

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 22nd September 2009 at 7:00 PM

Present

Mike Praker (M.P.), Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.), Alan Edwards (A.E.), Kath Harris (K.H.) (Councillors),
Karen Blackwell (K.B.) (Clerk).
Also present: Terry Glastonbury, (T.G.) (District councillor).

Apologies

Simon Newman, Jane O'Donnell (Councillors). Frankie Evans, AUCA representative.

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2009:

Agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes

- **Parish Plan**
Still pending but progress is being made.
K.B. was asked to locate the Prontaprint invoice from last year for M.B. to forward to the relevant authority in respect of the funds available.
- **Parish Patch**
Still pending.
K.B. had spoken to Mr Awdry reminding him of the need to maintain the stock fences in a reasonable state of repair.
- **Village Notice boards**
K.B. reported that a total of 3 notice boards had been ordered from Tudor Rose carpentry. Final decisions as to the positioning of these boards will be made upon their completion.
- **Provision of bin, Sandford road**
Pending further enquiries.
- **Bus shelter damage**
The glass has been ordered for the repairs, but it was decided to wait until the company undertaking the repairs were already in the area in order to reduce costs.
- **Allotments**
Bill Baker has agreed to relinquish an area of ground on the Upper Common allotments, thus the council will be able to offer plots to some of those on the waiting list.
- **Hole near footpath (area behind High street)**
Lydney Park Estate has agreed to make good the problem hole at some point in the future.
- **Dog fouling signs**
6 more signs had been ordered by the clerk & it was decided to give some to the Village Club in response to their plea for help. The club has responsibility for the playing field & the amount of dog mess left here has caused many problems with sports clubs & children playing. Further signs were possibly to be placed at the Millennium Wood.
- **Condition of Church yard**
The council is still awaiting final quotes following site visits from 3 tree surgeons, in order to ascertain how best to proceed.
- **Loose kerb stone, church road**
Still pending. The clerk will contact Doug Smith (Highways) again.
- **Millennium Wood**
K.B. had checked on the insurance required for this possible new venture & was told that the premium will probably increase by approx. £80 to provide further cover. M.B. offered to check if the grass will need to be cut again prior to the council taking the Wood over but it was felt that this would be unlikely. No further information was available from LPE with regards to the transfer.
- **Travellers on Old Road**
It was reported that the travellers who had been illegally camped on the Old Road have now been moved on & the site has been left fairly clean. A huge boulder has appeared at the entrance to this road but as yet no one has claimed responsibility for it!
- **Kiosk adoption**
The annual cost of adopting the kiosk in the High Street had turned out to be much higher than the £20 previously believed. The electricity company would charge approx. £80 per annum to cover administrative expenses regarding the light in the kiosk. This was felt to be prohibitive. The clerk will request an extension on the deadline in order to investigate less costly options.

- **Annual audit**
K.B. was pleased to report that the external auditors had passed the audit with no comment this year. Thanks go to Lesley Eskholme for her assistance with the internal audit checks.
- **Brook clearing**
No reply was forthcoming from LPE regarding the issue of necessary maintenance & clearing of Milling Brook.
- **Bus service replacement**
Although a local bus company has put on an alternate bus service between Lydney & Chepstow following the cessation of the number 73, this is still causing some concern locally as the service does not coincide with the bus times from Gloucester. Connections are badly timed leading to much inconvenience for travellers. It was suggested that a further letter of complaint be sent highlighting the problems. T.G. will also raise the issue at District level on behalf of the council.
- **Transfer funds**
It was agreed to transfer £2500 from the savings to the current account.
- **Continuation of litter collection**
K.B. had received notification that FoDDC will allow Andy Jones to continue the local litter collection work & not contract it to an outside agency. This follows the completion of a questionnaire detailing why the parish council believes this to be the best option. The new street cleaning agreement will last for 3 years & be reviewed after this time.
- **Footpaths**
Mr Julian Potter has now retired & Mr Maunder has taken responsibility for the footpaths in the area. K.B. will attempt to contact him in order to ask if he will visit the parish to assess the problems faced by footpath users.

Correspondence

#8246 to 8269 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

Planning

#8269 'Riders', Park Estate. Change of use to printing company. No objections.

New Business:

- **Two Rivers/ Grass cutting**
The Two Rivers Housing problem with regard to the grass cutting proposals continues with residents facing a "pay or go to court" threat. There is little that the Parish Council can do with this issue other than monitor it & offer advice insofar as is possible.
- **Vehicle Activated sign**
T.G. reported that at long last the village is to get a Vehicle Activated sign (VAS) in the near future.
- **Financial help with church yard costs**
K.B. will attempt to contact Marie Rosenthal at FoDDC to ask if any help is available towards the cost of maintaining the village church yard.

Finance:

- Current account **£876.85** Deposit account **£8473.58**
- **Payments made**

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
- **Authorisations required**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Aug/Sept)	£153.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Aug/Sept)	£210.00
R. Morgan	– Inv #89 (Church x 2 @ £87, school x 2 @ £15)	£204.00
R. Morgan	– Inv #93 (Church x 2 @ £87, school x 1 @ £15)	£189.00
Moore Stephens	– Audit fee	£138.00
GAPTC	– Book	£20.45
Zurich Insurance	– Renewal	£460.54
FoDDC	– Dog fouling signs	£30.00
AUCA	– Grant, 2 nd instalment	£375.00
- **Payments Received**

Allotment rents	£40.00
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Next meeting Tuesday 24th November 2009

Business concluded 8:35 p.m.