

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 27th January 2009 at 7:00 PM

Present

Michael Praker (Chairman), Maurice Bloomfield, Kath Harris, Simon Newman, Dave Thorne (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (Clerk), Dan Wilce (PCSO).

Apologies

Terry Glastonbury (District Councillor), Alan Edwards Jane O'Donnell (Councillors).

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2008

Agreed and signed as a true record.

The meeting opened with a brief presentation by PCSO Dan Wilce outlining his findings & objectives over the recent weeks. Firstly, the problem of dog fouling outside the school entrance & even on occasion in the school grounds. It is generally felt that more dog bins are needed & that perhaps the Street Wardens may be called upon to assist in this matter. Secondly Dan is helping with teaching road safety awareness at the school. Thirdly, the long- term issue of speeding through the village is on his list of priorities. Lastly there was to be another police information point on 29/01/09 in the village at which residents could raise any concerns they have.

Matters arising from the minutes

- **Parish Plan**
Cllr Bloomfield reiterated that the major findings of the Parish Plan questionnaire were unsurprising with the main perceived problem being that of the condition of the roads & the issue of speeding vehicles. The questionnaire results have provided evidence of the level of dissatisfaction within the village & it is hoped will act as impetus to effect some progress. PCSO Wilce was asked to report these findings back to Head Office. (A list outlining these is available). Furthermore it is hoped that a meeting with Parish Plan advisor Kate Baugh can be arranged to discuss future options with regard to the Parish council's involvement.
- **Parish Patch**
The registration of the Parish Patch is still pending.
- **Village Notice boards**
Still pending. Clerk to make further enquiries with local companies.
- **Churchyard path repair**
As this is likely to prove very expensive it was suggested that Marie Rosenthal at FoDDC be contacted with regard to the availability of funding to help with the costs. There is also a large fir tree in the church grounds which may prove cause for concern. Cllr Praker will ask Brian Reece to examine the tree in order to ascertain any remedial work required. It is likely that in the future the precept requested may be increased to allow for this extra routine maintenance to be undertaken.
- **AUCA: Increase in annual donation?**
An increase of £250 in the grant to AUCA, thus taking the total to £750 per annum, was agreed upon. It is recognised that this represents value for money in terms of the work undertaken & furthermore the clerk was forced to report that despite making enquiries, no other contractor seemed to want the work!
- **Millennium Wood maintenance**
The Chairman had arranged a meeting to take place on 03/02/09 with Robert Frankton of LPE to discuss options. Cllr Bloomfield put it to the meeting that it is perhaps unnecessary to cut all the grass in the wood but rather to cut a circular walk/path through, possibly leading to the pond. Cllr Thorne added that it would be more environmentally/nature friendly if large areas were to be left in their natural state.
- **Precept request**
It was agreed to request £6,500 for the next year. This increase reflects the additional work that the council is now seemingly obliged to undertake in terms of maintenance/grass cutting etc.
- **Condition of pavements/letter from Mrs R. King**
A letter had been received in which Mrs Renee King of Orchard Close outlined the nasty fall she had taken whilst walking along the pavement opposite the Methodist chapel. Mrs King had sustained an injury requiring hospital attention. She had subsequently written to Gloucestershire Highways complaining about the dreadful condition of the pavements throughout the village & it was felt that a further letter from the council was required. The clerk will contact the Highways agency.
- **Bus shelter damage**
Once again the glass bus shelter opposite the end of Sandford road has been vandalised. Cllr Bloomfield made the area safe & called FoDDC who came promptly to clear up the broken glass. The matter was reported to the police to provide the council with a crime number in case of an insurance claim. However it is not certain that the council will make a claim, as obviously this will affect future premiums & sadly the problem seems likely to recur. It is more likely that the council will

simply carry out running repairs in the meantime & see what happens. The clerk will investigate the possibility of claiming & the excess to be paid.

On a similar note there was a report of damage to the bollards at the end of Lambeth walk. This had been reported to the council & made good.

- **Two Rivers/grass cutting proposals**

The clerk had received a letter from Mark Harper MP in which he raised the concerns of local residents affected by the Two Rivers situation. The parish council is well aware of these issues but feels that this is a problem which must be resolved by the District council & Two Rivers themselves. The council is unwilling to take on the responsibility not just because of the increased expense but also because of the legal ramifications for the future. The clerk will reply to Mark Harper clearly stating the council's objections to the proposals.

- **Freedom of information/Disclosure**

The council formally adopted the above act as required by the Standards Board for England.

A copy of the relevant paperwork is available from the clerk on request.

Correspondence

#8137 to #8161 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate, with the following item being of note:

#8148 - Letter of Thanks from the Poppy Appeal

#8141 - Letter of Thanks from Lydney Town council re. contribution to the upkeep of the cemetery

#8159 - Letter from Mrs King re. the condition of the pavements

#8159 - Freedom of Information/Disclosure Act

#8160 - Letter from Mark Harper MP re. Two Rivers proposals

#8161 - Calor Village of the Year competition

Clerk's report/ miscellaneous items

The clerk will attempt to discover where the pole for which the council receives a yearly Wayleave payment is situated (purely out of interest).

Planning

- **Received**

#8162 - Injebeck, Chapel Hill. Conversion of existing garage to provide annexed accommodation for dependant relative.

There is some concern among councillors that this development may be used for other purposes i.e. perhaps as holiday accommodation in the future but there are no objections in the main.

Finance

- **Balances**

Current account	£1613.70
Deposit account	£3471.71

- **Payments made**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Oct/Nov)	£146.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Oct/Nov)	£210.00
GAPTC	– Course fees	£30.00
Whitehouse Press	– Printing for Parish Plan	£327.83
Royal British Legion	– Remembrance Day wreaths	£45.00
Lydney Town Council	– Cemetery upkeep	£150.00
R. Morgan (Inv. #56)	– School x 2 @ £15, Church x 2 @ £87, Hedge x 1 @ £25	£229.00
M, Hewitt (Inv. #19)	– Brook clearing	£110.00

- **Authorisations required**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Dec/Jan)	£146.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Dec/Jan)	£210.00

- **Payments Received**

E-on Central Networks	– Wayleave (2009-2010)	£5.61
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Business concluded 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 24th March 2009 in Aylburton Memorial Hall