

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 24th May 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Hall.

Present

Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.) (Chair), Jane O'Donnell, (J.O'D), Simon Newman (S.N.), Frankie Evans (F.E.), Lorna Coates (L.C.), Colin Newman (C.N.), (Councillors);
Terry Glastonbury (District). Karen Blackwell (K.B.), clerk.

Also present: Erica Sheppard-Aldecoa of the Lydney Youth Café.

Apologies

Marion Winship, Dan Wilce

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2011.

Agreed and signed as correct.

Presentation by Erica Sheppard-Aldecoa

As manager of the Youth Café in Newerne Street, Lydney, Erica attended the meeting to inform the council of the aims of the establishment & to request that it considers making a donation to the café. This facility, which opened in 2001 & has 160 members, will become more necessary as funding for the various youth clubs in the area is soon to cease altogether leaving young people with little to do outside school hours. The café is currently only open for 2 nights per week but it is hoped that with sufficient alternative funding this may be extended to 4 nights. It is generally well-regarded & well-utilised with local businesses being involved in a skills accreditation scheme.

Although it is difficult to gauge exactly how many Aylburton residents use this facility at the present time it is also accepted that this may well change in the future as funding for other amenities is further reduced. It was therefore agreed upon later discussion to award the café £50 towards a replacement Wii game.

District councillor reports:

Terry Glastonbury, recently re-elected to his post as District Councillor, reported that the Conservatives & the Independents are to work together within the District Council.

He also informed the meeting that Lydney police station is soon to close altogether with the police being located in the library in the future. Furthermore it is said that a greater police presence will be visible during the evening hours to reflect the fact that more crime occurs then. There will however be less police on duty during the day.

Presentation by Chair:

Councillor Bloomfield gave a brief presentation on the roles & duties of Councillors for the benefit of the 2 newest members of the Council. (A full copy of this is available to view on application to the clerk). M.B. also raised the issue of a Portfolio system being put in place for the future, whereby each councillor is assigned a particular area of interest or concern which they will monitor & follow. It is hoped that this will spread the work load more evenly whilst giving Councillors a clearer understanding of their roles & also wider issues which affect the workings of the Council. T.G. later said that this aspect would be more important in the future with the introduction of the Localism Bill.

The clerk was asked to obtain further copies of the Code of Conduct & the Good Councillors Guide.

Furthermore it was decided to approach Andy Jones again to ask if he is still interested in becoming a councillor. If so he can be co-opted to increase the number of Councillors serving the village.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Quick Wins grant

£2500 had been received from the FoDDC.

Millennium Wood / Electric Fences

No reported progress. K.B. to follow this matter up with LPE once more. Once the Wood deeds have been transferred to the Council it is hoped that publicising the facility locally will lead to an increase in usage.

With regard to the electric fences no further update was forthcoming. However LPE had assured the Council that the fences are actually rarely electrified & that in future they would attempt to make clear which ones are turned on.

Chapel Hill / Church road / Aylburton to Alvington footpath

A letter had been received from Brian Thornton in which he assured the Council that he would take action to ensure that the necessary works are carried out.

Millbrook seating

The clerk will contact Tudor Rose Carpentry for a quote to replace the seat at Millbrook Green.

Alternative Bank accounts & insurance providers

K.B. reported that due to interest rates generally being so poor at present there is little point in changing banks at this time. Also the choice in Lydney is limited, thus the Council account will remain with Lloyds for the time being as it is at least convenient.

The clerk had also been advised that to change insurance providers at this time may actually cost the Council money as there are only 4 months left on the current policy. This matter will be re-examined nearer renewal time in September.

Salt / gravel bins

Nothing to report at this stage.

Upper Common ditches

It was decided to ask if AUCA members might be willing to maintain the ditches i.e. clear them on a regular basis.

Orchard Close parking problems

PCSO Dan Wilce has monitored the situation & indeed found it to be unsatisfactory! However no further action has been taken or even recommended. The Council will press for a more detailed examination involving Police safety officers in the hope that this may elicit a more pro-active response.

Further to this it has been decided to look into the issue of parking in general within the village in more detail at a future meeting, perhaps liaising with the Hall committee to seek a resolution to the problem.

Carnival policing problems

The police have refused to help with the road closure for the procession which is obviously a disappointment to the organisers. However the road will be closed as usual but with a slightly shorter route being followed. The organisers are looking for volunteers to help with the marshalling.

New business;**Declaration of Interest forms**

These were issued to all councillors to complete & return to FoDDC whilst retaining a copy for the clerk's records.

Funds Transfer

It was agreed to transfer £7000 from the current to the savings account in order to maximise any available interest.

Charitable Donations

It was decided to put this item on to the July agenda.

Letter from Matt Harding re bridleway

The clerk had received a letter from Matt Harding in which he expressed concern that a bridleway on Upper Common is being used by four-by-four vehicles, rendering it almost impossible for use by pedestrians, thus affecting the quality of their lives. It was decided to pass this matter on to the Footpaths Agency to request their assistance.

Bus services review

Once again the local bus service is under review. Members of the public are invited to comment on the review in a number of ways. T.G. stressed the need for people to do this to increase the chances of keeping the local service at an acceptable level. K.B. was asked to write to Gloucester Council stating that their proposals are largely unacceptable. The Parish Council would like to involve as many local residents as possible & to this end will advertise the review locally to galvanise people into action. F.E. suggests that petitions be placed in both village pubs highlighting the need for action before it's too late.

Correspondence

#8476 to #8488 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

Planning:

Mill Farm, Lower Common. Some concern as to the shifting of the boundary stream. Clerk to write to Planning office to express this concern.

Finances:

Current account **£9528.42**

Deposit account **£3477.23**

Payments made:

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
Copy Cats	– Re. Appeal for Councillors / Election	£80.00
Copy Cats	– Ducktown Echo Printing (inv # 28)	£195.00

Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (April / May 2011at new rate)	£200.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses (Review AGM ad, postage)	£23.32
A. Jones	– Litter collection (April / May 2011)	£210.00
R. Morgan	– Grass cutting, inv# 66	£105.00
R. Morgan	– Grass cutting, inv# 72	£210.00
Bathurst Pool	– Donation	£200.00
Lydney Youth Cafe	– Donation	£50.00

Payments Received

Precept	2011-2012	£6000.00
FoDDC	Parish Plan Grant	£2500.00

Next meeting Tuesday 26th July 2011 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.25.m