

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 23rd November 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), Terry Glastonbury (T.G.), Marion Winship (M.W.) (District Councillors).

Apologies

Frankie Evans (F.E.) (councillor), Karen Blackwell (K.B.) (Clerk)

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2010.

Agreed and signed as a true record.

District councillor reports:

TG reported that the FoDDC budget cuts were still to be agreed. A recent survey on customer service levels achieved by the FoDDC gave the council a rating of 82.3% (equal to Waitrose).

TG further reported that the County Council had announced the following cuts: £1m from Trading Standards; Registrars Offices were to become self-funding; 20% (£100k) to be cut from emergency management; PCSO's to be withdrawn from 2013 unless alternative funding can be found; £3.6m over 4 years from the Fire Service, redundant equipment to be identified and sold or transferred to other units. Most of the Fire Service cuts to come from the Control Office and management.

MP asked TG for an update on the "access to Tack land" issue, TG replied that it was still on-going.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Parish Plan:

Newsletter is receiving good feedback; issue 2 is now with Copy Cats and is expected to be available before the end of the week. The web-site is still under construction. The "Quick Wins" grant was temporarily withdrawn following advice from GRCC (we hadn't claimed the full amount). Our second submission has caused some problems because an item being claimed to make up the shortfall (repairs to the Hall chimney) was deemed to be outside the requirements for the grant. MB will attend a meeting with Kate Baugh (GRCC) and Carolyn Mitchell (FoDDC) on the 30th November to resolve the issue.

Parish Patch

This issue is still with the Land Registry solicitor, who has been in touch with J Awdry, so he is now aware of what is going on. Clerk has sent a letter to J Awdry reminding him of his duties regarding the fencing in of stock.

Church yard trees

No action had been taken on this issue. MB/MP agreed that they would meet with Abbey Trees asap to resolve.

Millennium Wood

No reported progress. This matter is currently in the hands of the solicitors acting for Lydney Park Estate.

Bus shelter cleaning

Clerk reports that A Jones has been contacted re this issue, however both MP and AE report that the shelter is still in need of cleaning and the waste bin has not been emptied. Clerk is asked to contact A Jones to obtain an update.

Chapel Hill/Church Rd/Footpaths and lighting

Church Rd and Chapel Hill still no remedial action, Clerk requested to contact B Watkins for an update, preferably obtaining a promise date.

Footpath between Aylburton and Alvington. Clerk sent a request to Alvington PC for support. Copy of their letter to Highways is on file. MW was able to report that Alvington PC had been told by Highways that the matter would be dealt with.

Sandford Rd street light

MB reported that the repair/replacement work has now been completed and the light is now working satisfactorily.

Millbrook seating

MB has inspected the site(s) and suggests that the seat nearest the bus shelter (provided from Community Funds) would be easy to remove from its base and that any replacement offered by Jon Mills should be easily adapted to fit the existing base and security features. The larger seat over the culvert will be difficult to remove as the reinforced concrete sides of the seat are cast into a very

thick concrete base. It would be possible for a team of volunteers to accomplish, but the council agreed that the preferred option would be to get a builder to be contracted. Agreed that the Clerk should be asked to write to Kelvin Legge for a quote. This seat was given by the WI and KH was asked to discuss its replacement with the WI committee to see if they wanted a new seat at that site or somewhere else.

High St. lay-by

Line painting is virtually complete. Item is to be removed from agenda.

Drain cover in High St.

Waiting for Highways to repair.

Gulley cleaning

Waiting our turn, Alvington being done this week so it might be soon.

Alternative Bank accounts & insurance providers

Clerk still compiling list of alternatives.

Clerk's report:

Allotments

Clerk reported and confirmed by J O'D and SN, that all allotments were now taken up, but a new request had been received from Suzanne Matthews (23, High St., Aylburton). It was requested that, as a parishioner, she should be given priority. MB reported that during a meeting with Elizabeth Ball of Taurus Craft, we were offered use of market garden land behind the model village (no costs were given).

New Business:

Precept

Budget forecast accepted with exception that MW reported that if the election was contested then the costs could be anywhere between £500 and £1500. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the precept be set at £6,000 for 2011/2012.

