



AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th November 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Terry Cavender, Brian Coxall, Alice Guise, John Hockley (Vice Chair), Mike Mortimer (Chair) and Ellen Sayer (Clerk).

M.o.P: Angela Hawker, John Tibbetts, Simon Garwood (Bucks CC)

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mary Taylor, Elaine Rowlands.

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

ITEMS OF INTEREST & PUBLIC SESSION

- Simon Garwood gave a short presentation - 'Supporting older residents of Luffield Abbey ward.' The P/Council supports this project and is willing to promote it through the Akeley News.
 - Signs along the A413 through the village indicate that the road may be closed at some points between 12th and 22nd Nov for improvements.
3. The **MINUTES** of the last meeting, held on **9th September 2013** were proposed and seconded as a true record (JH, BC) and signed by MM. The Footpaths Walking Party, Leckhampstead Rd. Speed Survey, 'Adopt a...' scheme Health and Safety guidelines and the street light renewal project are all in hand.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

4a. Recreational Field – Grass-cutting – The contractors have done a good job through the summer and it was agreed to ask them to quote for next year. Likewise, Mr Dunkley who cuts the Churchyard. The **Leckhampstead Rd entrance** has been trimmed as requested. **Work to trees on the Dog Walk** has been carried out by the Vale Volunteers Group and they have been paid £110. **Wildlife Area** – Frances White has kindly agreed to take on the role of **works liaison person**. The Clerk to check the insurance implications. The **autumn flail** has been done. The Diamond Jubilee Oak is looking rather sick but we have been advised that it may pick up in the spring. £200 has been set aside for a plaque. The wood for next year's Pig Roast is being stored by the hut. It was commented that the grass cutting on Manor Rd, carried out by the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust's contractors, has been very good.

- **The beacon** - repainting quote. £90. This will hopefully be done as soon as weather permits.
- Safety Advisory Group (**SAG**) **assessment** for overnight/vehicular events on the Recreational Field- MM attended a VHC meeting. The hiring contract for events using the Recreational Field will be amended accordingly.

4b. Roads and traffic

- **Village Inspection** with the Local Area Technician 5/11/13 – We were informed that the County Councillor, Warren Whyte, is keen to see improvements to the **cats' eyes, signing and lining** along the A413. The LAT intends to remedy the **flooding** by The Old Rectory and also at the junction of Church Hill and Leckhampstead Rd, and install a **white-lined walkway** along part of Leckhampstead Rd. The lights are yet to be removed from the northern entrance gates. **Salt bins** – a new bin to be purchased

from Bucks CC and installed if possible at the corner of Capel Close and Manor Rd. The existing Church Hill bin should be repaired under the purchase/maintenance agreement.

4c. Super-fast Broadband and Wi-Fi for the village. (TC) The siting of our exchange makes it difficult to connect **superfast broadband**. We are in 1 of 10 spots in Bucks (6% of the UK) which is not scheduled for installation. Villagers are being encouraged to register their demand for superfast broadband via the www.connectedcounties.org website. The school has declined to be the host for the **Village Wi-Fi** facility. The VHC is giving it consideration.

4d. Affordable Rural Housing – The P/Council remains interested in having an Affordable Housing Scheme in Akeley but more information is needed. The level of support in the village needs to be established, possibly via an open meeting (47 households [81%] were in favour in the 2008 survey). It is not known what impact the Vale of Aylesbury Plan strategy consultation, which ends in Feb.2014, will have on these schemes as the rules seem unclear in the revised plan. Another survey should be undertaken after completion of the consultation.

4e. Communication and responses between Councillors - It was agreed that decisions made by email must be unanimous.

4f. Annual Risk Assessments review for youths employed by the P/Council (bus shelter cleaning and Akeley News delivery). No material changes affecting risk have arisen over the last year. The delivery person has just resigned and so the role will be offered to our reserve, who has helped in the past and for whom we have already obtained a Bucks CC Work Permit.

4g. Local Area Forum (LAF) – Only 9 out of 38 organisations attended the recent budget setting. The next meeting is at Akeley Village Hall on 26/11/2013.

5. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS

The **accounts** for the period 10/9/13 to 6/11/13 were proposed and seconded (JH, BC) and signed by MM who, along with the Clerk, signed the Receipts and Payments Book.

The 2014/15 **precept** in principle. After much discussion and examination of the options it was agreed (JH, BC) to keep the precept for 2014/15 at £9,500 (plus the top-up grant).

It was agreed (JH, AG) that a budget of £180 be allowed to purchase a replacement litter bin for The Square.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- A contact from a cycling publication called ‘The Track Record’, had requested, via the website, details of the former **Akeley Acorns Cycling Club**.
- The newly-installed **bench on Manor Rd** had triggered an anonymous call to the VAHT but they are quite happy with it.
- A communication regarding previous development interest in **The Leys** field had been received from a Mr. Kersey, but he did not state the exact nature of his enquiry.
- The planned **Localism Conference** has been cancelled owing to only 6 out of 178 councils planning to attend.
- The school has requested via their newsletter that drivers bringing and collecting children **park in the Village Hall car park** and not on the access road, which causes congestion.
- **Dial –a- ride funding request** – declined as this service is not used by Akeley residents.

7. PLANNING

- 13/02163/APP - **4 Cedars Close** – Applic. for 1st floor side extension & amended plans – **APPROVED.**
- 13/00057 & 13/00063/APP – **Akeley House, Buckingham Rd.** - Change of use of land from paddock to residential & creation of tennis court – **APPEAL DISMISSED.**
- 13/02817/ALB – **Willow Tree Cottage, Leckhampstead Rd.** - Applic. to replace doors with wall and window.

Householder Extensions Local Development Order - There is now a fast-track process, taking around 2 weeks, to deal with applications for small extensions to properties and the Parish Councils will no longer be consulted on these.

It was noted that at the **V.A.P. strategy consultation meetings**, the bulk of attendees were developers.

The query regarding the **anomaly** in the process dealing with the recent application on **land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane** is ongoing. No reply has been received from AVDC within the promised 10 day deadline.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.....January 13th 2014.