

# Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7:00 PM

## Present

Maurice Bloomfield (acting chair), Alan Edwards, Kath Harris, Simon Newman, Jane O'Donnell (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (Clerk).

## Apologies

Mike Praker, Dave Thorne, Terry Glastonbury (District Councillor)

## Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009:

Agreed and signed as a true record.

## Matters arising from the minutes

- **Parish Plan**

The council had met with Parish Plan advisor Kate Baugh to gain more understanding of the entire process. It was generally felt that some of the issues raised thus far will be beyond the remit of the council and as such will necessitate some alternative thinking. Councillor Bloomfield would like a further public meeting in order to present the findings which have arisen from the questionnaire & to gain reactions to these. The Plan still seems to be seen in a generally positive light.
- **Parish Patch**

The registration of the Parish Patch is still pending.

The clerk was asked to write to Mr Awdry to request that he refrain from lighting fires or chopping timber on the land, both of which witnesses claim he has done of late.
- **Village Notice boards**

Still pending. Awaiting quotes from local companies.
- **A48 road works**

Although some of the resurfacing of the road has been completed it seems that there has been an error in estimating the complexity of the remedial work required to the drainage system in the village. Glos. Highways & Severn Trent are going to redesign their plans but can give no firm date as to when this work will occur. However they have decreed that the culvert by the old cottage hospital will be relined which should help somewhat with the problems there.
- **Way leave payment**

The clerk had been asked to contact E-on in order to ascertain the whereabouts of the pole for which the council receives an annual way leave payment. This was duly done & the pole is confirmed to be on the Upper common land, near to the allotments.
- **Provision of bin at Sandford road**

Councillor Bloomfield requested that this item be placed on the agenda. The area in question is the approach to the pond in the Millennium wood and the space used for parking at the junction to the old road. People are leaving large quantities of rubbish at the site as there is no bin & local residents, in particular Mrs Bloomfield, are clearing the area themselves. The clerk will contact Richard Aston of the Environment department at FoDDc for advice.
- **AGM date**

It was agreed to hold the AGM on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Clerk to make the usual arrangements re booking & publicity.
- **Millennium wood maintenance**

Councillors Praker, Edwards & Bloomfield had met with Robert Frankton of Lydney Park Estate to discuss this issue. The possibility of the Parish council taking over responsibility for the land & wood was raised. Whilst in some ways this seems to be a very generous offer there is some concern as to the legal & financial implications of such a deal for the future. Mr Bloomfield suggests that this subject perhaps be raised with the Parish plan committee to gauge their thoughts.
- **Bus shelter damage**

It was decided that the council will claim for the repair work under its insurance scheme, the clerk having been informed that the excess was only £100.00 & that in view of the infrequency of claims the council's premium should not be greatly affected for the next year. Mr Bloomfield will liaise with the bus shelter company re the cost of repair & the time frame involved.

## Correspondence

#8165 to 8194 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate with the following items being of note;  
#8171 – Discontinuation of the Bledisloe cup.  
#8190 – E-on re Way leave payment

- **Planning**  
 #8187 - 36 High Street. Revised scheme  
 #8188 - 18 Sandford road. Extension.  
 #8189 - 26 Sandford road. Alterations & extension.

3 applications had been received during this period 2 of which were passed with no objections. However the council planning committee feels that the application for the cottage style dwelling and associated vehicular access on land at 36 High Street does give some cause for comment. The clerk will contact the planning office once again to reiterate the concerns re access & drainage. A copy of this letter will be available on request.

- **New Business**  
 Councillors Edwards & Bloomfield had attended a presentation on the possibility of a future Severn barrage. The effective change in the water table may greatly reduce the ability of the local brooks & streams to carry excess water away. It is a matter which may have serious repercussions for this & other villages similarly affected and as such must be thoroughly investigated before a final decision can be made.

The council voted to increase the clerk's salary by 5% taking the total to £920 per annum. The clerk is very grateful!

The issue of lack of allotments continues. The clerk will contact LPE again to request help.

Furthermore the clerk will ask LPE to fence off a hole which is next to the footpath running from the playing fields along the rear of the houses on the High Street. This is potentially hazardous as it is all too accessible at present.

Cllrs Edwards & Bloomfield volunteered to put the "No dog fouling" signs up throughout the village. These had been purchased at a cost of £5 per sign from the Street warden's scheme. It is very much hoped that they will have a positive effect on the problem.

It was suggested that enquiries be made in order to ascertain if any financial help is available for the grass cutting in the church yard. The clerk will approach Carolyn Mitchell at FoDDc for help.

#### Finance

•	<b>Balances</b>	
	Current account	£1263.31
	Deposit account	£3471.71
•	<b>Payments made</b>	
	K. Blackwell – Salary (Dec/Jan)	£146.00
	A. Jones – Litter collection (Dec/Jan)	£210.00
•	<b>Authorisations required</b>	
	K. Blackwell – Salary (Feb/March)	£146.00
	K. Blackwell – expenses; postage/phone	£20.00
	A. Jones – Litter collection (Feb/March)	£210.00
	LPE – Allotment rent	£165.00
	GAPTC – Subscription renewal	£138.37

**Business concluded 8:30.m.**

#### Next Meeting

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009