

# Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Hall.

## Present

Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.) (Chair), Alan Edwards (A.E.), Kath Harris (K.H.), Simon Newman (S.N.), Jane O'Donnell (J.O'D.), Mike Praker (M.P.), (Councillors). Karen Blackwell (K.B.) (Clerk).

## Apologies

Frankie Evans (F.E.) (councillor); Terry Glastonbury (T.G.), Marion Winship (M.W.) (District Councillors)

## Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

Agreed and signed as a true record with one amendment: Bathurst Pool has placed a picture in recognition of the Parish Council's donation, not a plaque as stated in the minutes. The clerk apologises for this error.

## District councillor reports:

None available as no District Councillor in attendance.

## Matters arising from the minutes:

### Parish Plan:

### Newsletter:

A high quality newsletter has been ordered using Whitehouse Press as the printers. It is likely that future copies of the publication will be printed on paper of lesser quality in order to reduce costs. The aim is to produce 4 newsletters per year to coincide with major events in the calendar.

### Parish Council Website:

The Council also agreed to ask Mr Mike Blackwell to continue with the design for the Parish Council website in view of the fact that his quote had been very reasonable & that by using him to do the work the clerk could assure council members of high standards, as well as a good level of support in the future! K.B. had to inform the council that original costs may have increased slightly due to external factors but these will be kept to a minimum.

### Parish Patch

This is now with the Land Registry solicitor.

K.B. will again contact Mr J. Awdry to remind him of his responsibility for keeping the stock fence in good repair, following reports of sheep straying into Upper Common gardens once more!

### Church yard trees / maintenance

There was some concern as to the cost forwarded by Abbey Tree Services for the supply of a crane to assist in the removal of the large Yew tree from the church yard. Indeed some members feel this is unnecessarily complicating matters. It was therefore agreed to approach alternative companies for quotes for this work. M.B. & M.P. will take this further.

K.B. told the meeting that a communication had been received from Mr Harry Clarke of Orchard Close in which he complained of plants once again encroaching on his garden from the church yard. This matter will also be looked into.

Mr D. Bayliss had been sent a Tesco voucher in recognition of his work in helping to clear the church yard over the Summer months.

### Millennium Wood

Lydney Park Estate had advised the clerk that this matter is now in the hands of its solicitors & the final agreement should be ready for signing soon.

An invoice had been received for the grass cutting in the Millennium Wood as done by LPE. After some discussion it was decided that this should be paid in order to improve relations!

### Bus shelter cleaning

The clerk was asked to contact Andy Jones once again with regard to this matter as Alan Edwards is still finding it necessary to clean the shelter himself. This is obviously an unsatisfactory state of affairs as it is under the remit of litter collection & street cleaning as performed by Mr Jones.

**Street Light & Sandford Hill footpath**

M.B. reports that the street light outside 44 Sandford Road has in fact been replaced...but is still not working! K.B. will report this failure to Brian Watkins of Gloucestershire Highways once again.

Furthermore there has been no progress on the issue of the Alvington to Aylburton footpath along Sandford Hill, which remains in such poor condition as to be virtually unusable. It was decided to write to Jim Winship of Alvington Parish Council in order to request its support in this matter as it directly affects many Alvington residents also.

**Chapel Hill & Church road issues**

No progress had been made on either of these matters although Brian Watkins had communicated with the clerk via e-mail to state that they would be examined in the near future...

**Clerk's report:****Allotments**

Some of those on the waiting list for an allotment have since decided not to proceed, thus the council has 3 more plots available to rent on the Upper Common site. It was agreed to place notices to this effect, asking that interested parties contact the clerk, with priority given to residents within the village on a 'first come' basis. If these plots remain untaken after a period of 2 months (i.e. by the date of the next council meeting), they may then be offered to people outside the Parish.

**Remembrance Day Service**

2 wreaths have been ordered for placing at the Memorial Hall. M.B. will approach Nicky Ford to discuss the possibility of any pupils attending the ceremony.

**Memorial Garden: funding request**

Mrs Lorna Coates of Cross Farm Close had sent a letter asking that the Council consider making a donation towards the maintenance of the Memorial garden. It was agreed that this is a very worthy cause which goes a long way to improving the look of the village. A donation of £25.00 will be sent now with perhaps another to follow at the end of the financial year (when the council will know how much money it has left available for charitable donations).

**New Business:****Millbrook Green seating**

The 2 seats placed at Millbrook Green are badly in need of maintenance & in fact would most likely contravene many Health & Safety laws in their current condition. One seat was donated by the W.I. many years ago whilst the second was part of a community project & dates from 1986. They are both still used by parishioners.

A.E. has spoken to Mr John Mills who would like to replace one of the benches, at his own expense, as a memorial to his parents, Roy & Nan Mills, both of whom were active members of the parish for many years. A.E. went on to suggest that the other could be replaced in the future by a joint effort between the Parish Council & the W.I.

M.B. will undertake a site visit in order to ascertain what needs to be done & how & will report back at the next meeting.

**High street lay-by**

Councillor Edwards raised the issue of the white lines marking the lay-by in the area of the bus stop. These are currently poorly marked out, encouraging people to park their cars outside the white lines, causing potential hazards to other road users. It was felt that if they could be more clearly defined people may recognise the dangers in parking outside them, although A.E. recognises that this is a problem with such limited parking available in the village.

It is hoped that this will be done by the end of October this year.

**Drain cover, High street**

A.E. also brought attention to the matter of the drain cover outside Mr Crossman's house which needs replacing as it is loose & very noisy!

This should also be remedied in October.

**Gulley cleaning**

K.B. will request that Glos. Highways undertakes to clean the gulleys before the onset of the bad weather.

**Alternative Bank accounts & insurance providers**

The clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of changing both bank & insurance company in order to ensure that the council received the best value for money.

**Correspondence**

#8397 to #8420 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

**Planning:**

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

LPE, Saw Mills. Ménage.

No comments.

Prior's Mesne. Conversion residential accommodation into 2 flats.

No comments.

73 High Street. Extension to conservatory, raising of roof, provision of dormer windows.

Although the council has no objections in principle to the above application, some concern was expressed due to the property being in a conservation area. However it was felt that this is ultimately a matter for the Planning office to decide upon.

**Finances:** Current account **£6170.19**

Deposit account **£3475.94**

**Payments made:**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (June / July)	£153.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (June / July)	£210.00
Moore Stephens	– Accountants, External audit fee	£141.00
R. Morgan	– Grass cutting, inv #35*	£324.00
R. Morgan	– Grass cutting, inv #41**	£105.00

**Authorisations required:**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Aug / Sept)	£153.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses, Tesco voucher, D. Bayliss	£20.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Aug/Sept)	£210.00
R. Morgan	– Grass cutting, inv #45***	£194.00
Zurich Insurance	– Annual renewal	£475.86

**Payments Received**

Allotment rents	£72.00
FoDDC, Parish Plan Grant	£500.00

**Next meeting Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 at 7pm**

\* Church x 3 cuts @ £89.00 each (£267.00). School x 2 cuts @ £16.00 each (£32.00), Hedge x 1 cut @ £25.00.

\*\* Church x 1 cut @ £89.00, school x 1 cut @ £16.00.

\*\*\* Church x 2 cuts @ £89.00, school x 1 cut @ £16.00.

**Meeting closed at 8.30p.m**