Policing of Notice Boards

MB has noted that some notices of a more commercial nature were appearing on the notice boards and asked if councillors thought this to be a problem. It was agreed to take a "light touch" attitude to this and members were asked to discretely remove items if they were too commercial. It was also noted that FE had reported that the board next to the post box on Upper Common had been damaged. MB reported a) that the Clerk had already placed a request with Tudor Carpentry to repair it and b) that the door was now missing, but no-one is sure who has taken it.

Taurus Crafts

MB has had a meeting with Elizabeth Ball, the manager of the Taurus Craft site, who was seeking greater co-operation between themselves and the wider community, perhaps using the PC as a conduit. The meeting although interesting didn't make much progress although it was clear that perhaps our perception of the site was not quite right. MB suggested that E Ball should be invited to next meeting to give a presentation on their work. TG reported that she had done a similar thing with Lydney Town Council which had proved useful. All agreed that E Ball be invited to next meeting.

Big Society

MB reported that he had attended a workshop run by GRCC on the subject of the Big Society, with a view to identifying the assets available and barriers to local communities taking part in this initiative. However, MB felt that there was a lot of confusion about who would be taking the lead in "pulling in" services and that maybe we should have waited for the publication of the "Localisation Bill" that is about to be put before Parliament. MW said that the representative from Alvington PC had the same view. Council members are therefore requested to look out for the new bill.

Lydney Youth Café

MB reported that he had been approached by Erica Shepherd regarding a donation to the running costs. It is not clear how much use is made of this facility by youngsters from Aylburton. Agreed that we would add it to the list of charities for consideration at the appropriate time.

Trees close to power cables

MP and AE reported that there was a tree down Stockwell Lane that was now interfering with the power cables; similarly there were trees in the vicinity of the Milling Green bus shelter causing concern. MB reported that E.ON had been in the area recently carrying out inspections so it was agreed to take no further action at this time.

Salt/Gravel bins

The siting and filling of these bins is subject to Highways approval. MB and AE agreed to arrange a meeting with the Cannop facility to discuss replacing missing bins in Aylburton. In the mean time AE is conducting a survey of the bins in the parish.

A48 safety

AE reported that at the recent A48 meeting there was a lot of discussion regarding the recent accidents at the "Bird in Hand"/abattoir corner. The discussion was clearly very sensitive, but attendees were asked to get their respective PC's to write to Mark Harper urging his involvement. It

was agreed that such a letter should be sent by the Clerk, AE agreed to write out the points to be made in such a letter.

Correspondence

#8422 to #8439 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

It was noted that FoDDC had requested that local ditches that were not under Highways control, should be monitoring for possible flood risks. We were also asked to supply details of a "Flood Warden". We agreed that the Clerk should be asked to write to Maurice Hewitt to see if he would undertake such a duty.

Planning:

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

Finances:

Taking the opportunity offered by the Clerk's absence, a discussion took place regarding her salary and it was agreed that it should be raised to £1200 pa.

Balances: Current account **£4608.55** Deposit account **£3476.38**

Payments made:

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
R. Morgan	- Grass cutting, inv #50**	£260.00
Whitehouse Press	- Newsletter printing	£144.00
Zurich Insurance	- Annual renewal	£475.86
Lydney Park Estate	- Millennium Wood grass cutting	£58.75
Aylburton Memorial Garden fund		£25.00

Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell	- Salary (Oct/Nov)	£153.00
K. Blackwell	- Expenses, Insurance tax	£23.79
A. Jones	- Litter collection (Oct/Nov)	£210.00
R. Morgan	- Grass cutting, inv #59***	£224.00
Royal British Legion	- Poppy wreaths x 2	£50.00
AUCA	- Grant, 2 nd instalment	£375.00
Copy Cats	- Newsletter print	£120.00

Payments Received

Allotment rents	£5.00
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Next meeting Tuesday 25th January 2011 at 7pm

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

** Church x 2 cuts @ £89.00 (£178.00), school x 2 cuts @ £16.00 (£32.00), Church yard clearing x 1 @ £50.00

*** Church x 2 cuts @ £89.00 (£178.00), school x 1 cut @ £16.00, Memorial hedge tidy x 1 @ £30.00

Meeting closed at 8.30p.m