

**AYLBURTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7.00 pm at  
Aylburton Methodist Community Rooms**

**PARTICIPATING:**

Cllr Colin Newman (Chair)  
Cllr Frankie Evans  
Cllr Mark Topping

**ATTENDING:**

Rachel Hales (Clerk)

No/Ref	Item/Notes	Action
<p><b>APA01.</b> <b>23/24</b></p>	<p><b>1. To receive any apologies for absence.</b> Apologies received from Cllr Shirley &amp; Cllr Harvey. Accepted</p>	
<p><b>APA02.</b> <b>23/24</b></p>	<p><b>2. Welcome.</b> As Chair of the meeting, Cllr Newman welcomed all in attendance.</p>	
<p><b>APA03.</b> <b>23/24</b></p>	<p><b>3. To approve the accuracy of the 2022 Annual Parish Assembly Minutes.</b> Approved; signed by Cllr Newman.</p>	
<p><b>APA04</b> <b>23/24</b></p>	<p><b>4. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report.</b> Chair Cllr Newman presented the following report. The past year, the Parish Council has concentrated on road safety. There were two zebra crossing demonstrations which were very successful, working together with other local villages along the A48 and gaining recognition through news outlets. Attempts to get a crossing will continue. The ANPR camera was installed in September 2022 and speeding has reduced from 60% to 40% since in place. Letters are being sent out to offenders and it is hoped that speeds will continue to be reduced. The ANPR camera was fully funded by grants from the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner Fund, Resilience Fund &amp; Gloucestershire County Council. We have also been given a second camera to put at the other end of the village, to be installed. We are also looking at village gateways to further reduce speeds. Work is currently being done looking at suppliers and permission from the relevant authorities. Looking to the future, the parish council is looking at potential Traffic Regulation orders in conjunction with Alvington parish council to reduce the speed limit on the A48. In regard to flooding, Highways have put in a new grid over the culvert at Millbrook Green, which unfortunately proved unsuccessful. We are working in conjunction with the Environment Agency and Lydney Park Estate to look at methods of reducing the risk of flooding and continue to liaise with GCC. We are working on greater communication with the community via Facebook and website. The Ducktown Echo has resumed with a wealth of information being provided through this source.  <i>At this stage, Cllr Newman asked attendees if there were any questions. Sandra Rickards brought up the damaged flower tubs by the cross monument and asked if there were plans to replace them. Cllr Newman advised there are plans to renew the damaged tubs.</i> <i>Mark Sargent acknowledged the positive news of having the ANPR camera in the village and highlighted the need to keep the focus on the campaign for a zebra crossing. He asked if signs and posters could be displayed around the village. It was agreed that this was something to consider at a future meeting.</i></p>	

	<p><i>Footpaths were also brought up, as it appears some residents and visitors do not use them – perhaps they are not aware of them. This is something the Parish Council will look into discuss at a future meeting.</i></p>	
<p><b>APA05. 23/24</b></p>	<p><b>5. Reports from local organisations (either in person or sent in).</b></p> <p><b><i>Virginia Ridley, Editor for The Ducktown Echo</i></b>  <i>The Ducktown Echo is the community newsletter published by the Aylburton Parish Council. This publication is the most effective way the council has of communicating its activities to the village and helps to strengthen ties within the community. The Echo is produced quarterly and distributed free of charge to every household in the parish. It always contains a full report of the recent activities of the council and other parish information such as recent planning applications. It is editorial policy to publish this item as received with only essential editing.</i></p> <p><i>The newsletter, space permitting, includes other items of news and information from the churches, the school, the Memorial Hall, community groups in the village together with short features of historical interest. It also acts as a notice board for advertising local events such as the Carnival. The Echo has an important function in not only helping to record the history of village buildings but also the experiences and memories attached to them. Recent editions have included some excellent articles by Richard Field based on his recollections of village life on the Common. Park Row and The Besom have already been published and more of these feature items will be included in future editions.</i></p> <p><i>Every effort is made to reproduce these features 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 businesses based in the parish.</i></p> <p><i>The Echo is edited, designed, 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 <a href="http://www.aylburton.net/">www.aylburton.net/</a> Copies of all the earlier editions are available on request from the editor.</i></p> <p><i>The editor would like to thank all those who contribute to the success of the Echo by sending in their regular items of village news and the loyal distribution team. Special thanks are due to Maurice and Clare Bloomfield, Alan and Margaret Edwards, Neville Slee, Peter and Pam Emery, Terry O'Donnell, and Brian and Jan Reeves who have been part of the delivery team for over ten years.</i></p> <p><i>The editor has recently reviewed the design and layout of the Echo and a number of small but significant changes have been made to improve its appearance and readability. Any further suggestions about the content and layout would be welcome.</i></p> <p><b><i>Daniel Keddle, Forest Exiles</i></b>  <i>We are an all-inclusive Forest cricket team that thoroughly enjoys playing in the heart of your wonderful village.</i>  <i>We are very lucky to have such great local support, notably our club sponsors Ferrino's.</i>  <i>Due to Covid, we had a year off from playing in 2020.</i></p>	

