



Aylburton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Meg Humphries • 6 Court Road, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 5SY • Tel: 01594 719245
Email: aylburtonclerk@outlook.com • www.aylburton.net/council

Meeting Pack for Aylburton Parish Council: April 2022 Full Council Meeting Prepared and compiled by the Parish Clerk.

5. To consider purchasing plug plants to enhance the wildlife verges for 2022.

This proposal relates to the suggestion from a parishioner of improving the display of wildflowers by planting some plug plants in the verge.

Cllr Topping's proposes the following:

- The cost of a tray of plug plants for our verges would be £82. I would collect them when I'm up in Gloucester.
- £82 would buy us 126 plug plants of x4 native varieties which would make a bit of a splash and do quite well in hand-to-hand combat with the grasses: oxeye daisy, field geranium, red clover, meadow vetchling.
- Re the planting of these plugs, volunteers from the Friends of Aylburton Wildlife are happy to do it.

9b. Highways to note any updates

Road Safety	Report to be given verbally at the meeting.
Upper Common – ditches in a poor state	The large tree trunk has now been removed as of Feb 2022. The only issue that remains now is the blocked culvert under the dirt track opposite 17 Upper Common. I reported this to Highways on 3/3/21, and it seems that unblocking work will be carried out in April.
Lower Common/ Sandford Road poor road surface	Currently, no solid plans to resurface.
Chapel Hill blocked drains	Reported
Chapel Hill potholes	Reported 3/3/21
High Street blocked drains – near Walnut Gardens	Reported
Sandford Road dropped drain covers	Reported
Church Road dropped drain covers	Reported
Sandford Road/A48 junction blocked drain	Reported March 2022
A48 – Vine Hall blocked drain	Reported March 2022

9q. Weeding. To consider an offer of weeding from Cllr Topping

Background:

- Council made the decision to do a year's trial of chemical-free weeding for 2022.
- The search for a groundskeeping professional willing to carry out manual weeding of the village has so far proven unsuccessful despite advertising, and asking numerous local companies and contacts.
- Cllr Topping has offered to fill the contract as follows, although if someone else suitable comes forward he has suggested that he would give way.

This is my offer to do the hand-weeding of the pavements of Aylburton, as per Ray's map (plus Milling Crescent) and as per the brief (minus March).

I would do x2 2-hour tours of the pavements pcm from April-October (7 months)

- *£24 for each complete 2-hour weeding visit. i.e. £48 pcm, £336 p.a.*

N.B. I would be hand-weeding, the pavements – not the gutters or other residential areas where there are no pavements.

I would do it for just 2022. I can report back to the council what I learn in the process to help us write a brief and contract for future years.

I can produce business insurance and a risk assessment on request.

10a. Clerk: to consider the routine annual pay uplift for the civic year 2022/2023

Background: The Clerk pay scale follows the NJC rates of pay, points 7-12, and is awarded a new point every April subject to satisfactory performance.

There is one item for noting, and one for action, as follows.

1. For noting: Rates for 2021-22 finally agreed.

The cost-of-living uplift for 2021-22 has now been agreed following nearly a year of negotiation. This takes point 10 to £11.28. This will be applied

retrospectively to the Clerk's earnings for the whole of 2021-22, resulting in £91.52 backpay, likely to be included on the May payslip.

2. For consideration: Annual Salary Scale Progression

Every April, as per the contract of employment, Council considers awarding the Clerk a salary scale progression to the next point on the scale. Currently the Clerk is on point 10, progressing to point 11 if council approves the uplift. The 2021-22 rate for point 11 is £11.50 – which will be subject to a cost-of-living uplift once agreed between government and unions.

Meg Humphries
Parish Clerk
07/04/2022