

# Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Hall.

## Present

Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.) (new Chair), Mike Praker (M.P.), Kath Harris (K.H.), Simon Newman (S.N.), Jane O'Donnell (J.O'D.), Frankie Evans (F.E.) (Councillors): Karen Blackwell (K.B.) (Clerk). Terry Glastonbury (T.G.), Marion Winship (M.W.) (District Councillors)

## Apologies

Alan Edwards (A.E.) (Councillor).

## Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Agreed and signed as a true record.

## District councillor reports:

### Gypsies in Alvington

M.W. reported that the gypsies who had been occupying the site of the recreation field in the village had now left, but that the area had been left in an unsanitary condition necessitating a thorough clean-up of the facility. There had also been a rise in the number of local burglaries although obviously it is not possible to directly link these to the presence of the travellers. K.H. raised the issue of access onto the land & what may be done to safeguard against this in the future. The Alvington site is currently privately owned.

### Budget cuts

T.G. informed the meeting that budget cuts of £7.2M would directly affect services across the county although as yet it is unclear exactly what these will be. Education seems to be one of those most likely to suffer. However T.G. also reported that the County Council has released £180,000 in order that broadband may be fully investigated for the area.

## Matters arising from the minutes:

### Parish Plan

M.B. told the meeting that he had taken a mock-up of a newsletter to the village carnival & that this had been largely favourably received. There are still issues regarding cost & quality but M.B. is confident that these can be resolved in the near future. The idea of producing a "posh" copy just for the first issue was also raised.

F.E. advised those present that Judy Davis will be re-opening Copycats at some point in the future & that she should be approached for a quote to print the newsletter.

M.B. also reiterated that there is still funding available from various agencies & that the Parish Council must apply for this.

### Parish Council Website

Although a reasonable quote had been received for the production & maintenance of the website some council members felt that a further quote should be obtained. This item will thus be placed on the next agenda again.

### Parish Patch

Still with the solicitor.

### Village notice boards

The clerk had received a quote of £82.00 for Tudor Carpentry to place a new notice board outside the school. The clerk will proceed with the order.

### Church yard trees / maintenance

K.B. to inform the contractor of weddings taking place in the church over the Summer in order that he works around these causing the least possible disruption to proceedings.

Mr David Bayliss of Church road has been clearing large areas of the church yard of overgrown buddleia etc. It was agreed to send him a £20.00 Tesco voucher by way of thanks on behalf of the council. K.B. to purchase this.

### Millennium Wood

Robert Frankton of Lydney Park Estate is aware that this issue needs resolving & assures the council that he will endeavour to do so on his return from holiday!

The grass in the wood has been cut by LPE & it was agreed to withhold payment for this until a formal agreement has been reached.

### **Part night operation of street lights**

This is more than likely to proceed in this area as pilot schemes across the county have already been proved to save large sums of money, i.e. £200,000 across Gloucestershire alone since it started. There are obviously still some concerns regarding safety & crime to be addressed.

### **Bus shelter cleaning**

As A.E. was absent from this meeting an update as to the cleanliness of the shelter was not available. However the clerk informed the meeting that she had spoken to Andy Jones regarding this matter & received his assurance that he would deal with the problem.

### **Clerk's report:**

#### **Annual Audit**

K.B. was pleased to report that the external auditor had passed the audit once again without comment.

#### **Allotments**

Following a site meeting with Mr Bill Baker, 4 further allotments are now available on the Upper Common site. K.B. to contact those on the waiting list. The annual charge for each will be £10.00 in keeping with those currently in use (although far below present national charges).

#### **Litter bags**

K.B. had received a request for a further supply of black bags from Andy Jones. These were ordered & promptly delivered by the Council!

### **New Business:**

#### **Stockwell Lane speed signs**

It was decided to approach PCSO Dan Wilce to request his help in obtaining more 30mph signs for Stockwell Lane.

#### **Chapel Hill subsidence / footpath / street light**

F.E. told the meeting that this issue remains unresolved & obviously with the onset of autumn & increased rainfall, it is only going to worsen. AUCA has written to the Highways Agency requesting action & it was agreed that the Parish Council will also contact Brian Watkins again reiterating the need for prompt remedial work to be carried out.

This similarly applies to Church road, where promised work has failed to materialise, & indeed many other areas of the village environs, such as the Alvington-Aylburton footpath.

Furthermore the street light outside 44 Sandford Road has not yet been repaired despite the clerk requesting that this be done on numerous occasions!

#### **Bledisloe Memorial Trust**

M.B. advised the council that he had attended a meeting of the Trust in July, & that a Bream resident had received the grant for this year. He feels that the availability of the fund is not well known locally & that perhaps this may also be an issue which could be included in any future newsletter.

#### **CPRE award / Aylburton business units**

K.B. had received notification of an awards scheme run by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) in recognition of building design. The Aylburton business units at the top of Stockwell Lane had been suggested by Richard Lloyd of the CPRE but as Lord Bledisloe gives the award there is obviously a conflict of interests! However, the Parish Council can nominate the building instead & M.B. will look into this matter.

#### **Bathurst Pool**

M.P. reports that following the donation made by the Parish Council to the Friends of Bathurst Pool, a plaque has been erected on the poolside recognising the Council's support.

### **Correspondence**

#8370 to 8396 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

### **Planning:**

12 High Street. Erection of shed/workshop. Demolition of existing shed & carport. No comments.

**Finances:** Current account **£5858.19** Deposit account **£3475.80**

#### **Payments made:**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (May)	£76.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses, Review ad for AGM	£13.92
K. Blackwell	– Expenses, Tesco voucher for R. George	£25.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Apr/May)	£210.00
FoD CAB	– Donation	£50.00
Friends of Bathurst Pool	– Donation	£300.00

S.A.R.A	– Donation	£50.00
Dial - A - Ride	– Donation	£25.00
The Victoria Centre	– Donation	£25.00
R. Morgan	– Grass cutting, invoice #32*	£194.00
Abbey Tree Services	– Church yard tree maintenance, invoice #7249	£450.00

**Authorisations required:**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (June / July)	£153.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (June / July)	£210.00
Moore Stephens	– Accountants, External audit fee	£141.00

**Payments Received**

Allotment rents		£48.00
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**Next meeting Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 7pm**

**Meeting closed at 8.10p.m**

\* Church x 2 cuts @ £89.00 each (£178.00). School x 1 cut @ £16.00