

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 23rd September 2008 at 7:00 PM

Present

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

Apologies

Terry Glastonbury (District Councillor), Dan Wilce (PCSO).

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2008

Agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes

- **Roads/Speeding vehicles**
Both the chairman & the clerk reported that they had had no luck with attempting to contact Neil Maxfield of Gloucestershire Highways in order to get a firm date for the planned works in the village. However it is known that the agency has agreed to also do remedial work on the drains & culverts of Chapel Hill at some point in the near future.
- **Parish Plan**
Maurice Bloomfield informed the meeting that the questionnaire had been completed & sent to GRCC for conversion to an electronic format, which will also read the results. A prize draw is being arranged to encourage individuals to participate, the funds for which will be met by the council. Printing costs will be high & again are to come from this year's budget. Mr Bloomfield also stated that volunteers will be required to help distribute the questionnaire.
- **Parish Patch**
The registration of the Parish Patch is still pending.

The clerk was asked to once again write to Mr Awdry requesting that he remove the old fridges/freezer which are currently on the land.

Furthermore Cllr Edwards has been asked by a local resident how it can be that Mr Awdry has had this land for so many years. The clerk responded that the original agreements, if any, have been lost in the annals of time but that hopefully the issue may be resolved once the land is actually registered on behalf of the council, when its rights & duties will be made clear. It was suggested that an accurate assessment of the rental value of this ground be carried out & that the council more fully takes on board the external auditor's recommendation that all assets be fully utilised. It is in the interests of both the council & the wider community to maximise the potential of any asset.

This matter leads on to that of allotment rental whereby some of those with allotments are not parish residents. Again it is to be hoped that these matters may be resolved in the fullness of time as the clerk gains more knowledge & experience!
- **Village Noticeboards**
Mr Praker has contacted the person it was hoped may be able to help with the provision of new Noticeboards throughout the village but he is sadly unable to do so at present. Other options will be considered as will possible new sites for these information boards. Mr Bloomfield will speak to Mr Tony Davies of Lower Common to see if he may be in a position to help.
- **Churchyard path repair**
Still pending.

Furthermore a large tree in the churchyard outside the East window is giving cause for concern & will be closely monitored. The council may ask Brain Reece to assess potential hazards & perhaps undertake remedial work.
- **Seat at Lambeth Walk**
The possibility as discussed at the last meeting of placing a new seat in the Millennium Wood will be put on hold as the wood is an issue raised in the Parish Plan questionnaire, thus it is felt that it will be more appropriate to await the responses of local residents.
- **AUCA: Increase in annual donation?**
Still unresolved. The quotes requested by the clerk for the work currently undertaken by AUCA have not yet materialised & will be chased again. The chairman feels that more detail is required as to AUCA's financial situation & the clerk will attempt to solicit this.

It was also asked that the clerk write a letter of support to be used by AUCA in its applications for fund raising as a previously written letter seems to have gone astray!

- **Planting of verge outside Cascade**
The cultivation order has now been received & signed by the clerk & a copy will be given to the horticulture club in order that they may begin the planting on the area.
- **Street Lighting at Chapel Hill Close**
This item is still pending.
- **Two Rivers Grass cutting proposals**
The parish council is definitely against the proposed changes & charges & will await further consultation before deciding on a course of action. Two Rivers suggestion that parish councils take on the responsibility for grass cutting charges is unacceptable & would place a huge financial burden on the council & thus the community in general.
- **Thank you letters received**
Letters of thanks in respect of the charitable donations made following the last meeting were received from The Friends of Lydney Baths, FoD CAB, & SARA.
- **Chapel Hill hedges**
These have now been cut satisfactorily by Glos. Highways.
- **Stockwell Lane bank**
Andy Jones has cut the bank once again for the council & he suggests that he does it at least 3 times annually to keep the problem in check. This was agreed to & will be allowed for in the preparation of next year's budget. Cllr Thorne inquired as to why the council has to have this work done & the Chairman responded that it is a health & safety issue with visibility being greatly reduced if the grass is allowed to get too long.

New Business

- **Millennium Wood maintenance**
It was decided to contact LPE again to enquire whether they are in possession of any records pertaining to this matter as the clerk is unable to find details in the old minutes. It was hoped that a meeting with Robert Frankton, the land agent for LPE may be arranged to discuss this & other issues in the near future.
- **Kiosk adoption**
It was decided by vote to participate in the scheme run by B.T. whereby local authorities can elect to adopt or sponsor a phone kiosk rather than it being totally removed from the location. The council decided to adopt the kiosk opposite The Cross public house as part of the village's heritage. All phone equipment will be removed but the light will be retained, at a likely cost of £20 per annum. The adopt a kiosk scheme itself will cost £1.

Cllr Bloomfield wishes it to be recorded that he is against the adoption.
- **Declaration of Members' Interests**
The chairman had received a communication from the FoDDC stating that the council had failed to return their declarations. Although the clerk is certain that this was indeed done the exercise will be repeated with all councillors completing & returning their forms.
- **Remembrance Day**
It was agreed to order 2 wreaths from the British Legion to be placed on the Memorial in the village.

Mr Bloomfield stated that he is attempting to trace the families of some of the people listed on the memorial but is having little luck so far.
- **Code of Conduct**
A letter was issued to all councillors regarding the adoption of paragraph 12 (2) of the code of conduct as set out by the Standards Board for England.

Correspondence

#8074 to 8108 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

Planning

- **Received**

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| #8074 | Brookview, Lower Common | Extension/annexed accommodation. |
| #8108 | Orchard house, Lower common | Erection of a log cabin. |

The planning committee reported some dissatisfaction with the Brookview extension application, feeling that the plans are not a true reflection of the wording contained within in. There may be little that the parish council can do but the clerk will write a letter to the planning office expressing the feelings of the council regarding this matter.

Finance

- **Balances**

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| Current account | £1763.22 |
| Deposit account | £5416.38 |

| • Payments made | | |
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| K. Blackwell | - Salary (June/July) plus expenses | £181.00 |
| 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 @ 10.00 | |
| | - Church x 2 cuts @ 87.00 | |
| | - Hedge x 1 cut @ 25.00 | £219.00 |
| GAPTC | - Training course | £50.00 |
| Friends of Lydney Baths | - Donation | £300.00 |
| The Village Club | - Donation | £200.00 |
| FoD C.A.B | - Donation | £25.00 |
| S.A.R.A. | - Donation | £25.00 |
| R.Morgan - Inv #29 | - School x 2 cuts @ 12.00 | |
| | - Church x 2 cuts @ 87.00 | £198.00 |
| M. Bloomfield | - Expenses (for Parish Plan) | £25.05 |
| • Authorisations required | | |
| K. Blackwell | - Salary (Aug/Sept) | £146.00 |
| A. Jones | - Litter collection (Aug/Sept) at new rate | £210.00 |
| Zurich Insurance | - Renewal | £405.18 |
| Time2Logo | - Parish Plan clothing | £176.25 |
| AUCA | - Donation, 2 nd instalment | £250.00 |
| R. Morgan - Inv #37 | - School x 1 cut @ £15.00, Church x 1 cut @ £87.00 | £102.00 |

Payments Received

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| Parish Plan grant, 1 st instalment | £500.00 |
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Business concluded 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th November 2008 in Aylburton Memorial Hall.