As a result of this, our juniors have drifted away, as they've either moved clubs or found other interests.  
Going forward, we would really like to further develop the playing field and like to see an all-weather practice strip. We already have a net cage that could then stay permanently positioned. This could offer a facility for the whole community to come and use at any time.  
Hopefully, this could encourage more people to get outdoors and help to sustain us and forest cricket. The cost to put in an all-weather strip is around £11.5k.  
As you can imagine this isn't easy for a small club like us. We are actively trying various funding avenues. We are always welcome to any further ideas.  
As ever, we are always on the lookout for more playing members and would love to hear from anyone that would like to get involved.

**Mark Westwood, Volunteer lead for Aylburton and Lydney Scouts**

We take girls and boys from age 4, starting at Squirrels, up to 14.5. We are now the biggest group in the forest, around 100 younger people, and around 30 adults helping on a regular basis.

We did lose about a third of our members due to Covid and the lockdowns, but these were soon replaced by newcomers after restrictions were lifted. Children crying out to get involved, after lockdown caused a loss of social skills and lowered confidence, so we're starting to build all that up again.

All the adults are volunteers, and we do this as a hobby.

We do a camp in the Deer Park behind Taurus Crafts, took a load of young people to Belgium last summer and we are taking 40 to the Netherlands for 10 days this summer.

We meet on various days and locations, and are located in the Deer Park during the summer, come rain or shine!

**Simon Rutherford, Village Hall and Memorial Playing Field**

We are still open and in existence, having survived lockdown. Our rental cottage subsidises the hall and we had significant problems with a bad tenant, losing around £3500 in rent. Now we have a new long-term tenant and we are planning some major energy conservation improvements which will future proof the property.

In terms of regular activities we have a number of functions, including the Scouts, dancercise, tai chi etc. According to GRCC the hall is a major contributor to community cohesion.

A reminder that the village hall is available for hire and has a fantastic kitchen!

**Simon Rutherford, Aylburton Water**

Aylburton Water is the villages 'best kept secret' until it goes wrong! About 65 village on supply, run as co-op by trustees. Current plans are, if the supply fails, the a48 will be dug up and all houses will be replumbed. It will cause a huge inconvenience and potential cost to householders. However we are currently engaged with putting a pipe supply from the mains into the tanks in case of low flow, meaning we can tap into the main water supply. Talks continue regarding major and contingency planning and compared to water mains, the supply is highly available with only one half day period unavailable in 10 years.

**Mark Sargent, Aylburton Carnival**

	<p><i>We have a fantastic committee organising the carnival, everyone doing something. This year we are starting carnival procession at 1pm rather than 2pm. We are trying to attract new events, while keeping the traditional. We discovered sponsorship a couple of years ago, will publicise it as much as possible and keep our fingers crossed for the weather. We had record takings for 2022. The event will be on July 8 at 1 pm. There will be a road closure and a parade.</i></p> <p><b>Jane Penny, Aylburton Acorns</b>  <i>I work for Churches Together in Lydney and I'm employed to look after children and families in the community and run lots of toddler groups, including one that meets outside in all weathers. Aylburton Acorns which takes place in the memorial hall. It is a lovely group, very small and open to anyone aged 4 and under, or not at primary school. We would love more people to come, and we are interested to hear how we can spread the word. A challenge for us is the lack of parking in the village. We do not charge parents for coming but do ask for a donation. The group runs at a loss but is subsidised by another group. We joined in with the zebra crossing event which we feel is really important, trying to cross the road with children is a real issue in the village.</i></p> <p><i>Sandra Rickards, Aylburton Wlfrom WI</i>  <i>We're jogging along nicely at the moment. We have 44 members which is the highest number since the 80s. We try and keep speakers local, especially since the fuel crisis came in. We have had Aylburton/Lydney Scouts, Dean Forest Railway and the next one, Rachel Shilston is coming to do mosaics. Aylburton WI now has a Facebook page. Despite a fantastic committee already, we are struggling to get members to take places on the committee. We have some brilliant crafting ladies, and we made a beautiful coronation display which is being donated to the school to use for their carnival float. In terms of plans for the year ahead, in July, we will be helping the carnival with a tea and cake stall, August we will be going on a summer outing that is open to all. In September, we are hoping to host another Macmillan coffee morning which was well supported previously and in November, we will finish the year with our remembrance display.</i></p>	
<p><b>APA06.</b> <b>22/23</b></p>	<p><b>6. Open Forum.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items were brought up under item 04, following the Chairman's Report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>APA07.</b> <b>22/23</b></p>	<p><b>7. Future Parish Assembly Date: To be confirmed.</b> Noted.</p>	

Meeting ended at 7.45 pm

Signed:..... Chairman

Date:.....