

Aylburton Parish Council

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

Present

Michael Praker (Chairman), Maurice Bloomfield, Alan Edwards, Dave Thorne, Kath Harris, Jane O'Donnell (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (Clerk). PCSO Dan Wilce. Marion Winship, District Cllr. (late arrival following another meeting)

Apologies

Simon Newman. Terry Glastonbury (District Councillor), Damion Collins, Street Warden

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2008

Agreed and signed as a true record.

Introduction to PCSO Dan Wilce.

The meeting opened with a brief introduction to Dan Wilce, the new PCSO for the village, with Dan telling the council how he hoped to increase his presence in the village & those areas he felt needed to be covered. A recent incident concerning drinking in the high street had been raised by Bob Berryman & Dan assured the meeting that he would monitor this situation closely. It is to be hoped that the "Alcohol-free" zone in Lydney will not have a detrimental knock-on effect on outlying areas. Dan also informed the council that the Glos police website contains much useful information including that of Police Information Point meetings & dates. However it was pointed out that not everyone has access to the internet! It is important to find alternative methods of publicity for these events & help lines in more rural communities.

Matters arising from the minutes

- **Roads/Speeding vehicles**
Chairman Praker reported that following further discussion with Neil Maxfield of Gloucestershire Highways the remedial work to be done on both roads & drains is anticipated to begin early in 2009. This announcement was met with some scepticism!
- **Parish Plan**
Maurice Bloomfield informed the meeting that the Parish Plan seems to be running well with much enthusiasm for the scheme at a local level. He also feels that the council should take note of certain topics which the plan is generating & thus be pro-active rather than simply reacting to the wishes of the community.
- **Parish Patch and Upper Common wall**
The clerk reported that the matter of registering this land is still pending but hopefully will be resolved by the next meeting.

Furthermore she will write to Mr Jeremy Awdry requesting that he keep the area tidy & clear some of the items which local people have complained about.

Cllrs Praker & Edwards had visited the site of the Upper Common allotments in order to gauge the condition of the wall as requested by Matt Harding, & also that of the ditches by the Oaks. The ditches are on the list of jobs to be done by the local highways agency although no time frame has been made available. The allotments wall poses no threat at present but the clerk was asked to write to Lydney Park Estate to advise of the need to monitor the situation as necessary.
- **Charitable Donations**
It was decided to keep the charitable donations made by this council to locally based concerns, reflecting local issues. The following were agreed upon; The Village Hall committee, £200. Friends of Bathurst Pool, £300. FoD Citizens advice Bureau, £25.00. S.A.R.A, £25.00. The council may well decide to make further donations at the end of the financial year if finances allow
- **Footpaths**
Maurice Bloomfield told the meeting that Julian Potter has been in the area looking at the local footpaths as per the national survey. Cllr Edwards reports that although here has been some improvement many of the paths would still benefit from more maintenance, particularly Mead lane which comes under the LPE remit. Although the Footpaths Agency can advise landowners of their rights & responsibilities it is notoriously difficult to get them to act upon this advice.

On a related subject the clerk had received a letter from LPE pointing out that a gap exists in the fence between the playing field & the adjacent maize field, allowing people to access this crop. A copy of this letter will be passed on to the Playing Fields committee as it was thought that this is a matter for them to resolve.
- **Village Noticeboards**
Still pending.
- **Churchyard path repair.**
Still pending.

- **Seat at Lambeth Walk**
It was agreed that this may not be the best position in which to site a new bench as it quickly gets very overgrown. Alternative suggestions include the Jubilee Wood.
- **AUCA: Increase in annual donation?**
This issue is not yet resolved & is unlikely to be until further quotes for the work undertaken have been received by the council. Richard Morgan & Rich Coles are to be approached to quote for this work.
- **Street Lighting at Chapel Hill Close**
This item is still pending.

New Business

- **Litter remit**
The clerk will ask Andy Jones to increase the area he covers on his litter collecting round as the extra funding has now been received from FoDDC.
- **Two Rivers Grass cutting proposals**
A letter from Two Rivers Housing had been received in which the contentious issue of passing the cost of maintenance of the grassed areas (previously undertaken by the association) to the Parish councils was raised. Unsurprisingly this met with a negative response from the council who feel that the added costs would place a great strain on the council coffers as well as being unfair to those who will not directly benefit, as the cost would necessarily be passed on to the village as a whole in the form of an increased precept request. Cllr Winship stated that the District council has refused to take back the land (thus the responsibility).

The clerk was asked to write to Two Rivers outlining the reasons for the refusal to take on the work.

One of the areas in question is the green situated at Milling Crescent; this is a large area of grass & the suggestion was made that perhaps the residents may like to take on the responsibility themselves.
- **Miscellaneous**
Mike Praker has spoken to Neil Maxfield with regard to the problem of Japanese knotweed in the area. This will be dealt with by Glos. Highways.

The planting of verges etc in the village has been given the go-ahead following a site visit by Neil Maxfield providing that the line of sight is maintained. With regard to the verges on the approach to the village from the Lydney side the possibility of liaising with Lydney Town council was mooted.

The area outside the Cascade factory will be subject to a licence to cultivate which the clerk will complete & return to the relevant agency. Mr Paul Straker of Cascade has given the project his support in the hope that it will prevent people from parking on the verge & also blocking access to the factory.

The Stockwell Lane bank needs to be cut back again & the clerk will ask Andy Jones to do this at the first opportunity.

Many of the hedges up Chapel Hill are very overgrown causing damage to vehicles passing by. Some of these will be the responsibility of the individual home owners & a visit will be undertaken to assess which. The clerk will contact Doug Smith to enlist his help in this matter.

Maurice Bloomfield had attended the Calor Village of the Year presentation & believes that some of the concepts he saw would benefit the village. It was suggested that some may be incorporated into the Parish Plan in the future.

Planning

#8073. 85 High St. Conservatory.

Cllr Bloomfield expressed the wish to make a statement in relation to this planning application as it falls within the village conservation area. Although no objection will be raised as such he feels it is important to have an input to these matters.

Correspondence:

8044 to 8073 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

Finances

Current account	£1740.44
Deposit account	£6416.38

- **Payments made:**

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
A48 Committee	- Donation	£8.00
W.I.	- Refreshments Parish Plan launch	£79.00

○ **Authorisations required:**

K. Blackwell	- Salary (June/July)	£146.00
	plus expenses* (see below)	£35.00
A. Jones	- Litter collection (June/July)	£105.00
LPE	- Allotment rent	£165.00
Moore Stephens	- Audit fee	£141.00
R. Morgan- Inv # 19	- School x 2 cuts @ 87.00	
	- Church x 2 cuts @ 10.00	
	- Hedge x 1 cut @ 25.00	£219.00
GAPTC	- Training course	£50.00

○ **Payments received:**

LPE	- Shooting Rights	£25.00
FoDDC	- Litter Remittance	£630.00
Allotment rents	- C.Lucas, W.Ball	£33.00

○ **Next Meeting:**

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23rd September 2008.

*** Karen Blackwell, Expenses incurred June/ July 2008.**

£10.00 paid to FoDDC for press release re. Code of Conduct Adoption, as required by the Standards Board.

£25.00 Marks & Spencer voucher as thanks for help with printing Parish Plan flyers.

Business concluded 8:45 p.m.