

AYLBURTON PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2019, 7.00pm in Aylburton Methodist Church Hall

PRESENT: Cllr. Steph Lord (Chairman)
 Cllr. Frankie Evans (Vice-Chairman)
 Cllr. Colin Newman
 Cllr. John Harrison
 Cllr. Ray Woodward

ATTENDING: Cllr. David Bayliss
 Meg Humphries (Clerk)
 Sandra Rickards, Aylburton WI
 Michelle Ireland, Aylburton Methodist Church + colleague
 Mark Westwood, Group Leader, Aylburton + Lydney + colleague
 Brian Rickards, parishioner

No/Ref	Item/Notes	Action
1. 01.19/20	Welcome and apologies Cllr Blamey sent his apologies, which were accepted.	
2. 02.19/20	Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2018. Approved, and signed by Cllr Lord.	
3. 03.19/20	Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report Available from the Clerk on request or from www.aylburton.net/minutes	
4. 04.19/20	<p>Reports from Local Organisations The following organisations gave their reports, summarised below and in some cases available at www.aylburton.net/minutes</p> <p>Sandra Rickards, WI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 marks the centenary of Aylburton WI which is an outstanding achievement. • They are keen to involve the community more and are putting on numerous events throughout the year, the next of which is a cream tea on 1st June. • In July the WI will have a presence and stall at the Aylburton Carnival. • Plan to plant tree with commemorative plaque • Finale of the centenary celebrations will be on 10th December at Lydney Park Hall • The membership levels are at a healthy 32 members but they are keen to welcome any new members – IT skills especially welcome! <p>Michelle Ireland, Methodist Minister for Aylburton Methodist Church (and 4 other nearby Methodist churches)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services happen every Sunday at 10.30, and extra services to mark special days. • On Sunday 28th July Richard Atkins from BBC Radio Gloucestershire will be leading a 'Songs of Praise' service. • This year the church contributed to numerous charities, including Action for Children and James Hopkins Trust. • There is a group of 'knitting ladies', monthly coffee mornings, Messy Church. • Strong links with Aylburton Primary School to host the end-of-term services. • The church took part in a very successful WW1 event on the playing field in August 2018. • The church ceiling has been fixed, with work to the building's exterior being considered over the coming year. <p>Mark Westwood, Group Leader, Aylburton + Lydney</p>	

- Running originally as two separate groups, 1st Aylburton and 1st Lydney, the joint 1st Aylburton and Lydney Scout Group was registered in 1922, the group is the oldest in the Forest.
- Teaches skills for life for girls and boys aged 6 to 14.5
- Very well attended, over 100 young people – in fact, restarted the Woolaston group a few years ago to accommodate demand and clear the waiting list.
- From September to Easter, the Beavers Colonies, 6 to 8 year olds, meet in Aylburton Memorial Hall and in Primrose Hill School, one Cub Pack, 8 to 10 1/2, and Scouts, 10 1/2 to 14, meet in Severnbanks School, and the other Cub pack meets in Primrose Hill school.
- The group attracts newcomers of all ages, including, perhaps surprisingly, newcomers in the 10-14 age bracket who have never tried Scouting before. The group has a good reputation, we recruit by word of mouth rather than advertising, and the exciting activities such as bushcraft, canoeing, climbing and abseiling helps to make our activities attractive
- There are around 20 registered adult helpers, across the group, who are all volunteers.
- We have a trip to the Netherlands in summer 2019, with 10 of the 50 scouts from the Forest coming from 1st Aylburton and Lydney. Two former A&L scouts have raised over £4500 to go to the USA for the 4-yearly World Jamboree.
- As usual all meetings in the summer term will be taking place outside, in Lydney Deer Park, courtesy of Viscount Bledisloe.

Aylburton C of E Primary School – written report from Rachel Dare, Headteacher.

This has been another very successful year for Aylburton Church of England Primary School. Pupil numbers have risen and the school has been at its full capacity of seventy. The Federation with Lydney C of E Primary School continues to bring advantages to both schools in terms of academic progress, staffing, finances and resources.

Pam Bendall retired last week after 29 years of excellent service as school secretary to both Aylburton School and community. We wish her well for the future.

The school has recently completed a building project to create new accessible toilet facilities and a smart new kitchen and cookery area. The pupils are enjoying using our new laptops and taking part in KNex challenges to develop their science and technology skills.

Aylburton C of E School is very proud to have recently been designated as an Inspire Maths Advocate School for Oxford University Press. This followed a rigorous assessment of Maths teaching and learning at the school and recognises the high standards being achieved. Aylburton will now help other schools across the country to raise standards in Maths.

We will be trialling a Breakfast Club after Easter from 8am each morning. This will become a regular feature if there is enough support for the venture.

Once again the children were honoured to take part in reading the names of fallen soldiers on Armistice Day at the war memorial. We continue to be very grateful for the community's support with grass cutting at the school and for the help received at events such as sports' day and other local activities. We will be asking for community involvement as we celebrate the school's 150th year and would be very pleased to hear from past pupils and to receive photos, stories or old school reports.

	<p>Forest Exiles Cricket Club – newsletter sent (see www.aylburton.net/minutes for the full newsletter), in summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All matches played with commitment and enthusiasm; runners-up in the GCCF Premier League and semi-finalists in the midweek league. • Season finished with a memorable tour to Newcastle. • Junior cricket also got up and running and with a massive improvement in everyone's game. • Thanks to all the 'behind the scenes' people maintaining the field and offering refreshments and other support. • Club was able to buy a large mobile net thanks to several donations. • 2019 will be a very busy year for the club, with funding currently being secured for several projects and a feasibility study on building a pavilion on the field. • The club are looking for volunteers to help with groundwork, tea rota duties and fundraising to name a few. Contact the Chairman, Mark Howells, at Markhowells37@gmail.com if you can help. 	
5. 05.19/20	<p>Annual Financial Report Available from the Clerk on request or from www.aylburton.net/minutes</p>	
6. 06.19/20	<p>Open Forum <i>Sandra Rickards asked the question: 'Why is Aylburton Parish Council increase so much more compared to Alvington at 6% and Woolaston at 4.5%?'</i> The Clerk and Chairman explained that over the years the increase in precept had been too low and therefore reserves had been compromised. The Clerk also outlined how Alvington was fortunate to benefit from a strong community of volunteers who resulted in significant savings owing to carrying out grass-cutting and repairs on assets. Chairman stated that this was the first year in a while that the budget-setting exercise had been rooted in studying the figures from previous years, plus in anticipating large one-offs such as tree surgery and potential election costs of £1500.</p> <p><i>Brian Rickards expressed his dissatisfaction with the significant increase in council tax and queried the reasoning behind such an increase.</i> The Clerk and Chairman responded to help explain that proper financial planning had taken place, based on current official advice and because the process differed from previous years there was a difference in the amount needed to cover an increase in parish maintenance costs and steady cost increases in all areas, as well as to safeguard against emergencies and crises such as fallen trees and staff sickness. They emphasised that the increase next year and in subsequent years was very likely to return to a very small amount.</p> <p>Further information on how the council arrived at its 2019-20 precept can be found at www.aylburton.net/finance.</p>	
7. 07.19/20	<p>Future Parish Assembly Date: TBC, likely to be the second Tuesday in April 2020. Noted – likely to be Tuesday 14th April 2020.</p>	

Meeting closed: 7.50pm

Signed:..... Chairman

Date:.....