

AYLBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 17th May 2022, 7.00 pm at Aylburton Methodist Community Rooms

PARTICIPATING:

Cllr Mark Topping (Vice Chair)
Cllr David Bayliss
Cllr Andrew Blamey
Cllr Claire Shirley

ATTENDING:

Meg Humphries (Clerk)

No/Ref	Item/Notes	Action
APA01. 22/23	1. To receive any apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllrs Evans; accepted.	
APA02. 22/23	2. Welcome. As Chair of the meeting, Cllr Topping welcomed all in attendance.	
APA03. 22/23	3. To approve the accuracy of the 2021 Annual Parish Assembly Minutes. Approved; signed by Cllr Blamey.	
APA04 22/23	<p>4. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report. In Cllr Evans' absence, Vice Chair Mark Topping presented the following report.</p> <p><i>Last Year's Annual Parish meeting was the first physical meetings of the council since February 2020, the month before the pandemic and the start of lockdown and more than a year of Zoom meetings. To some degree we are still in the shadow of Covid – as it continues to affect people's ability to participate at council meetings and community life more generally.</i></p> <p><i>Having said that, in September last year, six councillors were joined at the parish council meeting by 11 residents and a police officer in relation to an anti-social behaviour issue in the village, now resolved.</i></p> <p><i>This time last year the parish newsletter, The Ducktown Echo, while still being produced quarterly, was only available online. I'm glad to say that normal printing and delivery to all houses in the parish has resumed this year.</i></p> <p><i>The Ducktown Echo continues to be both an important tool for spreading information about what's going on in the parish, and a way of strengthening ties within the community. It now includes a regular Aylburton Nature Watch insert produced by Dave Crabbe. The first one appearing in the Summer of 2021. The council would like to express its thanks all those involved with the Ducktown Echo, particularly John and Virginia Ridley and Dave Crabbe, but also to the regular contributors from community groups and the volunteer distribution team.</i></p> <p><i>Road Safety continues to be the issue of greatest concern for many Aylburton residents. A public meeting was held in January in the Methodist Church. About 40 people attended. Cllr Claire Shirley and I talked through the various elements of the council's road safety plan, including a pedestrian crossing, an ANPR camera, an extension of the 30 mph limit and a reduction to 50 mph from Alvington to Aylburton and ultimately a 20 mph limit in all residential areas including the High Street.</i></p> <p><i>The local Highways officer is currently in discussion with the police about our speed limit requests, funding is being sought for an ANPR camera, 20 mph bin stickers are being distributed throughout the village, lamp post signs are being put</i></p>	

	<p><i>up and there are plans for a pedestrian crossing publicity event on the High Street on June 11th at 12 noon.</i></p> <p><i>Flood risk continues to be another major concern, especially in relation to the Mill Brook Green/A48 culvert. GCC flood risk engineers say the culvert is at times not big enough to cope with the volume of water in the. They have made site visits and spoken to a number of affected residents. They are assessing a number of possible options to reduce pressure on the culvert and enable it to cope in times of heavy rainfall.</i></p> <p><i>The High Street (or Keers Moor) allotments have been divided up into smaller plots. Instead of 8 large ones there are now 30 'microplots'. This makes plots less daunting for those who can't cope with a larger one and has enabled more residents to get plots. There are now 16 ploholders. All but three are parishioners. Four smaller plots have recently become available which are to be offered to the four people on the waiting list.</i></p> <p><i>We have new grounds maintenance contracts in place for Upper Common, St Mary's Churchyard and the verges, as well as new contracts for tending the flower tubs and pavement weeding. This year the larger verges are being mown to maximise their benefit to wildlife, some areas being left to grow from April to August, but with the edges being mown regularly to make it clear they are being cared for.</i></p> <p><i>The council is grateful to the team of wildlife volunteers in the village which has carried out raking of the verges after mowing, to reduce fertility and improve the conditions for wildflowers.</i></p> <p><i>Since the last Annual Parish Assembly Cllr Steph Lord and Cllr John Harrison have resigned. The council would like to express its thanks for the years of service both councillors have given Aylburton. It is hoped two new councillors will be co-opted at the Annual Parish Council meeting this evening, to bring the council back up to its full strength of seven councillors.</i></p> <p><i>The council would also like to thanks Cllr Alan Preest of GCC for his support though the year, particularly with regard to his support for our road safety plans.</i></p>	
<p>APA05. 22/23</p>	<p>5. Reports from local organisations (either in person or sent in).</p> <p>Aylburton Water From Simon Rutherford, Chair <i>Aylburton Water is the independent charitable co-operative that provides c.70 premises with water in the village for a nominal charge. It is an ageing system, over 100 years old, run entirely by a very small number of active volunteers. The Parish Council, GCC and FoDDC are very supportive when they can be. FoDDC Environmental Health/ERS/Publica 2020 are re-engaging after a COVID-19 hiatus. The Committee has undertaken a number of repairs, usually caused by small building works or unauthorised heavy vehicles accessing the rear of High Street properties. There has been a slight pressure reduction in 2022 that appears to have coincided with the GigaClear excavations, however no direct causal link has yet been established. If the system fails, the disruption to the Village, Severn Trent and the A48 will be significant. The Cross committed to a Severn Trent connection and ceasing to use Aylburton Water when it re-opens - we do not support a rumoured intention to continue to use Aylburton Water, as the spring</i></p>	

