

# Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 7:00 PM

## Present

Mike Praker (M.P) Maurice Bloomfield (M.B), Alan Edwards (A.E.), Kath Harris (K.H), Jane O'Donnell (J.O'D), Dave Thorne (D.T) (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (K.B) (Clerk).  
Also present: Mrs Frankie Evans (AUCA rep) & Mr Simon Rutherford (Parish Plan committee)

## Apologies

Simon Newman

## Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009:

Agreed and signed as a true record.

## Matters arising from the minutes

- **Parish Plan**

The committee is awaiting advice from Kate Baugh as to who should receive a full copy of the report generated so far and also on presenting a short copy to be distributed to households within the village. (The full format is available on the Aylburton.com website.) The Parish Council should now take on board the findings as per the report and add them to future agendas to be actioned.

M.B will start work on a newsletter but does not want to have sole responsibility for this so will be looking for people to help with its production and distribution in the future. All local groups and businesses will be approached to contribute and K.H asks that all committee members be listed within the newsletter. However this may not be possible initially at least as obviously the larger the newsletter the higher the costs. A quarterly publication is the aim at present, covering all issues within the village. It is also hoped that a website be developed in the near future.

The Parish Council will be unable to take on all the work entailed by the findings of the report and thus voluntary groups must be formed. Simon Rutherford suggests doing a letter drop with the Parish Plan report advertising the need for volunteers to come forward.

Lastly M.B will request the remainder of the grant available and also claim the "quick win" money available from the District council. This fund has been set up in order to assist with achieving some of the simpler aims as identified by the plan more easily.
- **Parish Patch**

Still pending.

K.H reports that a pig has recently escaped from the land and has caused damage in the surrounding areas. (No one is sure whether this was in fact the same pig found drowned in a swimming pool on the upper common). The clerk will write to the tenant reminding him of his duty to keep the fences in good repair.
- **Village Notice boards**

It was agreed to place an order for 3 larger notice boards from Tudor Rose carpentry following a revised quote which still remained very reasonable. These will be positioned as follows: one outside the school (pending discussion with the governors), one by the post box on Upper Common, and one on Lower Common near the terrace. It was originally thought to also replace the board by the Upper Common play area but D.T queried the need for 2 boards so close together. The clerk suggested that perhaps AUCA may like to sponsor a board for its own use as the cost is so reasonable. Mrs Evans will report back to AUCA.
- **Provision of bin at Sandford road**

The clerk will again contact Richard Aston with regard to this matter.
- **Bus shelter damage**

Still awaiting quote for repairs. M.B to chase this.
- **Allotments**

The clerk will speak to Mr Bill Baker in order to accept his offer to relinquish some of the land he currently rents on Upper Common thus enabling others to take on allotments there.

The wall surrounding this area continues to present possible problems and LPE will be asked once again if they can assist as some of the wall forms the boundary with the common. It is an area on which children play and dog walkers use and potential hazards must be examined.
- **Hole near footpath (area behind High street)**

Lydney Park Estate had sent a representative to examine this problem but he had reported back that he saw little threat from the hole! However it was felt that a problem does indeed exist and a site visit will be arranged by A.E and M.P. The clerk will contact LPE with regard to this matter.

- **Dog fouling signs**  
M.B reported that he has positioned more dog fouling penalty notices in the area of the Upper Common following a meeting with Matt Harding. The Village Club has also requested that more notices be placed around the village and to that end the clerk will order 6 more, to be stored or used as appropriate.
- **Condition of Church yard**  
M.P, A.E, and M.B had met with John Court of Stockwell Lane and Bob Sweeting of the FoDDc to discuss the condition of the trees and shrubs etc. many of which are very overgrown. It was agreed that the clerk contact 3 tree surgeons and ask them to provide estimates for the necessary work to be carried out in order to make safe. The council will not be permitted to cut the large Yew tree other than to tidy it. A volunteer group will hopefully be formed to assist with the clearing of some of the plants such as brush. It was also suggested that perhaps an area should be set aside for the conservation of wild life and plants, maybe linking in with the primary school nature group.
- **Loose kerb stone, church road**  
This has not yet been repaired. The clerk will contact Doug Smith ( Highways) again.
- **Lowered kerb, Milling Crescent**  
As above.
- **Millennium Wood**  
LPE has carried out some routine maintenance work on the wood following the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. (The minutes of this meeting are available to view). All stock fences are in good repair and the grass has been cut. The Estate will draw up the necessary paperwork to complete the transfer of the free hold to the council whilst retaining actual possession itself. There is a question over the fact that some of the trees in the wood are dead and who should have the responsibility of replacing these? The parish council may elect to sell any remaining trees on the land in order to help meet costs.  
  
It is again hoped that a volunteer group may be formed to assist with the problems of ragwort and bracken in the wood.  
  
The clerk will check on the level of insurance currently held and adjust as necessary.
- **Severn Estuary Partnership Group**  
The council had received an invitation to join the above group but on the advice of Simon Rutherford, combined with misgivings on behalf of the councillors, it was decided to decline at present.
- **High Street drainage / Milling Brook /**  
A.E. reports that the recent work on the drainage system in the village appears to have improved conditions thus far. It is to be hoped that this situation continues in the event of heavy rainfall. M.B suggests that a letter of thanks is sent to Neil Maxfield of Gloucestershire Highways in appreciation of his efforts during the work.  
  
Furthermore S.R asked that it be recorded in the minutes that the single file traffic during the road works caused little delay or appreciable excess noise in the village. This could be seen as an extreme test, and it would perhaps help to support the call for a pedestrian crossing to be sited.  
  
The clerk was asked to contact the relevant authorities with regard to Milling Brook as this now requires some clearing and maintenance from the village to the river.
- **Sandford road dog bin**  
No progress as yet. The council would have to pay for outside contractors to empty & maintain the bin. This cost will be investigated in the future.
- **E-on presentation, Lydney town hall.**  
There was to be a presentation on the 30<sup>th</sup> July. M.P & M.B expressed their intention to attend.

#### **New Business:**

S.R reports that there are once again rumours circulating regarding the possibility of flashing 30mph signs for the village. No further information available as yet.

M.B raised the issue of travellers still encamped on the Old road off Sandford road. There has been little trouble so far but it is to be hoped that the process to remove them will be successful soon.

#### **Correspondence**

#8219 to 8245 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

#### **Planning**

Two Rivers Housing. Improvements to properties on Milling Crescent. No comments.

#### **Finance:**

Current account £1444.80      Deposit account £8473.23

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Payments made</b> |                               |         |
| K. Blackwell         | – Salary (April/May)          | £153.00 |
| K. Blackwell         | – Expenses; AGM advert        | £12.94  |
| A. Jones             | – Litter collection (Apr/May) | £210.00 |
| AUCA                 | – Grant                       | £375.00 |
  
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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Authorisations required</b> |                                 |         |
| K. Blackwell                   | – Salary (June/July)            | £153.00 |
| K. Blackwell                   | – Expenses (postage)            | £4.95   |
| A. Jones                       | – Litter collection (June/July) | £210.00 |
| R. Morgan                      | – Inv# 79                       | £229.00 |
  
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|--------------------------|----------------|---------|
| <b>Payments Received</b> |                |         |
| FoDDc                    | – Litter remit | £649.00 |
| Allotment rents          |                | £40.00  |

**Business concluded 8:45 p.m.**

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.