

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 25th January 2011 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.), Frankie Evans (F.E.), (Councillors), Karen Blackwell (clerk).

Also in attendance: Elizabeth Ball, Taurus Crafts manager.

Apologies

Marion Winship & Terry Glastonbury.

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2010.

Agreed and signed as a true record. The clerk is grateful to Simon & Maurice for doing an excellent job in her absence!

Presentation by Elizabeth Ball of Taurus.

The chair elected to allow Elizabeth Ball, manager at Taurus, to open the meeting with a presentation of the workings & ethos behind the complex. She explained that many of those working on site are local, some being volunteers whilst others are paid. There is a mixture of people from assisted living housing (i.e. under the indirect care of the Camphill Trust) & those not under its care. The complex aims to support local businesses as far as is possible, with artists, potters, jewellery makers & many others having spaces within the buildings to sell their work. Local food producers are also encouraged to sell their wares at the site shop, La Bodega. Taurus aims to stimulate the local economy & claims to have done so to the tune of many thousands of pounds since it opened its doors.

It is difficult at this stage to state how Taurus & the Parish Council may be mutually beneficial in the future, but the general feeling is one of optimism that something may be achieved together at some point.

District councillor reports:

None available at this time.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Parish Plan:

The "Quick Wins" grant had been given the go-ahead & the application is awaiting completion by the clerk to release the funds from the FoDDC. The expected grant is £2500.

Parish Patch

The clerk had received a letter (plus invoice) from Glen Pitman, solicitor, stating that the registration of the Parish Patch is now completed.

Church yard trees

M.B had contacted Evolution Trees asking them to quote for the remainder of the necessary work on the church yard Yew tree, as it was generally felt that Abbey Tree Services were perhaps unnecessarily complicating the issue leading to higher expenditure.

Millennium Wood

No reported progress. K.B to contact LPE once more to prompt a resolution.

Bus shelter cleaning

Although the shelter by Millbrook Green is now reported to be cleaned & tidied regularly, those at the junction of Sandford road are still in need of this. K.B will contact Andy Jones to request that he adds these to his round.

Chapel Hill/Church Rd/ Aylburton to Alvington footpath

Once again there has been absolutely no progress whatsoever on these matters! This is despite assurances from Doug Smith of Gloucestershire Highways that work would be ordered & completed following a site visit to ascertain required action. K.B will yet again contact all relevant agencies & insist that these matters be resolved or at the very least improved upon.

Millbrook seating

The clerk had contacted Kelvin Legge to provide a quote for the removal of the seat but as yet has had no reply. K.B. to contact him again.

Drain cover in High St.

Has now been repaired.

Gulley cleaning

Has also been completed.

Alternative Bank accounts & insurance providers

Apologies from the clerk, this has not yet been resolved.

Notice board repair

The notice board on Upper Common had been repaired seemingly free of charge. Furthermore Tudor Rose Carpentry had erected the notice board which had been requested to go outside the school. (An invoice had been received for this). The clerk was asked to write to the company expressing the Parish Council's satisfaction at the high standard of the work undertaken.

Salt / gravel bins

M.B. & A.E. had walked through the village to ascertain the number of salt bins present & those which were required and/or missing according to the official plan! There is some doubt as to the placing of more bins as Highways has to give the go-ahead & this is reportedly unlikely, despite the obvious need in some areas such as Chapel Hill, the Oaks, & Pool Cottage corner. The councillors will attempt to clarify this situation prior to the next meeting.

A48 safety / letter to M.P

K. B. confirmed that a letter had been drafted (with input from A.E.) & duly dispatched to Mark Harper M.P., outlining the concerns of the Parish Council with regard to the appalling safety record along the A48 but specifically relating to the number of fatalities near the abattoir at Minsterworth.

Flood warden

K.B. had written to Mr Hewitt but as yet had no response.

New business;**Salary increase for the clerk**

The clerk wished to thank the councillors for the very generous increase in her salary.

Street Parties / Royal wedding

It was agreed that rather than the PC organise an event to celebrate the Royal wedding in April, it would offer some financial assistance to any other group in the village wishing to do so.

Upper Common ditches

Mr Matt Harding had expressed to K.B. his concern that although the drainage pipes in some of the ditches on Upper Common have been replaced, these would prove to be unsuitable for the intended purpose. A site visit should be organised to ascertain what if anything may be done to improve matters.

A48 footpath / roundabout

It was reported that the footpath between Lydney & Aylburton is overgrown in the vicinity of the roundabout, causing pedestrians to have to walk dangerously near the traffic flow. There was some debate as to the validity of this statement but it was agreed to report the matter to Lydney Town council &/or Gloucestershire Highways for attention.

Lydney Bus station

K.B. was asked to contact Terry Glastonbury with regard to the condition of the bus station in Lydney, which is generally felt to be fairly shabby & dirty. It is unclear who has responsibility for the upkeep of the station now.

LPE / Electric fences

S.N. reported that his wife had been thwarted in her attempt to walk a footpath near the Stockwell Lane dairy by the presence of an electric fence. The clerk was asked to contact LPE to request that they clarify the situation regarding the placement of these fences & signage to indicate their existence.

Allotment land rent increase

K.B. had received a letter from LPE outlining the intention to increase the rent for both the Upper Common & Kear's moor allotment sites. Whilst the council is sympathetic to the need to bring these prices in line with the national average it is also felt that the 50% increase (from £100 per annum to £150, to be held for 3 years) for Upper Common is slightly harsh to say the least. The clerk will broach this concern with the office manager although it was agreed to pay the required amount. This increase will obviously have to be passed on to those renting the allotments from the PC.

Drain cover, High st

K.B. to contact Highways to request that they examine the drain cover opposite the George Inn which is in need of repair.

Elections

As two of the current councillors wish to step down at the end of the current business year, proceedings must be started regarding the possibility of an election. It is hoped that some interest will be generated amongst the residents prompting a flurry of candidates! M.B. will meet with Kate Baugh to discuss ways in which this may be achieved.

Correspondence

#8440 to #8458 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate. Of note was a letter from David Bayliss thanking the PC for his voucher sent in recognition of the work he did in tidying up the church yard.

Planning:

11 Cross Farm Close. Retention of doors, windows & fascia boards as built. No comments.

Finances:

Balances: Current account **£4457.76** Deposit account **£347681**

Payments made:

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

Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Dec/ Jan 2011)	£153.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Dec / Jan 2011)	£210.00
AUCA	– Grant, 2 nd instalment	£375.00
Solicitor	– Fees, registration of Parish Patch	£210.00
A48 meeting	– Annual subscription	£8.00
Lydney Town Council	– Cemetery upkeep donation	£150.00
Maurice Hewitt	– Milling Brook clearing, inv# 21	£75.00
Tudor Rose carpentry	– School notice board, inv# 1357	£107.00

Payments Received

E-on Wayleave	£5.61
FoDDC Litter remit	£630.00
Interest on savings	0.43p (Wow!)

Next meeting Tuesday 22nd March 2011 at 7pm

* Church x 2 cuts @ £89.00 each (£178.00). School x 1 cut @ £16.00 each (£16.00). Memorial Garden hedge cut x 1 @ £30.00 = total £224.00

Meeting closed at 8.50p.m