water is limited. The trustees are considering if setting up a Community Interest Company would legally protect the officers, trustees and householders. The committee also needs more volunteers, including a Secretary - any legal, admin, ground clearing or other professional support welcome. There are a number of decisions that need to be made about finance, organisational and infrastructure improvements. The AGM, open to all householders supplied by the system, will be in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 15th June at 1930.

Aylburton Memorial Hall and Playing Field

From Simon Rutherford, chair of the committee

The Memorial Hall has re-opened after COVID-19, and is available for events and hire. The Hall and Playing Field are entirely self-funded - no council or government grants, and the Carnival provides a significant part of the funding. Aylburton Carnival is being held on the 9th July, and there will be the usual procession and A48 closure. It is also over 100 years old. After two years without our Carnival, we'd like 2022 to be huge

Any helpers for the Carnival or Hall/Field Committee are more than welcome, and we'd love extra floats or fancy dress entries to the procession. .

The Memorial Playing Field is a picturesque asset used by the whole community, however we have increasing reports of dogs fouling the field, including around the play equipment, despite warning notices and fines, so we'd ask all users to be observant and remind dog owners to clean up after their pets. We don't want other people or children to suffer.

Aylburton Acorns

Supplied by Jane Penny

Aylburton Acorns restarted in November 2021 having been closed due to Covid for some time.

The group is now run by volunteers from the local churches, and led by Jane Penny, who is the Community Family Minister for Churches Together in Lydney (which includes the villages of Aylburton, Alvington and Woolaston).

Aylburton Acorns is a baby and toddler group which welcomes anyone from the local area with a baby or child not yet at school. There are families who travel from the local area and walk to the group, and also those who come from a little further afield.

The re-formed group was especially supported by a couple of local families, one of whom knew Jane from a Toddler group in Tutshill and was keen to support Acorns.

Each Friday morning babies, children and their grown-ups gather from 9.30 onwards at the Memorial hall to play and chat together.

It was a blessing that there were some toys from the previous incarnation of the group, and many generous donations from local groups that haven't reopened post Covid, or from families looking to recycle toys. This means that the children enjoy a variety of play and the older ones especially enjoy the slide and zooming around on the sit and rides! The playdough table is always popular and at present there are several children who love the challenge of a jigsaw puzzle. There is usually a craft activity and messy play. For the adults the group provides a friendly space to chat with others and a safe space to play with their children.

The small yet dedicated team of volunteers set-up, provide hot drinks for adults and then pack away at the end of the session. We welcome new members to the group, who can make contact via our Facebook page or directly to Jane Penny. We ask for a donation to cover the cost of hall rental, but no one is ever turned

away if they cannot afford this. We have also raised funds for Save the Children and Comic Relief through cake sales held at the group.
If you have an hour or two to spare on a Friday morning and would consider volunteering then Jane would love to hear from you.
Jane Penny, 07856679387 01594563803 cfmlydney@gmail.com

Ducktown Echo

From Virginia Ridley, Editor

The Ducktown Echo is the community newsletter published by the Aylburton Parish Council. The first edition was published in autumn 2010. The present editorial team took over from Maurice Bloomfield with the winter 2013 edition. It is produced quarterly and distributed free of charge to every household in the parish. It includes all of the latest information about the council and its activities together with the contact details of the Chair and the Clerk. This takes precedence over all other articles and is published as presented with only essential editing.

