

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 26th July 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.), Andy Jones (Councillors); Terry Glastonbury (T.G), Marion Winship (M.W) (District). Karen Blackwell (K.B.), clerk.

Apologies

None received.

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2011.

Agreed and signed as correct.

District councillor reports:

1. Marion Winship informed the meeting that the County Council plans to reduce the overall number of councillors for the district by 10, & to put Aylburton under the umbrella of Lydney, This causes her some concern. It was also stated that 1 councillor will be lost from the FoDDC following the next election. The Parish Council will await the outcome.
2. M.W. went on to discuss the possible forest "sell-off" which will be decided upon by a Forestry panel. This matter also causes some concern as Clanna woods are likely to be excluded from the protection given by this panel. A website is available detailing the proposals via the FoDDC site. Again, the P/C will wait to see how this unfolds in the future.
3. With regard to the local bus service it is highly likely that this will be reduced yet further. However more community transport should be available. There is some confusion & concern as to where the £500m from Central Government, earmarked to help with this issue, is being spent as it's certainly not in this area!
4. A hoax call had been received by police stating that a 4 year old girl was missing from the village. Obviously the nature of the call meant that resources were utilised to assist in the search, meaning that those services were unavailable for genuine emergencies.
5. T.G. raised the matter of the Southern Cross care homes in the area of which there are currently 2, Hygrove & Sedbury Park. Each has received a good report as to the level of care given & it is hoped that the wider issues surrounding the management of these homes will be resolved by this Autumn.
6. The bus station in Hams road, Lydney, will hopefully be taken over by Dial-A-Ride in the near future & a link to the train station has been proposed. It is also hoped that those eligible to do so will be able to use their bus passes on the service.
7. With regard to the matter of library closures a decision is still pending the results of an ongoing judicial review.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Chapel Hill / Church road /Aylburton to Alvington footpath

Despite numerous letters & e-mails being sent to Highways requesting action absolutely no progress has been made! It was agreed that K.B. should write a further letter of complaint to area manager Jenny Wilks in the hope that this may elicit a response.

Millbrook seating

Tudor Carpentry had provided a quote of £450 for a replacement seat, using locally sourced oak. This was thought to be reasonable but following the announcement that a local garden centre is having a sale of such items it was decided that M.B. would investigate further.

Salt / gravel bins

This item is to be removed from the agenda until further notice.

Upper Common ditches

K.B. had failed to ask AUCA for their help in this matter, therefore the issue is still pending.

Orchard Close parking problems

This is an ongoing issue & the clerk will contact PCSO Dan Wilce again asking for an official report to back up calls for yellow lines to be placed on the road.

Furthermore, L.C. suggests that the worst offenders are in fact local people not wishing to be seen leaving the pub. Other suggestions made as to resolving this problem include leaflet drops & notice posting on offending cars.

In a similar vein the issue of cars parking outside the Cascade building was raised. These cars are placed there with For Sale notices on them, which may constitute a change of use/ planning

permission required problem. K.B. was asked to write to LPE asking if it is aware that the area is being used in such a way.

Charitable requests

The chair reiterated the fact that the policy of this P/C is to support only local charities. To this end a number of local concerns were chosen to receive varying amounts, the details of which will be shown in the finance report following.

Upper Common bridleway / stiles

The clerk had contacted the Footpaths department at County but so far no progress has been made. A further letter to Peter Maunder of Footpaths will be issued.

Bus Services

See District Councillor reports above.

New Business

Co-Option of Andy Jones.

Andy Jones was welcomed as the newest member of the council & advised of his duties & responsibilities as well as his limitations as to voting power. Andy forwarded the suggestion that in the future the council spends more money on local projects, an idea which is very much in keeping with the Parish Plan.

Portfolios

Following the decision by M.B. to introduce this system the following portfolios were assigned:

Amenities & Leisure: Lorna Coates & Colin Newman.

Environment: Frankie Evans & Simon Newman.

Finance: Jane O'Donnell & Maurice Bloomfield.

Governance & Communications: Maurice Bloomfield.

Roads & Transport: Simon Newman, Maurice Bloomfield, Andy Jones.

The chair was keen to stress that the assignation of these portfolios is not to force those councillors into becoming experts in their areas, but rather to share the workload more evenly whilst hopefully encouraging interest in all matters which affect the Parish.

The Amenities portfolio is to take on decisions referring to upkeep of the village bus shelters. Russell George has once again cleaned the shelter on the High street & the clerk was asked to write to thank him for this work. Andy Jones has offered to paint the shelters as & when required.

Kear's Moor allotments

K.B. is to ask LPE to clear the area & make good the surrounding fencing etc. It was also suggested that the issue of no running water being available be put to LPE in the hope that they may agree to provide this in the future.

Village Agent

F.E. offered to contact Richard Skinner, local village agent, & invite him to attend a meeting to explain how he may help village residents with various issues.

E-on "Power out" packs

It was agreed to advertise the availability of the packs in a future edition of the Ducktown Echo.

Fly tipping

Andy asked that concerns over fly tipping in the area be directed to him as he has a contact willing to help with this matter.

Correspondence

#8489 to #8505 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

Planning: None received

Finances: Current account **£1786.10**

Deposit account **£10,477.67**

Payments made:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (April / May 2011)	£200.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses (postage & Review Ad)	£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
Friends of Bathurst Pool	– Donation	£200.00
Lydney Youth Cafe	– Donation	£50.00

Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (June / July 2011)	£200.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (June/July 2011)	£210.00
R. Morgan	– Grass cutting, inv#91	£210.00
Moore Stephens Accountants	– Audit fee	£144.00
AUCA	–Grant (part 1)	£375.00
FoD C.A.B	–Donation	£50.00
S.A.R.A	– Donation	£50.00
Dial-A-Ride	– Donation	£30.00
Victoria Centre	– Donation	£30.00
Memorial Garden Fund	– Donation	£30.00
Great Oaks Hospice	– Donation	£30.00
Methodist Chapel fund	– Donation	£30.00

Payments Received

Allotment rent	£231.00
Shooting rights, Lydney Park Estate	£25.00

Next meeting Tuesday 27th September 2011 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.40pm