

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 22nd March 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.), Mike Praker (M.P.), Frankie Evans (F.E.), (Councillors); Marion Winship, Terry Glastonbury.

Apologies

Jane O'Donnell (vice chair), Karen Blackwell (clerk).

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2011.

Agreed and signed with one correction to be made regarding a tree in the church yard. Clerk to amend & represent for signing.

District councillor reports:

The Lydney Area Action Plan is available to view at the Town hall & the library & residents have been asked for their comments. Although specifically aimed at Lydney as the name suggests the people of Aylburton may feel that it also affects their lives.

District Council performance; days lost due to sickness have now been reduced but it is unclear how this has been achieved or how it may affect overall performance!

Waste collection arrangements are set to change & details are to be found on the FoDDC website.

Lydney Harbour has been identified as a potential site for a wind turbine & as such wind speeds there will now be monitored.

Community Vegetable Project – ideas for a suitable site are requested.

Lydney bus station is now being cleaned by a contractor twice weekly.

House building work has now begun on the old golf course site in Lydney. M.P. asked whether affordable housing was either available or indeed needed for Aylburton. The Chair replied that this is an action from the Parish Plan & that a survey is required to establish a need.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Quick Wins grant

The application had been submitted to cover notice boards, the newsletter, website design & new chairs & tables for the Memorial Hall.

Church yard trees

Evolution Trees have re-examined the tree which was potentially marked for removal. They feel that removal is unnecessary at this point but if it was decided to go ahead the cost would be in the region of £1000, (the same as the previous contractor quoted but without using a crane). The Council decided to review the situation at a later date as there is no immediate threat do danger from the conifer as it stands.

Millennium Wood

No reported progress.

Electric fencing

A letter from Gavin Green of Lydney Park estate had been received in which he clarified the situation, stating that fences were not always electrified & that they try to keep disruption to the public to a minimum. It was agreed to refer this matter to the County footpaths section.

Allotment rent increase

LPE have responded to a query regarding the proposed increase in rent by stating that this will bring the rent more in line with other allotments (& land rental prices in general) in the area. The clerk will contact those people renting allotments to advise them of the increase. No further action is required on this matter.

Bus shelter cleaning

Andy Jones has now been made aware of the need to clean all 3 shelters as part of his remit.

Chapel Hill / Church road

Brian Watkins of Gloucestershire Highways has claimed that this matter is in hand with Severn Trent; however there is no evidence to suggest that this is true! It was suggested that the clerk write to Brian Thornton asking him to take the matter up.

Millbrook seating

Kelvin Legge has failed to provide a quote for the removal of the seat & assurances from other parties that it would be done have failed to materialise! The Chair agreed to raise the matter with

builder Nigel Jenkins in the hope that he may help. The clerk will approach Tudor Carpentry for a quote to replace one of the seats.

Alternative Bank accounts & insurance providers

It is hoped that by renewing membership of GAPTC the clerk will have access to more information on these issues. (See below).

Salt / gravel bins

Salt / gravel bins sites have to have permission from Gloucestershire Highways. The request to place one at the junction of New Road & Upper Common by the pond has yet to elicit a response.

Flood warden

Mr Hewitt agreed to take on this position with the proviso that we supply him with 2 contact numbers in case of emergency. He also points out the problem of rubbish behind the garages in Millbrook Green which M.B. agreed to investigate. The clerk will contact Two Rivers if necessary. M.B. furthermore queried who actually owns the stream.

Upper Common ditches

Matt Harding had reported that he believed the pipes laid along the Oaks area to be too small for their intended purpose & will be very easily blocked (A site visit confirmed this to be the case. Given that Highways seem reluctant to take rapid action on any matter other solutions must be sought).

New business;

Orchard Close parking problems

A complaint had been received from Mr Harry Clarke of Orchard Close regarding the problems experienced by residents due to inconsiderate parking in the Close / Chapel Hill area. The Council agreed that this is a serious matter but is only too well aware of its lack of control over such issues. Requesting double yellow lines would be one option but given Highways' reluctance to act more than at a minimal level or speed this may take some time to achieve. It was therefore decided to approach PCSO Wilce & request that he & his colleagues monitor the situation & report back with any advice they can offer. This issue once again highlights the lack of parking facilities within the village.

GAPTC membership renewal

It was agreed to renew the Council's membership for the coming year as the clerk feels that GAPTC offers an effective support network which makes the job easier! GAPTC also can advise on legal & financial matters such as Insurance schemes which are only available to members.

Carnival policing problems

The Parish Council has been informed that the police have refused to assist with the regular rolling road closure for this year's Carnival procession. This is a very important element of the whole day & should not be sacrificed. The Council is committed, via the Parish Plan, to support the Village Hall committee & thus it was agreed to invite PCSO Wilce to the next meeting to explain the decision of Gloucestershire Constabulary in this case.

Parish Council Elections

A.E. informed the meeting that Con Dubois had approached him to express an interest in standing for election. However he feels that his deafness would prevent him from doing so. The Council is hopeful of an election as so far 5 members of the public have requested information packs, thus showing a higher level of interest than in previous election years.

AGM dates

The date for both AGM's was fixed as Friday 27th May subject to confirmation as to hall availability.

Correspondence

#8459 to #8475 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate. Of special interest were:

#8459: Community Transport Guide. Details transport options by area. It was suggested that we add this to the website & also put it in the newsletter.

#8465: E-on "Power out" packs are available & a representative from E-on would come to demonstrate their use should people wish. Again it was suggested that a précis of this matter be placed in the newsletter & perhaps also the website.

#8467: The FoDDC Recycling update informs people that they can now put their used aerosols out with their kerbside collections of tins for recycling.

#8469: Environment Agency Flood report – an excellent document detailing the preferred options regarding flood defences along the Severn Estuary up to the year 2050. It was noted that the bottom end of the High St is at risk (a 1 in a 1000 chance) of flooding over this time span due to global warming. Proposal for our section of the river bank will see the defences being allowed to deteriorate resulting in an area of the Tack being flooded. LPE obviously are not happy about this and the proposal to improve the defences along side the canal leading down to the harbour are causing the Lydney householders much concern

Planning:

14 Stockwell Lane. Single storey rear extension. No comments.

Rockleaze, High st. Revised plans. No comments.

Finances:

Current account **£3175.37**

Deposit account **£3476.81**

Payments made:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 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 |

Authorisations required:

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| K. Blackwell | – Salary (Feb/ March 2011) | £153.00 |
| A. Jones | – Litter collection (Feb/ March 2011) | £210.00 |
| Office Star | – Equipment for Memorial Hall | £1199.95 |
| LPE | – Allotment rent (at old rate) | £165.00 |
| GAPTC | – Membership renewal | £144.00 |

Payments Received

None

Next meeting Tuesday 24th May 2011 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.50p.m