

Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Hall.

Present

Councillors: Colin Newman (C.N.), (Chairman), Frankie Evans (F.E.), Dave Bayliss (D.B), John Harrison (J.H.), Steph Lord (S.L.), Ray Woodward (R.W.), Andrew Blamey (A.B.), Karen Blackwell, (K.B.), Clerk

No apologies were sent.

Previous Minutes

Agreed & signed as true & accurate.

District Council reports

F.E. provided the meeting with a brief report including the following items:

The Allocations plan will go to the Secretary of State to be signed off once all queries from the Consultation period have been satisfactorily dealt with.

There will be an amalgamation of inter-Council services, in order to meet budget costs, which will be known as the 20:20 Vision.

Local leisure services & centres are under review as only 1 of the 5 centres currently runs at a profit. An outside agency is likely to be brought in to increase the profitability of all 5 and if this fails, closure will be the likely outcome for at least some of the centres.

F.E. also reiterated (with regard to the boar problem) that the Forestry Commission is only responsible for public forest areas & not the villages.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Wild Boar problem

Kevin Stannard had spoken at a meeting of the Scrutiny committee (23rd July) regarding this problem. K.B. will look at the minutes of the meeting to assess their relevance to this Parish. Please also see above comment from FE.

Defibrillator

Pending. Grant application to be submitted. Other funding to be researched.

Adopt-A-Kiosk

The clerk was able to assure F.E. that the original paint would be provided by BT on the completion of the adoption. F.E. also requested that a copy of the contract be sent to her; KB to do so.

Tree Planting

R.W. had spoken to Brian Watkins & has an e-mail detailing the planned areas & tree-type specifics. A cultivation licence will be needed which the P/C can apply for free of charge. Ray is now waiting to get final confirmation from Amey that the work can proceed.

New Business:

Knot weed

S.L. asked K.B. to contact Amey regarding the growth of Japanese knot weed along the banks & verges of the surrounding areas as there is a legal obligation for them to take remedial action.

Upper Common allotments

R.W. reported that the paths & verges on the site are very overgrown & require some urgent attention. The idea of a working party was suggested with Ray, Dave & Colin offering to do the work. K.B. was asked to contact Andy Jones to ascertain his willingness to continue with the maintenance he is meant to be doing. Ray will take this job over (through his company) if Andy doesn't wish to continue.

Sadly the newly-supplied gate leading on to the allotments is too small to fit large machinery through! This means that the area formerly cultivated by Bill Baker, currently untended, will be that much more difficult to maintain. Ray has kindly offered to take the area on with the idea that he can keep bees on it at some point in the future (with the area being fenced off for safety reasons). Other suggestions as to the use of the land i.e. perhaps a Heritage orchard / community fruit growing / picnic area were also made & these will be examined at a later date. It was suggested that the local transitions group be approached for advice.

Ray also requested that a plan of the site & individual allotment holders be sent to him which KB will do. With regard to the plots which are under-used or poorly maintained A.B. suggests that old carpet pieces be laid over the areas to keep weed growth to a minimum.

KB will also approach LPE again to discuss the need for a water supply at both allotments sites. AB suggests that a self-stopping tap be considered.

Church yard tree

C.N. had spoken to John Court & been told that the Parochial Council may help with the costs of any necessary work. Collin had also gauged local feeling & found there to be no opposition to the removal of the tree. KB will speak to the planning department at FoDDC to check whether planning permission is

required. Although tree surgeons have (in the past couple of years) deemed the tree to be sound there are possible concerns regarding the foundations of the Church being affected by roots.

KB will ask 3 companies to quote for the work. C.N suggests LPE be approached & FE will provide the name of a company she knows. KB will also ask Alvington P/C whom they use for their church yard tree maintenance.

Annual Audit

The clerk was pleased to announce that the external auditor has declared the annual return as satisfactory. The accompanying invoice from Grant Thornton Associates for £120.00 will be duly paid.

Millbrook path

Dave Bayliss reported that the path between Milling Crescent & Millbrook Green is once again almost impassable due to overhanging shrubs / brambles etc originating from an adjacent garden. KB will contact the home owner & request that they take remedial steps to clear the offending foliage.

Declarations of Interest

FE asked that this category be added to all future agendas as per official Council meeting guidelines. The clerk will ensure that this is done.

Correspondence:

#8836 – 8844 & e-mail items, dealt with as appropriate.

Planning:

Finances: Current account **£4747.35** Deposit Account **£6491.90**

Payments made:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Apr / May)	£200.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses,postage/phone	£20.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Apr / May)	£210.00
Merlin Waste Management	– Apr / May	£27.12

Authorisations required:

K. Blackwell	– Salary (June / July)	£200.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses,postage	£20.00
A. Jones– Litter collection (June / July)		£210.00
Merlin Waste Management	– June / July	£13.56
Lydney Town Council	– Cemetery upkeep,donation	£220.00
Mike Blackwell	– Website maintenance / domain reg.	£112.12
Grant Thonton	– Audit charge	£120.00

Payments Received:

FoDDC	Litter Remit	£630.00
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Next meeting: Tuesday 29th September

The meeting closed at 8.45pm