The newsletter, space permitting, also includes other items of news and information from the churches, the school, the Memorial Hall, community groups in the village and short features of historical interest about the village. The Echo also acts as a notice board for advertising local events. Every effort is made to reproduce these articles as they are presented but they may be edited as necessary to achieve a professional publication. These items do not reflect the opinions of the Editor or the Parish Council. No commercial advertising is undertaken but space is sometimes available for publicity about businesses based in the parish.

The four editions each year are:

Spring covering the Easter period onwards;

Summer for the village carnival and the holiday period;

Autumn for late September onwards;

Winter covering Christmas and New Year.

The Echo is produced and distributed entirely by volunteers. It is printed locally by Artytype in Lydney and this is the only cost to the council. Recent editions of the Echo are available to download on the parish council website www.aylburton.net/ Copies of all the earlier editions are available on request from the editor.

Aylburton Nature Watch is also distributed with the Echo. This publication seeks to engage the village residents, young and old, with the fantastic array of wildlife found in and around the village. It is produced by David Crabbe and printed by Graphics Shack.

The editor would to thank all those who contribute to the success of the Echo by sending in their regular items of village news and also the loyal distribution team consisting of Clare Bloomfield, Alan and Margaret Edwards, Cllr Claire Shirley, Neville Slee, Elizabeth Day, Peter and Pam Emery, Terry O'Donnell, Brian Reeves and Cllr Mark Topping.

Forest Exiles Cricket Club

After missing the 2020 playing season, (for covid reasons), we managed to make a successful return in 2021. We managed to reignite our adult playing side. However, we haven't managed to get the Junior side back up and running.

This is something we will be working at getting back.

We still play a mixture of league and friendly matches.

We are a very sociable bunch and are always looking for new members.

Anyone who's interested in playing, coaching, groundworks, scoring, umpiring etc.

	<p><i>We are very lucky to be playing our sport in such a wonderful location as Aylburton.</i></p> <p><i>For any further info, please contact: Dan Keddle – 07713760591 or daniel.keddle@sky.com</i></p> <p><i>Just one more issue: Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in dog fouling across the playing field. Most people are respectful towards the fact that it's a public place to enjoy and play.</i></p> <p><i>However, there's a small minority that simply just let there dogs loose and leave there mess behind for others to pick up.</i></p> <p><i>Not nice for anyone's child to roll in.</i></p> <p><i>Could you please cascade this message.</i></p> <p>Aylburton Methodist Church</p> <p>From The Reverend Michelle Ireland</p> <p><i>During the year we have been able to restart a number of events here at the chapel. Here is just a snapshot. Sunday worship lies at the heart of all we do and we meet every Sunday morning at 10.30. There are occasional services such as the evening Carol Service and we are hoping that this year we will also be able to gather with friends from other local churches All opportunities to share our faith together.</i></p> <p><i>As a church we contribute to a number of causes. Among them Action for Children, where this year we sent £747.69 and The James Hopkins Trust £145. Also £395 at Harvest and during the year to support those in need including Ukraine. This coming year we will be sending to Water Aid and Christian Aid.</i></p> <p><i>We have been able to restart our Children's events held during the various school holidays. Activities, crafts and stories are based around a bible story. Links with the school are strong, Rev Michelle being a governor and working with the children on school assemblies. We also take it in turn with the Parish Church to host school end of term and seasonal services.</i></p> <p><i>The ladies group at the church are keen knitters, and this year garments and items for children have been lovingly made for the charity in Gambia that we have supported over the years. Begun by Rev and Mrs Gardner, former minister of this church. Monthly coffee mornings are opportunities for the villagers to meet each other.</i></p> <p><i>We are looking at working on the exterior of the church over the next year.</i></p> <p><i>A warm welcome is extended to all.</i></p>	
<p>APA06. 22/23</p>	<p>6. Open Forum.</p> <p>Colin Newman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint about council tax rise; the Clerk outlined the reasons for the parish precept increase (of around 4 per cent) for 22/23. • Complaint about the new method of weeding; a discussion took place. • Queried the merit and appearance of the wildlife verges; a discussion took place. 	
<p>APA07. 22/23</p>	<p>7. Future Parish Assembly Date: To be confirmed.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	

Meeting ended at 7.47 pm

Signed:..... Chairman

Date:.....