

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 26th January 2010 at 7:00 PM

Present

Mike Praker (M.P.), Alan Edwards (A.E.), Kath Harris (K.H.), Simon Newman (S.N.), Jane O'Donnell (J.O'D), (Councillors), Frankie Evans (F.E.) (AUCA representative), Karen Blackwell (K.B.) (Clerk), Marion Winship (M.W.), Terry Glastonbury (T.G.) (District Councillors).

Apologies

Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.)

Death of Mrs Nan Mills

The meeting opened with the announcement of the recent death of Mrs Nan Mills, wife of former councillor the late Mr J.Mills, who served many years on the Parish Council. Mrs Mills was very active within the village and will be much missed.

District councillor reports

As agreed at a previous meeting, the chair gave the meeting over to the District Councillors present in order that they are able to leave to fulfil other obligations if necessary.

Police meeting:

T.G reported that he had attended a meeting with the new chief constable for the area & believes that the outcome of this meeting was very positive. It is hoped that the planned creation of new holding/ cell units locally will mean that officers spend less time processing paperwork and thus will be able to get back on the beat more quickly.

Bus service:

Having spoken to representatives of the bus services, the conclusion is that in regard to people missing the connecting bus, this is really only a problem with the last bus of the day which is impossible to alter due to current time-tables. It is hoped that a satisfactory resolution may be reached at some point. T.G. will furthermore ask that Bevan's buses put up timetables in the area to help people better plan their journeys.

District Council budget:

M.W. presented a précis of the budget forecast for the council. The budget proposals may be viewed in full on the website fdean.gov.uk. In order to reduce spending it has been decided to abolish the position of Executive of the council. Other savings will be made in street cleaning as well as the reduction of regeneration & community grants available. An overhaul of the current bus pass system is also likely as is the introduction of parking charges in the towns. This is of course a highly contentious issue but would undeniably raise much needed revenue to help forestall the shortfall in central government spending. The problem of pension contributions is still ongoing. The District Council has asked for feedback on its budget proposals from all interested parties.

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2009

Agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes

Parish Plan

As Councillor Bloomfield was absent from the meeting no update was available as to the progress made. However F.E. had brought along some items from other parishes for M.B. to consider. The idea of a joint newsletter with Alvington parish was again raised, and M.W would be very supportive of this.

Parish Patch

Still pending.

Village Notice boards

The boards had been completed & positioned, & the invoice had been received. Unfortunately one of the boards had been placed at the entrance to the green on the upper common in error, but it was decided to leave this matter for now & discuss the possible moving of said board until the next meeting. The clerk advised that the council consider leaving it in place & having a new one made to go elsewhere as the workmanship was so good & the cost so reasonable.

Bus shelter damage

Still awaiting insurance payment.

Allotments

Mr Bill Baker had been persuaded to relinquish a further piece of ground on the upper common allotments. It is hoped that 2 more will be created on this land.

Trees in Church yard

The clerk was asked to contact Abbey Tree Services again to ascertain progress.

Loose kerb stone, Church road / Bank erosion

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

Clerk to also ask Highways to examine an area further up Church Road (near the field containing the long estate wall) which is suffering from serious erosion with large areas of the bank disappearing, as well as the area by Mr Thomas's house.

Kiosk adoption

Possible alternative had been proposed by BT. Clerk to make further enquiries.

Precept request

It was agreed to request £6500 for the coming year.

Upper Common ownership

Pending.

Councillor Vacancy

Following the correct procedure for advertising the vacancy for a parish councillor, the clerk reported that no interest had been expressed! The council is thus free to co-opt a new member. F.E. offered her services to the council for which M.P. was grateful. However no final decision will be made until the next meeting.

New Business:**Salt bins**

More salt bins are needed in the village, a problem highlighted by the recent heavy snow falls & icy conditions, especially at Sandford road & Millbrook Green, both of which became very dangerous for vehicles & pedestrians. The problem was also experienced along the Oaks on upper common. A.E. reports that the cost to the council would be £175 each, which obviously represents a large sum for the parish to find. However T.G. stated that bins are available for far less cost. A.E. to investigate further.

Water on road, Chapel Hill

Clerk was asked to inform Severn Trent Water of the large amounts of water which seem to be constant on Chapel Hill near Shepherd's Corner. Again during the bad weather this made driving conditions extremely hazardous.

Dog fouling signs

The village club has requested a further supply of dog fouling signs to be placed around the playing field environs. The clerk will place the order.

Funds Transfer

It was agreed to transfer £2500 from the deposit to the current account to cover immediate & future expenditure.

Litter collection

Andy Jones has advised the clerk that he has left the area & may have problems returning on a regular basis to fulfil his litter collecting obligations. He will keep the council informed as to his ability to perform this task.

Bus shelter clean

A.E. informed the meeting that he would like to cease doing the bus shelter cleaning, which he kindly took on after the death of Michael Haddock & does on a voluntary basis. It is felt that this job should in fact be incorporated into the litter collecting remit with the costs being covered by this.

The shelter has recently been vandalised with graffiti & councillors Praker & Edwards will investigate the possibility of using anti-graffiti paint in the future.

Correspondence

#8304 to 8317 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate. Of note: 8307, letter of thanks from Lydney Town Council for the contribution to the cemetery upkeep; 8317, Gypsy/Traveller site identification.

By e-mail: confirmation from Neil Maxfield (Highways Agency) that Aylburton would be getting a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) in the near future.

Planning:

Heaven's Gate / Rockwood.	Alterations to roof.	No comments.
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Finances:

Current account	£378.16	Deposit account	£5975.01
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Payments made

K. Blackwell	- Salary (Oct/Nov)	£153.00
A. Jones	- Litter collection (Oct/Nov)	£210.00
A48 meeting group	- Annual subscription (reissued)	£8.00
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

Authorisations required

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Dec/Jan)	£153.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Dec/Jan)	£210.00
M. Hewitt	– Millbrook Green brook cleaning	£75.00
LPE	– Millennium Wood Topping	£57.50
Tudor Rose Carpentry	– Notice Boards x 3	£325.00

Payments Received

E-On	– Way leave payment	£5.61
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Business concluded 8:10 p.m.