

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 25th November 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Hall.

Present

Councillors: Colin Newman (C.N.), Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.), Lorna Coates (L.C.), Frankie Evans (F.E.), John Harrison (J.H.), Andy Jones (A.J.), Karen Blackwell, Clerk (K.B.), Marion Winship (M.W).

Apologies

Simon Newman (S.N.), Terry Glastonbury.

District Council reports

M.W. informed the meeting that LPE is seeking to extend the Aylburton Business Park, as well as hoping to build some housing in the area.

There will be essential maintenance carried out on the A48 in Feb. 2015 which will directly affect the village. It is hoped that this will be better thought-out than the recent closure along Sandford Hill which brought such misery to many residents, the majority of whom are still suffering the after-effects of an ill-devised scheme. K.B. has written to Amey seeking assurance that those mistakes will not be repeated.

M.W. also told those present that mobile police speed-check vehicles will be out in force over the coming weeks, in the run-up to Christmas.

Council-based Community grants will be available in the New Year & the clerk will seek to find out if any may be suitable for the P/C to apply for.

The District Council is hoping to save money by sharing some services with other Councils in the area, i.e. Oxon. Glos. & the Cotswolds.

Finally, the D/C is to make some funding available for the badger vaccination programme.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Church yard trees etc

It was agreed to obtain further quotes for the work to be done. K.B. will approach Ray Woodward & A.J. may also provide a quote.

The tree surgeon previously approached is now qualified to give an assessment, maximum price of £80 to do so.

Milling Brook path

This has now been cleared by A.J. but the clerk was asked to contact the relevant house-holders to reiterate the need to keep clear all areas which adjoin public pathways. This is a legal requirement & as such the P/C is entitled to carry out the work & invoice the individual responsible.

Bollards

M.B. & Alan Edwards usually undertake to tidy the area around the Cross prior to the Carnival, on a voluntary basis. The flagstones were laid in the 1990's by the P/C under the Chairmanship of Roy Mills, thus they are the responsibility of the P/C to maintain. C.N. suggests a site visit to assess what needs to be done & J.H. suggested that the village as a whole would benefit from a walk-about by the Councillors in this vein.

The bench however is the property of the W.I & the clerk will contact Kath Harris to ask if they would arrange to have the bench maintained. L.C. & F.E. offered to do the work if necessary, with the Council paying for any materials required.

Dog waste, Milling Crescent

L.C. reported that despite the provision of a dog waste bin this area is still suffering from a problem with dog mess on the paths. K.B. will approach the Street Wardens to ask for help.

Allotments

It was agreed that should the P/C need to hire a digger to do essential clearing etc on the Kear's Moor site, this cost would be passed on to the allotment holders. M.B. offered to approach Mike Gerrish to see if he would be prepared to do the work.

New Business:

Precept Request

After much deliberation it was agreed to request a Precept of £11,500 for the next financial year. This is considerably higher than in previous years, as it is recognised that the Council will have increased expenses to meet in the coming months. These include local election costs & the necessary work in the Church yard.

F.E. asked that a sum be budgeted for & set aside annually for "Repairs & Renewals". K.B. will do this in future.

Defibrillator

John Ridley had asked the P/C to consider the purchase of a defibrillator for use in the village. K.B. will research costs etc & report back at the next meeting.

Sandford Road

Following the recent road works on Sandford Hill & the absence of suitable diversion signage, Sandford Road, among others, is now in an appalling condition. The clerk was asked to write to the contractors Amey citing all failures in foresight & management, & stressing the need for such mistakes to be avoided in future, as well as the need to make some sort of reparation to those residents who suffered damage to their vehicles & properties during the work.

Garden Club

A letter had been received from Gaynor Cook, secretary to the village gardening club, in which the P/C was asked for help with further planting in the area. It was decided to arrange a meeting between members of the Council, Glos. Highways & the garden club to see what can be achieved. A cultivation licence may need to be obtained.

FoD Road Safety liaison group

This issue will be placed on hold for now as the work done by Ray Woodward may achieve the aims anyway.

K.B. was asked to copy the tool-kit provided & send to all Councillors.

Upper Common stone walls

Once again the issue of maintenance on the Upper Common stone walling has been raised & the matter of ascertaining responsibility for this must be dealt with. There may be grants available to help with the costs; K.B. to research this.

Upper Common dog-waste bin

There is a need for a dog-waste bin at the Upper Common site. The bin sited at Milling Crescent appears to be under-utilised therefore the clerk will ask Merlin Waste management if a) this is the case & b) if it can be moved to limit the expense involved.

Salt storage

As Colin Newman will be moving from Tump Farm it will be necessary to find alternative storage for the Council's salt supplies.

The salt spreader is currently stored at Ray Woodward's house.

Allotments

There are still spare allotments remaining on the Upper Common site. A resident of Stockwell Lane has taken on one of the Kear's Moor plots.

Victoria Centre request for donation

It was agreed to donate £75 to this very worthy cause which is supported by Councillor Lorna Coates.

Correspondence:

#8779 onwards & e-mail items, dealt with as appropriate

Planning: Ashton Gale, Upper Common. Conservatory replacement.

Finances: Current account **£4096.90** Deposit account **£6488.64**

Payments made:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Aug/Sept)	£200.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Aug/Sept)	£210.00
Zurich Insurance	– Annual Renewal	£420.85
Merlin Waste Management	– Milling Crescent dog waste bins	£30.51
Whitehouse Press Ltd	– Echo, Inv 021053	£150.00
Royal British Legion	– Poppy Wreaths x 2	£50.00
Simply Gardens	– Inv 2056	£440.00
Simply Gardens	– Inv 2057	£220.00

Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Oct / Nov)	£200.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses	£20.34
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Oct / Nov)	£210.00
AUCA	– Grant, part 2	£375.00

Payments Received:

Allotment rents	£48.00
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The meeting closed at 8.50p.m