



AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th July 2012
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Stan Bennett, Terry Cavender, Brian Coxall, John Hockley (Vice-Chair), Mike Mortimer (Chair), Elaine Rowlands and Ellen Sayer (Clerk).
M.o.P: Angela Hawker and John Tibbetts.

1. APOLOGIES: Mary Taylor

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA: None

ITEMS OF INTEREST & PUBLIC SESSION

- **The 2-day Diamond Jubilee celebrations were a big success despite the weather.**
- **It is hoped that a natural pond on land off Chapel Lane can be re-excavated by BC, the land-owner, with input from AVDC bio-diversity team so that it can be used by the school for nature study etc. Barn owl boxes have also been erected.**
- **Many villagers went to Buckingham today to see the Olympic torch being carried through the town as part of its countrywide tour.**

3. The MINUTES of the last meeting, held on 14th May 2012, were proposed as a true record by ER, seconded by TC and signed by MM.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

4z. There have been no applications for the position of **Chairman of the Parish Council** since the future vacancy was advertised in the last Akeley News.

4a. Recreational Field

Jubilee beacon – the consensus was to keep the brazier in situ as a memento of the occasion and the insurance company's safety recommendations will be followed.

Play Area Inspection Report – No remedial action needed as all elements were satisfactory or 'very low risk'. It was recommended that the football net be replaced and it was thought that the P/C may have a spare in hand.

The recent **National Street Van Association** annual rally was successful.

4b. Roads and traffic - there was a letter from an ex-resident in a recent issue of The Advertiser bemoaning the poor state of the local roads. TC reported that the LAF has indicated that there is likely to be a sum of £65K for road schemes for the next financial year. The tree around the northern VAS needs trimming (MM & TC). The drainage on the Buckingham Rd seems improved so the team scheduled to visit in June may indeed have attended and carried out some work to the gullies.

4c. Website – The plans to update the current website continue. MM and TC are liaising with Julie Dearden who has kindly offered to design and build a 25 page static website, using Word Press', with sections for village groups each accessible via a password for updating, for £460. Julie is also willing to spend half a day each month adding data. John Norman also wishes to be involved. A 'dynamic' events diary could be included, but at extra cost. It was agreed to accept this quote and go ahead (BC, ER). The £250 donation to the Jubilee events was returned as not needed and this will go towards the cost. The Jubilee Committee may donate further. Several younger members of the village have indicated that they would like to

create an Akeley Village community website (which would not be owned or managed by the P/C) accessed via an external link. Thanks to TC for the work he did creating the website originally.

4d. New Code of Conduct – the old code of conduct has expired and the P/Council formally adopted the new version (SB, JH). New Registers of Pecuniary Interests were completed by each P/Councillor.

4e. Neighbourhood Plans – DC Pearl Lewis has recently written to John Byrne, Head of Planning, to express the concern of the small rural villages of the area regarding the Localism act and Neighbourhood Planning. She has received a response but is seeking further clarification. Out of 180,000 residents in the Vale, there were only 224 responses to the recent consultation and it is worrying that policy is being created based on this. Just over half (58) of parishes responded. MM to write expressing concerns about the estimated cost (£5k-£15k) of producing a plan and suggesting that there should be a template provided by AVDC.

5. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS

The **accounts** for the period 1/4/12 to 6/7/12 were presented, approved (ER, TC) and signed by MM who, along with the Clerk, signed the Receipts & Payments Book. MM thanked Alan Taylor and the Clerk for their management of the Jubilee funds.

Allotment fence repair quotes: 3 quotes had been sought and received. It was agreed to accept the lowest quote incorporating an oak post (JH, TC).

The P/C was happy with the re-appointment of LLP Mazars as **the external auditor** for the next 5 years.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- New tree-planting scheme – Akeley will not be partaking as it is on too big a scale.
- Public Rights of Way – to be passed to John Cowley, the Footpaths Officer.
- Akeley residents are to receive new recycling bins. The collection this week will be a day later due to the Olympic torch relay.

7. PLANNING

- **Land to rear of Hillberry House** – Applic. for creation of private manège –amended plans –**APPROVED.**
- **1 Capel Close** – Applic.for erection of 1.8 metre high fence - **REFUSED.**
- **Akeley Wood School** – Applic.for fire escape to science block.
- **Land adj. Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane** – Applic. for outline P/P for 1 dwelling - **Planning appeal ALLOWED.**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.....September 10th 2012