

-

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 28th January 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Hall.

Present

Councillors: Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.) (Chair), Colin Newman (C.N.), Andy Jones (A.J.), Frankie Evans (F.E.), Jane O'Donnell (JO'D), Lorna Coates (L.C.).
Clerk: Karen Blackwell (K.B.)
Also present: Marion Winship, District

Apologies

Simon Newman, Terry Glastonbury.

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2013

One correction required; L.C. asked that the "Apologies for absence" be amended to reflect her apology sent by e-mail. K.B. to do. Otherwise all correct & signed by the Chairman.

District Council reports

M.W. informed those present that there is to be no reduction in police numbers in the Forest Of dean & that Coleford will remain the police hub for the area.

She also asked that the Council look out for a questionnaire, either on-line or hard copy, regarding the towns of the Forest & possible ways to improve them. The responses will be passed on to Town Councils & retailers.

There is still no further news on the wind turbine application & M.W. advised that there is unlikely to be any before the Summer.

The District Council appears to be maintaining its stance that it does not want an official Policy on renewable energy, but will instead rely on national policy. However, the Inspector says that this is unsatisfactory, & M.W. will herself keep pushing for a formal Policy to be adopted by the D/C.

The recent heavy rains have not unduly affected this area as no serious flooding has been reported, although surface water has been a problem. Early February will see the biggest Severn bores for many years which may in turn lead to increased problems.

Matters arising from the minutes:

The Gables / footpath

The clerk was asked to write again to Sue & Malcolm Powell reiterating the advice received from the Footpaths Agency.

Grass Cutting

Further to the receipt of 4 Tenders for the Grass cutting contract, the clerk had ascertained that Richard Cole (contractor) currently cuts the verges on the approach to the village from Lydney twice a year on behalf of LTC. It is possible that this may be cancelled & that the P/C could ask LTC for the money instead & have the work done by another party.

K.B. gave out copies of all tenders received thus far & will call a meeting to discuss the matter once all interested parties have responded.

Overgrown bank / gulleys & drains

A.J had reported that the bank opposite Stockwell Lane was overgrown. This has now been rectified. However, the blocked drains & gulleys in the village remain so & K.B. will approach Brian Watkins again to ask that these be remedied.

Over-hanging ivy, High St.

This has now been successfully dealt with by the householder.

New Business:

ADPD

With regard to the ADPD (Allocations Development Plan Document) a list of possible development sites in the village has been devised. M.B. will probably call a further meeting to discuss this matter in more detail but in the meantime will complete the early paperwork & request assistance from the Planning department at FoDDC. M.W. asks that the Council be aware that ultimately all decisions relating to planning will probably still rest with the District Council.

The potential to expand Taurus crafts is currently being investigated, although this is of course slightly outside the village settlement boundary. C.N. asks when this boundary was settled & the clerk will attempt to discover this! It may also be of benefit to find out how the duration of the scope of the new plan. It was agreed that it is important to safeguard the future of the village insofar as is possible.

School Federate status

This will proceed fairly quickly as there are no real grounds for waiting. Both schools will benefit from a more cohesive Governing body as well as benefitting financially. There are still some doubts & concerns as to the future of Aylburton School, with some people fearing that it will simply become a satellite to Lydney CofE School & indeed in time cease to exist in its current form. However, K.B. had attended a meeting at which she had posed those questions & was assured that this would not be the case.

First World War anniversary

Lorna Coates raised the possibility of commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1 by placing a frame surrounded by many poppies at the Memorial hall. The Royal British Legion will not charge for the poppies but instead requests a donation is made to the appeal. Permission will need to be granted by the hall trustees in order to place the frame on the building itself. An attempt will be made to research those from the village who gave their lives in the conflict. F.E. suggested that a more permanent memorial such as a plaque be commissioned but it was argued that due to the likely cost of this, it would instead be better to improve the current hangings for the annual wreaths.

It was agreed that the P/C would give Lorna's suggestion its full support & make a suitable financial contribution in due course.

Flood defence meeting: M.B. had attended a meeting on 22nd January, at which the main topic of discussion was the problem of flooding in the Lakeside Drive etc. area of Lydney. The River Lyd has been cleared in places though there is still more work to be done with regards to culverts & drainage issues. More pertinent to Aylburton perhaps is the issue of potential problems with a sewage pumping station which borders Parish land.

New Gas line: Mr John Harrison had approached the Council for help in trying to get a main gas line connected to the village. He had been told by Central Networks that if enough residents are interested it may be possible at some point. M.B. will negotiate with LPE as to the laying of a pipe over estate land.

Notice board: F.E. asks that the clerk seeks permission from the Hall trustees to place a notice board in the Hall which is to be kept solely for Parish Council business. K.B. will contact John Ridley in the first instance.

Portfolio reports:

Salt: C.N. has taken delivery of 40 bags of salt to be used with the spreader purchased last year. Ray Woodward has offered to help with storage & Andy Jones will liaise with Colin to facilitate this.

Potholes: The potholes opposite John Ridley's property have been filled but more appear on a daily basis & Brian Watkins was supposed to be reporting back to Maurice, on this & many other matters, in time for tonight's meeting. No such report materialised! K.B. to raise the matter with B.W. .

Flashing speed sign: M.B. had reported the failure of the flashing sign at the village entrance & had been told that an engineer will visit the site to assess the work needed. However, this engineer may be sent out from Norwich so this will probably entail a lengthy wait!

Berkeley site meeting: M.B. is to attend a meeting on "9th January & report back to the Council at the March meeting.

Correspondence:

#8731 – 8736 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

Planning: Marstan, Wesley Close Alterations / extension

Finances: Current account **£2569.25** Deposit account **£6487.01**

Payments made:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Oct/Nov)	£200.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Oct / Nov)	£210.00
Whitehouse Press Ltd	– Inv # 020104 newsletters x 380	£150.00

Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Dec / Jan)	£200.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Dec / Jan)	£210.00

Payments Received:

Western Power	– Way leave	£6.08
---------------	-------------	-------

The clerk left the meeting at 8.25p.m.