

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 21st April 2010 at 7:00 PM

Present

Mike Praker (M.P.), Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.), Alan Edwards (A.E.), 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

Kath Harris (K.H.)

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2010.

Agreed and signed as a true record.

District councillor reports

Vehicle Activated Sign

Terry Glastonbury confirmed that the V.A.S for the village would be in position by July of this year.

Bus Service problems

T.G had received a letter from Stagecoach, the company now in charge of the bus service, reiterating that the number 73 service from Gloucester to Chepstow had been unprofitable & that indeed Stagecoach seems to have broken even financially through discontinuing the Lydney to Chepstow section of the route. With regards to extending the service down to the train station it would appear that this is not possible due to lack of space in which to turn a bus at the station. This was met with cries of derision from those present. In terms of changing the times of the buses in order to better facilitate links with ongoing services, this is apparently impossible because of services already in place to & from the main stations. The main thrust of the letter was felt to be obstructive & makes clear the point that Stagecoach has little interest in serving the community & is only interested in profits. The clerk was asked to write to Ian Manning, the Managing Director, to once again raise these issues.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Parish Plan

M.B. feels that the time for action is upon the council. He will therefore prioritise the top 3 actions as identified by the Parish Plan & circulate these to the rest of the council in order that they are included as definite items on future agendas.

A summary of the Plan is to be delivered to each household in the very near future. M.B. is looking for volunteers to assist in the delivery.

M.B. had also looked into the possibility of an external company designing & maintaining a website for the council. However the costs involved seemed to be quite high, so alternative options will be examined. This also holds true of the production of a regular newsletter. K.B. is to ask her husband to help & set up a meeting with M.B. & S.N. to discuss the issue.

Parish Patch

Still pending. K.B. requested that the council authorise payment to Glenn Pittman (solicitor) who is helping with the final details of the registration.

Village notice boards

It was agreed to leave in place the notice board which had been sited in error at the Upper Common, & to order another to be placed outside the school. M.B. will liaise with the headmistress with regard to size & position of the board.

Bus shelter damage

The clerk was pleased to report that the insurance payment for repair to the shelter had been received, amounting to £335.45.

Allotments

2 more allotments had been allocated on the Upper Common site. The waiting list still stands at 4 parish residents requiring land, & 6 people outside the parish expressing interest also.

Bills will be issued shortly, as will letters advising those people with more than one allotment & those no longer living in the parish of 1 year's notice to quit, in order to give others the chance to have allotments.

Trees in churchyard

As far as the clerk was aware the application is still being processed through the council, with 1 alteration regarding the total removal of a tree as opposed to merely trimming it.

Loose kerb stone, Church road / Bank erosion

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

M.B. also asked that Highways be made aware of the problems with the footpath which runs from Alvington to the top of the old A48 road, which is in very poor condition, & the issue of street lights requiring attention on Sandford Road itself.

Councillor Vacancy

It was decided to co-opt Frankie Evans on to the council. All members are grateful to Frankie for putting herself forward!

Salt bins

A.E. to follow this matter up.

New Business:

Millennium Wood

The clerk was asked to contact Lydney Park Estate in order to ascertain the progress of the proposed transfer of the Millennium Wood to the parish council.

Charitable donations

It was agreed to move this item on to the agenda for the next meeting.

2009-2010 Audit

The clerk reported that the Audit had been completed & was available for the public to see if so wished, prior to being sent to the external auditors.

Correspondence

#8318 to 8352 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate. Of note:

8328 Part night operation of street lighting. A copy of this was given to all members to be considered at the next meeting.

8351 Lydney Town Council advising that the annual contribution of £150 paid by the parish towards upkeep of Lydney cemetery will remain at that figure for the next year.

Planning:

Church Yard trees - maintenance. No comments.

33 Sandford Road. Alterations & erection of double garage to front of property.

Finances:

Current account **£2209.66**

Deposit account **£3475.50**

Payments made

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

Authorisations required

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Feb/Mar/Apr)	£229.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses/ postage	£10.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Feb/Mar)	£210.00
FoDDC	– Dog fouling signs x 3	£15.00
LPE	– Allotment rent	£165.00
AUCA	– Grant, 1st installment	£375.00
R. Morgan	– Grass cutting, inv # 14	£89.00
R. Morgan	– Memorial garden hedge cut	£30.00

Payments Received

Zurich Insurance	– Bus shelter repair	£335.45
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Business concluded 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday 25th May 2010. To incorporate all AGMs