

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 2nd October 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Hall.

Present

Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.) (Chair), Colin Newman (C.N.), Jane O'Donnell (J.O'D), Andy Jones (A.J.), (Councillors); Karen Blackwell (K.B.), clerk. Marion Winship (M.W), Terry Glastonbury (T.G.), District.

Apologies

Simon Newman (S.N), Lorna Coates (L.C.), Frankie Evans (F.E)

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2012

Agreed and signed as a true record.

District councillor reports:

M.W told the Parish Council that the highly contentious issue of badger culling will be banned on FoDDC land.

The changing of Whitecross School to an academy will not affect the status of the leisure centre & its facilities. T.G. added that £800,000 will be spent in the Forest on leisure facilities in the near future & that the Five Acres site is also to be looked into for future development.

M.W. went on to say that the election (which will occur on 15/11/12)for the new police commissioner, has been woefully under-publicised considering the far-reaching implications of this role, i.e huge amounts of power & ultimate control of the police budget. It is therefore vital that the right person is elected! She stated that any help the P/C could offer to publicise the election would be gratefully received. K.B. has received posters which she will place in the village notice boards to raise the profile of the election. & encourage voters to exercise their rights.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Church yard shed removal

M.B. reported that he had been informed that the council will require planning permission to site a new shed in the church yard, at a cost of £120 to apply for this! He will put this to the Parochial Church Council to gauge their feelings on this matter.

A further problem with this issue is that the shed will need to be placed on a sturdy load-bearing base as it is where the P/C hopes to store the salt/ grit for use in the cold weather. A.J. offered to research how best to proceed. M.M. will give the go-ahead for construction to a local company, Supreme Sheds & Summerhouses, in Bream.

Two Rivers garages proposals

C.N. suggested that the P/C waits until Two Rivers actually applies for planning permission to carry out any work before the council decides how to proceed. M.B. offered to talk to the planning office with regard to this matter.

Millennium Wood

Now with P/C solicitors (Francis Law, Lydney).

Footpaths

M.B. & C.N. had met with LPE farm manager Gavin Green to discuss various issues including the poor condition of the footpaths which cross LPE land. They both reported that it had been a productive & worthwhile meeting with Mr Green appearing keen to address the problems by discussing them with the estate manager Robert Frankton.

General roads / pavements issues

C.N. reports that the pavement outside John Ridley's house on the High St needs replacing as it has been damaged by floods.

M.B. is due to meet with Brian Watkins of Glos. Highways on 03/10/12 in order to highlight the total lack of progress in the remedial work required in terms of weeds growing through pavements, damaged pavements etc. With reference to weeds it appears that in future the P/C will be expected to procure the services of a third party to deal with this matter as Glos Highways has, under a new plan for the community, actually ensured it does less than ever for the community! This will necessitate employing a weed-killer specialist with a licence to kill (*Sorry, couldn't resist that one!*) using a spray. M.B. will ask B.W. about the cost of such sprays & certificates etc. He will also ask about the Sandford road banks which are in a poor, possibly dangerous condition due to erosion. It had been believed that these would be the responsibility of LPE but Gavin Green thinks this is not the case.

Furthermore the matter of a water supply for the Kear's Moor allotments was raised but once again met with little success. LPE suggests that Severn Trent is approached to connect a supply but this would in all likelihood be prohibitively expensive. C.N. wants to know why it seems to be impossible to utilise the existing water supply.

Allotment agreements / letters

K.B. will ascertain the national average rental cost per square metre & send out letters & agreements to all allotment holders, clarifying their rights & those of the council.

New Business:

Millbrook Green bank & tree

Ray Woodward will deal with the overgrown Willow tree which is on his land. Andy Jones has done some work on it & is willing to do more as necessary. Mr Woodward has also stated that he wishes to leave some overgrown areas as wildlife havens.

Funds Transfer

It was agreed to transfer £2000 from the deposit account to the current to meet expenditure.

Dog waste, Milling Crescent

Mrs Elaine Bailey, a resident of Milling Crescent, had contacted the clerk to discuss the problem of dog waste on the green area, & asked about the possibility of placing a dog waste bin there to help alleviate the problem. The clerk had advised Mrs Bailey to compile a dossier of evidence which can be used to encourage the street wardens to help. This is possibly another matter for Two Rivers to deal with & K.B. will attempt to get clarification on this.

Flood defences, High St

It was agreed that these seem to be working effectively.

Pedestrian crossing

The clerk had been approached by a village resident concerned by the lack of a safe place to cross the main road. This has long been an issue for the Parish Council & sadly is unlikely to be resolved any time soon. M.B. reported that until there has been a fatality due to the current situation, the process of placing any sort of crossing will not even be examined.

PCSO presence

The clerk was asked to contact PCSO Dan Wilce, inviting him to attend the next meeting or at least provide a report which could be discussed.

Portfolio reports:

Nothing to report at this time.

Correspondence:

Items from #8622 to #8639 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

Planning

No planning applications had been received.

Finances: Current account **£1,298.10** Deposit account **£9,480.79**

Payments made:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (June / July 2012)	£200.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses, postage (Audit)	£6.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (June/ July 2012)	£210.00
FoDDC	– Election expenses	£150.00
Moore Stephens	– Audit fee	162.00
M. Blackwell	– Website hosting & maintenance	£250.00
AUCA	– Grant, instalment # 1	£375.00
R Morgan	– Grass cutting invoices 8, 12	£429.00
Zurich Insurance	– Annual renewal	£468.63

Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Aug / Sept 2012)	£200.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Aug/ Sept 2012)	£210.00
AUCA	– Grant, instalment # 2	£375.00

Payments Received

K. Blackwell	*Overpayment of Insurance	£132.50
Allotment rents		£20.00
FoDDC	Street cleaning remit	£1,260.00

Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.