



**AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE FIRST (ANNUAL) MEETING on MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**  
**at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

**DRAFT**

**Present:** Stan Bennett, Terry Cavender, John Hockley (Vice-Chair), Elaine Rowlands  
Mary Taylor, Mike Mortimer (Chair) and Ellen Sayer (Clerk).  
M.o.P: Jackie Corcoran and John Cowley.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Brian Coxall (Sherri Holland).

2. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Chairman and Vice-Chairman).**

Mike Mortimer and John Hockley were nominated and seconded as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively (SB, TC and MM, MT) and both agreed to stand for a further year.

***PUBLIC SESSION & ITEMS OF INTEREST***

- \* It was reported that the street light outside 27 Manor Rd is leaning. See 5c.
- \*In the Daily Telegraph on Fri 3/4/09 The Bull and Butcher was listed as the 45<sup>th</sup> of 70 great British pubs.
- \*It was noted, and appreciated, that there have been several speed traps along the A413 in the village recently (see 5b) and it is understood several tickets were issued.
- \*The rare appearance of graffiti in the village (on the signs at the southern entrance to the village) was reported to Highways on Call and, impressively, cleaned off the next day.
- \* Around 25 adults, plus children, attended the May Day Walk. The Scouts provided refreshments.

3. **The MINUTES of the last meeting held on Monday 9th March 2009** were proposed and seconded as a true record (MT, TC) and signed by MM.

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

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

**5a. Recreational Field - Grass cutting-** the contractors continue to do an excellent job. An area of "Ladies Smocks" **wild flowers** has been left uncut. Matt Dodds from AVDC's biodiversity team will be attending the tea and cakes in June to give a talk. **Children's Play Area** - The annual RoSPA safety inspection will take place this month. An item of adult fitness equipment to be researched. **The footpath from Church Hill** has finally been resurfaced but the 2 old gateposts have not been removed. Dialogue is 'ongoing'.

**5b. Roads and traffic** – TC to obtain statistics on recent speed traps in Akeley, if available, and these may be published. The P/Council has designated areas needing work, as requested (Manor Rd, Leckhampstead Rd, footpath in front of Little Northover) and a share of the £4.5m extra funding may be allocated to rectify these.

**5c. Street lighting** – It was suggested that the next light due for replacement should be either o/side 27 Manor Rd, if it cannot be straightened, or the bracket should be extended and the lamp replaced o/side The Rectory. MM to contact the owner again to request that the yew tree which is obscuring the light be cut right back.

**5d. Affordable Housing** - Jean Fox replied to the P/Council's query on the procedure followed when contacting landowners of potential sites to the effect that recorded delivery of the letters is never used. The Guinness Trust is currently looking into the feasibility of a 3<sup>rd</sup> site.

**5e. Website** – updated regularly by TC. Very useful.

**5f. Complaints procedure** – There should be in place a procedure to be followed in the event of a complaint being directed at the Parish Council as a whole, or any of its members individually.

\* The Clerk will always pass details of any complaint to the Chair in the first instance. If the complaint involves the Chairman, then another member of the P/Council will be advised instead.

\* Depending on the nature of the complaint, it will then be up to the Chairman's discretion as to whether the remaining members of the P/Council should be advised immediately. The item will be put on the next agenda for report only, not discussion. The Councillor involved will be named but the nature of the complaint not disclosed at that point. In a private closed meeting of the Council (may be following a regular P/C meeting or a specially-convened meeting) the nature of the complaint will be disclosed. The issue of whether the details *can* and *should* be discussed will be addressed.

\* The Chairman, through the Clerk, will deal with providing further evidence or information to standards committees. If the complaint involves the Chairman then another member of the Parish Council will deal with this.

## **6. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS**

**6a. The Accounts 8/3 to 31/3/09, accounts 1/4 to 8/5/09 and Annual Accounts** were approved and seconded (SB, MT, MT, TC and TC,MT) and signed by MM. The Receipts and Payments Book was signed by MM and the Clerk. The cost of producing the bi-monthly Akeley News was thought to be high. Contributors to be encouraged to restrict items to A5 size rather than full-page items in order to cut the photocopying costs.

**6b. Insurance cover - annual review** – No changes required. The renewal premium to be paid.

**6c. Completion and signing of Audit Return** –MM completed and signed the relevant section of the Annual Return. The accounts and files will now be handed to our internal auditor.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

\*Refuse Freighter (21/5/09, 7.30-11am, Manor Rd)

\* Play in the Parishes (23/7, 29/7, 14/8, 24/8 10am-12.30pm)

\* Buckingham CAB – request for a donation – It was agreed (MT, ER) to give £50.

\* MM had been nominated by the rest of the P/C to attend a Royal Garden Party but he has been advised that the application was not successful on this occasion.

\* The Scouts have initiated further discussion regarding siting a container on the Chapel Lane field.

## **8. PLANNING**

**The Little Cottage, Main St. - Applic.** for insertion of dormer window in roof slope – APPROVED.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING..... July 13<sup>th</sup> 2009**