



AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2014
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Terry Cavender, Brian Coxall, Elaine Rowlands, Mary Taylor and Ellen Sayer (Clerk).
M.o.P: Jackie Corcoran, Angela Hawker, Sherri Holland, John Tibbetts

1. APOLOGIES: John Hockley, Mike Mortimer, Alice Guise

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: TC stood down and MT temporarily took the Chair, nominating TC as Chairman for a further year. This was seconded by BC and ER. TC accepted the role. BC proposed JH to continue as Vice Chair and this was seconded by MT. JH had agreed prior to the meeting that he was willing to continue.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA: BC - 8. Neighbour of Willow Tree Cottage.

ITEMS OF INTEREST & PUBLIC SESSION

- **£775,000 of funding has been secured for the provision of superfast broadband to the area.**

4. The MINUTES of the last meeting, held on 10th March 2014 were propose and seconded as a true record (BC, MT) and signed by TC.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

5a. Recreational Field: Goalpost request: Evidence of the need for another goal post is required. There is the possibility that the £100 Youth Club funds could be used towards the cost as the P/Council had not budgeted to purchase such an item this year. The Clerk to contact the children concerned who submitted the request. **RoSPA annual Play Area inspection:** The only risk highlighted by the report was the area in front of the existing goal post. This needs levelling and re-turfing as it is a trip hazard. Two villagers have kindly volunteered to do this. **Split sycamore tree** on the side of the Dog Walk, near the allotments: The trunk has split 3 ways and there are concerns that it could fail in high winds. The Clerk and Frances White met with an arborologist who advised that it should come down Quotes will be obtained but it is thought that the costs will be in the region of £400.

5b. Roads and traffic: The meeting with **the Local Area Technician** has been rescheduled to 26th June. The **A413** through Akeley is due to be patched in June before being resurfaced. **Footpath works:** The **pavement on Lillingstone** Road is due to be resurfaced. E-on removed the **trees** as scheduled on **Church Hill** as they were growing up into the power lines. They could not be simply pollarded as 3 metres clearance is required and this would have left just the trunks. Replacement trees are due to be planted in a more suitable location in this area. The Akeley Oak at The Old School was also removed; in vain, it would seem, as the cables are now underground. **Cars parking on pavements in Capel Close:** This issue was raised by a resident and will be discussed with the LAT at the meeting mentioned above.

5c. HS2 press launch – no comment from Akeley as we are not directly affected and do not know the views of the village on this issue.

5d. Insurance cover review – Annual check that everything is in order and assets covered adequately. No change required. It was proposed and seconded to pay the premium of £8/////

5e. Rejected recycling – Several villagers (27) have recently complained that their recycling was not collected over the last 3 collections as it was ‘contaminated’ with items not allowed in the bins. Clarification has been requested from AVDC and will be put in the newsletter.

5f. Village Hall- hire letter: MM had previously originated discussions regarding the drafting of a new version of the document to cover the situation when the Recreational Field is used for an event. The VHC is unable to amend its hire agreement as it is bought as a legal document from A.C.R.E. and doing so would invalidate it. It is the case that anyone wanting to use the field for an event would be expected to hire the hall as well. It is up to the P/Council's discretion if it wishes to hire out only the field. For clarity, the hire of the hall includes the basketball and patio areas. Hirers of the hall for private functions (e.g. birthday parties) use the field at their own risk. There is a public liability issue where structures such as bouncy castles, gazebos etc. or vehicles are involved and the P/Council needs a document to cover this. A sign is required: "No vehicles allowed on the Recreational Field without express permission from the Parish Council". There has been a request to host a caravan Club rally on the field during the summer of 2015. A clearer policy is needed.

6. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS

The **accounts** for the period **5/3/14 to 31/3/14** were proposed and seconded by BC and ER. The **accounts** for the period **1/4/14 to 20/5/14** were proposed and seconded by MT and ER. The **Annual accounts** were proposed and seconded by MT and ER. All were signed by TC who, along with the Clerk, signed the Receipts and Payments Book. The **Annual audit form** was duly completed and signed by TC and the Clerk. This will now be passed to first the Internal Auditor and then the External Auditor.

VAS loan – no invoice for the second repayment instalment received from Bucks CC despite querying and prompting.

New **website maintenance fees** – these were accepted (ER, BC) as still being good value for money and the P/Council is very happy with the level of service provided in keeping the website up to date.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- Proposed beacon lighting at the **Pig Roast 12/7/14** – no formal letter has been received from the Events Committee requesting that the Parish Council organise this, as required by the insurance company. It was agreed to stick to the original decision that the beacon should only be lit on occasions of national significance. The open spit fire is also a concern. The Clerk to write.
- **Model Financial Regulations update** – to be examined further and discussed at the next meeting.
- Anomaly between **dates for comments for planning applications**: the Parish Council usually receives the plans before the public notice is posted so the deadline date for comments is usually earlier for us than for the public.
- Renewable heat incentive – info. To be put on the website and in the newsletter.
- Invitation to mark the centenary of The Great War – the P/Council will not be participating.
- Public Transport enquiry being undertaken to establish current demands.
- Various road closures – to be put in the newsletter.
- New bus shelter cleaner appointed – Joe Greener.

8. PLANNING

- Solar panel siting restrictions noted – free-standing not permitted on listed building applications.
- **13/01754/APP** – Land adj. Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane - Applic. for erection of 2-storey detached dwelling – **PLANNING APPEAL LODGED.**
- **14/00368/ALB** – Willow Tree Cottage, L'hampstead Rd. – Applic. for installation of 2 roof windows in modern extension (and solar panels to west side of garage – element now withdrawn).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.....July 14th 2014

(Apologies in advance: ER)