

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 24th November 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), (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (K.B.) (Clerk). Marion Winship (M.W) District.

Apologies

Simon Newman, Frankie Evans, AUCA representative. Terry Glastonbury, Denis Riley.

Death of Councillor David Thorne

The meeting opened with members observing a period of silence in memory of David Thorne who died in November. He had been active in the council since May 1991 and his unique contributions to the meetings will be missed.

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2009:

Agreed and signed as a true record (with one minor adjustment in the payments schedule).

Police drink/drive checks

Denis Riley had hoped to attend this meeting to present the aims of the police during the festive season with regards to the issue of drink driving & safety on the roads. A brief précis of his instructions follows: On the 7th of December it is hoped that a volunteer group will be monitoring traffic through the area using hand-held speed guns. The findings should be used to effect a change & not simply as an exercise in statistic gathering. A poster campaign done by local school children to highlight the issue is also underway.

A48 meeting / General issues

It was agreed to raise this matter at this point to enable M.W to leave the meeting early.

A.E had attended the most recent A48 group meeting & reported that the fundamental problems remain the same throughout the area as a whole. Aylburton still suffers from vehicles entering the village at too high a speed, particularly from the Alvington direction. It has been suggested that marker signs be placed advising of approaching speed restrictions. A.E gave council members a handout which advised of future plans for the A48, including the "hotspots" between Broadoak & Handnam where the majority of fatalities occur.

M.W stated that Alvington will continue to press for a pedestrian crossing in the village which is much needed due to the hazards faced by those trying to get to the playing fields, a problem shared of course by Aylburton. There is awareness that crossings can also present their own problems but these are generally believed to be balanced by their many advantages.

Bus timetable

Complaints still abound regarding the bus times in the area with people pointing out that the buses usually fail to connect sensibly to ongoing ones. M.W offered to take up this matter on behalf of the parish council.

Local Transport questionnaire

M.B offered to complete & return this for the council.

Matters arising from the minutes

Parish Plan

There had been some problems with the printing of the plan but these had been ironed out & it is hoped that the finished copy will soon be available for interested parties to read. 50 will initially circulate to selected groups but others will be available on request. One of the most pressing matters is that of erecting a website & a newsletter, & M.B has set the wheels in motion for this project.

Parish Patch

Still pending.

Village Notice boards

Not yet ready. K.B. to chase this.

Provision of bin, Sandford road

M.B reports that there is now a bin situated at the gate to the Old road...which seems to be encouraging fly-tipping in the area! M.B to notify local authority.

Bus shelter damage

Repairs completed. Awaiting reimbursement from insurance company.

Allotments

It was decided that if someone currently holds 2 allotments the parish council will request that they relinquish 1 of these in order that they may be redistributed to those on the waiting list (which still runs to 4 people within the parish, as well as several outside it). The council is aware that this will not be a popular move but all parishioners have the right to an allotment & the council is currently failing in its duties in this matter.

Hole near footpath (area behind High street)

Lydney Park Estate has agreed to board over the hole once the overgrowth has disappeared. They are not keen to accept responsibility but it is hard to see where else it may lie!

Furthermore there is no progress on the issue of clearing the brook.

Condition of Church yard

Following discussion of the 3 quotes received for the necessary work it was decided to award the contract to Abbey Tree Services. The clerk is to make the arrangements for the work to commence & also to arrange (if possible) a site visit with Rob Sweet's successor at FoDDC to discuss tree preservation orders etc.

All quotes are available to view on request.

Loose kerb stone, Church road

Still pending. The clerk will contact Doug Smith (Highways) again.

Kiosk adoption

The clerk had tried to find an alternative energy supplier for the kiosk in the hope of reducing the annual maintenance charge as per nPower. However, despite best efforts it has proved impossible thus the kiosk adoption plan will be stopped at this point. K.B had however been informed by B.T that the kiosk is likely to remain in situ for the foreseeable future anyway, as removal is not a priority at this time...

New Business

Upper Common ownership

The clerk was asked to ascertain (if possible) the ownership of the Upper Common.

Letter from Dee Reed, Church road

A letter had been received from Mrs Dee Reed of Church road which highlighted the problems of parking in this area. A copy had been sent to Mark Harper MP. The council will await further developments.

Landfill sites questionnaire

It was generally felt that the questionnaire was simply a matter of form & that as usual no notice would be taken of the wishes of the council or local residents in this matter.

Severn Estuary Coastal Group

M.B advised the council that the documents pertaining to this matter were available to view on-line & that comments on the proposals are invited from all interested parties.

Notice board in Memorial hall

It was decided that at some point in the future the parish council will approach the Village Hall committee to ask that a further notice board be placed within the hall for the exclusive use of the council. Currently the board available is often over- utilised & items of importance can be easily missed.

District Councillor reports

The chair requests that in future this item be moved to the top of the agenda to enable District Councillors to more fully facilitate their time.

Precept request

K.B had provided a budget proposal for the year to help the councillors make their decision, but it was felt that more time is needed in order to more fully gauge the likely costs of the Parish Plan. The matter will therefore be discussed again next time.

Remembrance Day

M.P., K.H., & M.B., had attended the wreath laying at the Memorial Hall, as well as members of the Cascade company. 2 wreaths were placed as usual.

Gully, Old Cottage Hospital

A.E. informed the meeting that the gully running alongside the Old Cottage Hospital is in need of remedial work & that Neil Maxfield of the Highways Agency is aware of the situation. Further developments awaited.

Footpaths

The meeting was informed that the County Council committee for footpaths in the area is to undertake a full survey of the village. It is very much hoped that this may encourage those who have responsibility for the local footpaths to act on the recommendations of the committee with regards to clearing & maintenance.

Thanks to Councillor Edwards

Mike Praker asked that formal thanks go to Councillor Alan Edwards for his commitment in helping with the work done on the village drains. Although Alan didn't actually do any digging or drain-laying, he did make sure that those people involved in doing so were aware of what needed to be done!

Thank you Alan.

Correspondence

#8270 to #8303 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

Planning

No planning applications were received during this time.

Finances

Current account £1124.55

Deposit account £5974.30

Payments made

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
Bus Shelters Ltd	– Replacement glass	£500.77
R. Morgan	– Inv #98 (Church x 2 @ £87, school x 2 @ £15)	£204.00
A48 meeting group	– Annual subscription	£8.00

Authorisations required

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Oct/Nov)	£153.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Oct/Nov)	£210.00
R. Morgan	– Inv #100 (Church x 2 @ £87, school x 1 @ £15)	£189.00
British Legion	– Poppy wreaths	£50.00
Lydney Town Council	– Cemetery upkeep	£150.00

Payments Received

HMRC	– VAT refund	£249.46
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Next meeting Tuesday 26th January 2010

Business concluded 9.00 p.m.