demand. The clerk will continue to liaise with Lydney Park Estate in the hope of obtaining more land for this purpose. Priority will be given to Aylburton residents.
- **Parish Patch and Upper Common wall**

The clerk has re-started the process of registering this land on behalf of the council, and has received letters from local law firms confirming that no deeds pertaining to it are held, thus the way is clear to continue. Councillors Praker and Edwards will survey the area to assess the current usage and complaints arising from it with regards to litter/dumping etc.

They will also examine the wall surrounding the upper common allotments following Matt Harding's concerns as to the condition of the wall.
- **Charitable Donations**

It was agreed to leave this matter until a future meeting. The clerk was asked to bring a list of all past recipients and amounts given in order that the council may choose which organisations to support this year, but the general wish is that the monies be given to local concerns.

## New Business:

- **Funds Transfer:**

It was agreed to transfer £4500 ( following receipt of the precept ) from the current account to the deposit account to maximise the interest received. This will still allow a generous "working" capital to be maintained.
- **Footpaths**

Julian Potter of the Footpaths Agency is currently undertaking, as part of a national policy, a review of the footpaths in the area. Lydney Park Estate are being uncooperative in some instances and must be reminded of their duty to maintain these public rights of way. It is hoped that this review will result in a clearer policy for all to follow thus facilitating easier usage of the paths as well as increased safety with more and clearer way markers being placed.

Kath Harris offered the services of the Women's Institute members, who regularly walk many of these paths, to ascertain their condition and report back to the council.

- **Village Noticeboards**  
It has come to the attention of members of the council that the notice boards in the village are in poor condition, specifically the one sited by Sandford Terrace which is potentially dangerous to users, with broken glass making it impossible to safely place posters/flyers etc. The clerk had made enquiries as to the cost of replacing at least some of the Noticeboards but had to report that new ones would prove prohibitively expensive. The chairman offered to approach Glyn Morgan, as he has helped with church work in the past, to see if he can offer any suggestions.
- **Hire of chipper**  
A group of volunteers has offered to tidy the churchyard. They have requested that the council pays the cost of hiring a chipper to deal with the detritus generated by this work. This will cost in the region of £100 for 2 days hire. The council agreed to do so.
- **Thanks**  
It was agreed to show the council's appreciation to Sarah, a family friend of Mr Bloomfield, for her help and advice with regard to producing the flyers for the Parish Plan launch meeting. They were truly professional & the council is very grateful to her. To that end it was decided to present Sarah with vouchers for M&S for £25.00.  
  
It was also agreed that the clerk take Mrs Lesley Eskholme to lunch in recognition for her help in auditing the council's accounts prior to sending them to the external auditor.
- **Street Wardens/ PCSO**  
The clerk was asked to notify both the Street Wardens and the PCSO for the area of future meeting dates and invite them to attend.
- **New seat at Lambeth Walk**  
Mrs Kath Harris raised the issue of placing a bench on the area known locally as Lambeth Walk, to be funded by the Women's Institute. There is currently a bench sited there but it is a bad state of repair & it was generally felt that to replace it would cause no major problems.
- **Letter from AUCA**  
The clerk had received a request from AUCA that the annual grant given by the council be raised to £750, to reflect the rising costs of maintenance, fuel & servicing etc. The council feels that more information with regard to AUCA's finances needs to be made available so that it may ascertain where the money from previous years has been spent & the clerk will request this. It may be that in the future an alternative is agreed upon & to that end the clerk will ask Richard Morgan to quote for cutting the grass on Upper common on a regular basis. It is hoped that a member of AUCA might attend the next meeting to discuss this issue more fully.  
  
Mr Edwards raised the point that the Horticultural society is also seeking indirect funding to facilitate its work, i.e. cutting the grass on the verge leading out of the village heading towards the LPE office entrance.
- **Miscellaneous**  
The Horticultural society's plans to smarten up & prettify the village are subject to Gloucestershire Highways rules & regulations & as such more communication is required with Neil Maxfield.  
  
Mr Edwards raised the possibility of enforcing a complete ban on dogs on the playing field following recent complaints as to abuse of the facilities & the problems caused by owners failing to clean up after their dogs.  
  
Mrs Harris requested that the council re-examines the possibility of getting a street light placed at the entrance to Chapel Hill Close as this area is very dark at night & may be hazardous to residents. It was stated that this request had been made many years ago & that LPE were unable to render assistance at that time but enquiries will be made once again.

## Planning

#8018 18 Upper Common Erection of single storey extension No objections

## Correspondence:

# 8018 to 8043 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

## Finances

- **Balances:**

Current account	£6259.77
Deposit account	£2416.38
- **Payments made:**

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
R. Morgan	– Grass cutting: Invoice #98 and #6 (Church x 3 cuts @ £87 per cut.) (School x 2 cuts @ £15 per cut.)	£291.00

○	<b>Authorisations required:</b>		
	K. Blackwell	– Salary (Apr/May)	£146.00
	K. Blackwell	– Expenses (itemised list attached)	£42.38
	A. Jones	– Litter collection (Apr/May)	£105.00
	M. Bloomfield	– Expenses (course attendance)	£30.95
	Village club	– Hall rental	£70.00
	Street Wardens scheme	– Donation	£100.00
	AUCA	– Donation	£250.00
	Ashleigh Bailey	– Donation	£100.00
○	<b>Payments received:</b>		
	Precept		£6000.00
	Allotment rents (R. George: £9; G. Bishop: £9; R. Denby: £9; W. Baker £100)		£127.00
	Parish Patch rent (J. Awdry)		£15.00

**Next Meeting:**

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008.

**Business concluded 8:10 p.m.**