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Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 26th November 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Hall.

Present

Councillors: Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.) (Chair), Colin Newman (C.N.), Andy Jones (A.J.), Simon Newman (S.N.).
Clerk: Karen Blackwell (K.B.)
Also present: Marion Winship & Terry Glastonbury, District

Apologies

Frankie Evans (F.E.), Jane O'Donnell (JO'D).

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2013

Agreed as accurate & signed by the Chairman.

District Council reports

M.W. reported that she had attended a meeting of the Police & Crime panel. A Commissioner's fund has been initiated which identifies 5 priorities under which funding for the community may be applied for.

With regard to the commonly known "Store Wars" debate it is still unclear as to which company will ultimately receive planning permission to build in Lydney.

The wind turbine application is still pending.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Millennium Wood

M.B. had informed Lydney Park Estate of the Council's decision NOT to take on the lease at this time.

The Gables / footpath

Colin Newman had spoken to Peter Maunder at the Footpaths Agency but the advice received is unhelpful to say the least. The Agency is unwilling to commit to helping with this matter as changes in the near future may lead to the Agency ceasing to exist in its present form. C.N. had been told that the gate attached to The Gables garden would have to be removed as it is not approved, & that to move the footpath (an option to be considered) would cost approx. £2000! This advice will be passed on to those concerned.

Grass Cutting

A map has been produced, showing all areas which need to be maintained, for the use of those applying for the grass cutting contract. This will be issued to all interested parties & the resulting quotes to be considered at a later meeting. The P/C will decide on the frequency of cuts etc. once K.B. has ascertained the frequency with which Highways are actually meant to perform the task of cutting the verges.

In the meantime the clerk will check on insurance cover & also ask Glos. Highways if any special permissions need to be applied for. M.B. also asked K.B. to attempt to contact Rich Cole contractors again to gauge his interest in applying for the Tender.

Milling Brook / willow tree etc

Andy Jones has completed some of the work needed on clearing Milling Brook & also cutting back the Willow tree on the green.

New Business:

Old Road / bank

A.J. has contacted Glos. Highways regarding the overgrown condition of the bank opposite the Stockwell Lane entrance, as well as raising the issue of the blocked drains & gulleys in the village. He had been informed that both of these matters would receive attention at some point...

Precept

Given that the P/C must now undertake much of the work previously done by external agencies with regard to weeding / grass cutting etc., it was decided to err on the side of caution & apply for £8000 for the coming year. It is hoped that this, combined with the reserves currently held, will allow the Council to meet all necessary expenditure. It is also to be hoped that once all likely expenditure has been finalised the precept may be able to be decreased in the future thus minimising the cost to village residents whilst providing an acceptable level of service.

Portfolio reports

M.B had attended an ADPD (Allocations Development Plan Document) Evidence workshop with a view to identifying possible development sites within the Parish. Much work would be involved in taking this further but it was generally agreed that the P/C needs to be amore pro-active in these matters & so will take advice on how to proceed.

C.N. asked that the clerk contact the owner of a High Street property which has ivy over-hanging the pavement, causing problems for pedestrians.

Colin also stated that he will take on the recently-vacated allotment on Kear's Moor. K.B. is to check with Severn Trent as to whether the pumping station on the site could be utilised to provide a water supply for use by the allotment holders.

Correspondence:

#8723 – 8730 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

Planning: 44 Sandford Rd, Use of materials.

Finances: Current account **£3189.25** Deposit account **£6486.20**

Payments made:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Aug / Sept)	£200.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses (Review Ad, Tenders for grass cutting)	£33.60
M. Blackwell	– Website hosting costs / Domain reg.	£98.21
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Aug / Sept)	£210.00
A. Jones	– Allotments clearing / Brook etc	£60.00
AUCA	– Grant, 2 nd instalment	£375.00
Royal British Legion	– Poppy wreaths x 2	£60.00

Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Oct/Nov)	£200.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Oct/Nov)	£210.00

Payments Received:

NONE

The meeting closed at 8.35p.m.

Next meeting 28th January 2014