



AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th January 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Terry Cavender, Brian Coxall, Alice Guise, John Hockley (Vice-Chair), Mike Mortimer (Chairman), Elaine Rowlands, Mary Taylor and Ellen Sayer (Clerk).
M.o.P: Jackie Corcoran, Angela Hawker, Sherri Holland, John Tibbetts and District Councillor Pearl Lewis.

1. APOLOGIES: None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA: TC – 4c – Director of internet company (previously declared).

ITEMS OF INTEREST & PUBLIC SESSION

- £100 from an old Youth Club bank account will be held and ring-fenced by the Village Hall Committee to be used for youth activities in the future.
- Sheep from the field adjacent have been getting through onto the Recreational Field. The owner has been contacted and has taken steps to prevent it happening again.
- There has been a recent burglary to a property on Leckhampstead Road.
- Pearl Lewis explained that the Planning Inspectorate has delivered its verdict on the Vale of Aylesbury Plan. The plan has been rejected because of the failure of AVDC to co-operate with neighbouring authorities over certain issues and the fact that the estimated future housing numbers are not considered high enough. AVDC now has to revise the plan.
- Clays garage is to move out of the village from the premises at Oaktree Farm.
- Western Power Distribution has removed 9 dead elms opposite Daisy Bank as they were at risk of falling into the road.
- The future of The Bull and Butcher is being discussed in the village. It was suggested that it should be made a Community Asset, whereby the owners, in this case the brewery, must give 6 months warning before attempting to sell it.

3. The **MINUTES** of the last meeting, held on **11th November 2013** were proposed and seconded (TC, BC) and signed by MM.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

4a. Recreational Field – The **grass-cutting quote** for 2014 has been received from E. Scapes and the costs are the same as last year. Similarly for the churchyard grass. It was agreed that the contracts be awarded to the same contractors again, although further tenders may be invited for 2105. The **Footpaths Inspection Walk** is to be arranged in the Spring. It is confirmed that **insurance cover is valid for Frances White**, the new Wildlife Area Officer.

The **Diamond Jubilee Oak** still looks to be struggling but will be looked at in the Spring. The Village Hall Committee will forward its **revised terms and conditions for the hiring** of the hall and use of the Recreational Field to the P/Council for comment in due course. Permission has been formally requested and granted for the **wood for the next pig roast** (July 12th) to be stored at the side of the hut.

4b. Roads and traffic – MM had completed and returned **the LAT feedback questionnaire** on 29/11/13. David Smith is still our LAT, David Whincup is the Office Liaison and we are now in Area 1. Bucks CC has a budget of £43 million to be spent on the roads, spread over 4 years.

Reports of the **flooding on the corner of Leckhampstead Rd** and Buckingham Rd have been sent to both Transport for Bucks and Bucks CC call centre. TC had requested, via a Freedom of Information request, details of all previous logs for Akeley and was sent Radcliffe's! He is still working to resolve this drainage issue and other unresolved problems. A gulley-sucker has attended the gulley at the bottom of Church Farm House's drive which remedied the situation but only temporarily. TC also spoke to the Transport Scrutiny Committee. The fact that recent **patching was not bitumen-sealed** means that it is already deteriorating. It is scheduled to be sealed and re-surfaced in the summer. There is still no white pedestrian line along Leckhampstead Rd as promised. Another accident has occurred recently on the Cattleford Bends along the A422. The sites for the **2 new salt bins** will be looked at again (Manor Rd and Coronation Cottages) before a final decision is made. The **new litter bin** for The Square has arrived and needs fixing in place. It was decided that the suggested **wheelie bin stickers** with the 30mph logo are not required and will not be purchased. It was agreed in principle, however, that a **new notice board** is needed.

4c. Super-fast Broadband - following a meeting on 8/1/14 with BT, the scheme will now go ahead in Bucks and should be installed by 2015.

Wi-Fi for the village - The Village Hall Committee is happy for the hall to be used to host the facility but not willing to incur any costs, as it is not a facility they would choose to install. Opinion as to whether the facility is needed in the village is divided amongst P/Councillors; more information is needed but the P/C may be willing to pay up to £250 p.a. towards it, although it was suggested that this may be deducted from the annual £500 maintenance fund contribution (see 5. below).

4d. Rural Affordable Housing - This element of the VAP was not discussed by the Planning Inspectorate. The VAHT is looking to provide more affordable housing but apparently this trust is not a 'preferred partner' of AVDC's.

5. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS

The **accounts** for the period 7/11/13 to 13/1/14 were proposed and seconded (TC, MT) and signed by MM who, along with the Clerk, signed the Receipts and Payments Book.

Annual **£500 contribution** to Village Hall Maintenance Fund – not paid at this time pending further discussion regarding Wi-Fi (see above).

Annual rent reviews – Scouts field – to remain at £50 (deliberately subsidised) and Chackmore turn field – to remain at £140 for this year but will be increased to £150 from 1/4/15 (TC, MT).

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- Snow and gritting – this must not be carried out by the Parish Council as once begun it must be continued and if it is not, the P/C could be seen as negligent.
- Simon Garwood, who attended the November meeting, has contacted us to thank us for the warm welcome he received.
- A meeting will be arranged to discuss further the provision of a defibrillator in the village.

7. PLANNING

- 13/02817/ALB – **Willow Tree Cottage, Leckhampstead Rd.** - Applic. to replace doors with wall and window - **LISTED BUILDING CONSENT.**

With the **Local Development Orders** now in place, the Parish Council is likely to see a reduction in the number of applications for small, straightforward extensions to property as our input is not now required, other than for properties in the Conservation Area. Householders will have to notify their neighbours of their plans as part of the new process.

8. CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

After almost 22 years as Chairman of Akeley Parish Council (plus one year prior to that as Vice Chairman) Mike Mortimer reiterated his intention to step down from this position. After nominating Terry Cavender as his successor - who was willing to take on the role - (this was seconded by both JH and AG), he duly ended his term of office as Chairman, but remains on the Parish Council. TC and BC asked that a vote of thanks to Mike be recorded.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.....March 10th 2014.

TC then closed the meeting at 9pm.

This will be the Annual **PARISH** meeting. Reports are invited from:

The Parish Council Chairman
The Gardening Club
Akeley Charities
Parish Council website webmaster

The Allotment Officer
The Village Hall Committee
The C of E Educational Trust Fund
District Councillor.