



AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2008
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Stan Bennett, Brian Coxall, Terry Cavender, John Hockley (Vice-Chair), Elaine Rowlands, Mary Taylor, Mike Mortimer (Chair) and Ellen Sayer (Clerk).

M.o.P: Sherri Holland, Jackie Corcoran, Angela Hawker, John Tibbetts.

1. APOLOGIES: None

PUBLIC SESSION & ITEMS OF INTEREST

- The unveiling and re-dedication of the restored War Memorial (see 4b) took place on Sat. 18/10/08.
 - Rick Wakeman (former member of rock band 'Yes') and his son Adam, who lives in the village and is also a professional musician (Travis, Keane), recently performed at a fund-raiser in the Village Hall for Chackmore Pre-School Group.
 - The tidy appearance of the Recreational Field and the Wildlife Area were complimented on, after recent maintenance.
 - The ballroom dancing classes in the Village Hall are proving very popular and successful.
 - The Parish Council was thanked for its persistence in arranging for the poor drainage system on the A413 in front of The Old Rectory to be repaired.
- 2. The MINUTES** of the last meeting, held on Monday 8th September 2008, had been circulated and were proposed and seconded as a true record by TC and JH and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA:** None at this point but see 4d below.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

4a. Recreational Field

– **Grass cutting** – very satisfactory. The Clerk to write and thank and ask to quote for next year. Likewise, to David Dunkley, who cuts the Churchyard.

- **Children's Play Area**- The additional fence has now been erected at the access road end of the play area. Consideration will now be given to purchasing a new piece of play equipment. The failing joint in the wet-pour surface under the springy toys was repaired free of charge by Playworld but is not 100% satisfactory. This will be monitored. The contract for the maintenance of the Play Area is being drawn up by MM.

Wildlife Area – this has recently been flailed and cleared and we will hopefully be reimbursed £40 (50% of the cost) by Aylesbury Vale Biodiversity Team. Certain areas have been reseeded by SB. A chain and padlock will be fitted to the gate at the Chapel Lane entrance as a consequence of a vehicle driving across the Wildlife Area.

Recent E-on maintenance – The P/C gave E-on permission to cut trees and shrubs around the Recreational Field that were growing close to electricity cables. This has been done but the branches were left on the ground instead of being shredded and distributed along the hedge. They have promised to come back and rectify this but will not be permitted to bring vehicles onto the field as it is now too boggy.

4b. A well-attended and moving ceremony was held at the **War Memorial** on 18/10/08. Thanks go to the sub-committee which led this restoration project. A pictorial record was presented to the P/Council.

4c. **Roads and traffic** –The drainage problems outside The Old Rectory along the A413 seem to have, at last, been rectified. Thanks to County Councillor David Polhill for his involvement. The gullies at the corner of Leckhampstead Rd have also been emptied. The Parish Gangs, which should have been working in the village during October, did not seem to arrive. This has been queried. No definitive answer received to date. The footpath from Church Hill to the Village Hall should have been ‘top-dressed’ by the end of September but this has not happened either, apparently due to the poor weather. This should now be done by the end of November. The 2 obsolete concrete posts will also be removed. . The 30mph signs in the village have been cleaned by the Area Technician, aided by Nicole Bruce, the CPSO.

An independently-arranged meeting between the Area Technician, representatives from the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust and some Manor Road residents has taken place, regarding the request to widen the road at the bend by shaving off part of the grass verge. This would give larger vehicles access without churning up the grass. Negotiations between the P/Council and the Trust had been ongoing and Parish Councillors were urged to liaise with the Clerk when contacting Highways on Call in that capacity (as opposed to as a resident of the village).

Delegated budget application process – bids for a share of £21K (to be spread throughout the whole of the Buckingham area) need to be submitted by 31/12/08. Community support for any project needs to be shown and a contribution is required from applicants. It was decided to prepare an application for autumn 2009.

4d. **Affordable Housing** - After the Affordable Housing Needs Survey indicated that there was indeed a need for a small scheme in Akeley, it was decided at the last meeting that, in principle, the P/Council was happy to proceed to the next stage, which was to look at suggested potential sites in the village. This has now been done. Jean Fox toured the village with 2 P/Council representatives and gave an initial appraisal of each site. This was then sent to Tony Barker at AVDC Planning for his initial views. A letter of response has now been received and will be circulated to P/Councillors with the original list. Favoured sites are at Manor Rd, with fallback sites on Leckhampstead Rd and at Coronation Cottages. At this point, MM declared an interest, as a resident of Leckhampstead Rd, as did BC, as owner of adjoining land. A special closed meeting, chaired therefore by JH, will be held to discuss the project further.

MM has spoken to the Chairman of Tingewick P/Council (which is now developing a second scheme) as requested at the last meeting, to ascertain who had gone into their housing and the criteria for their selection. The information received seems satisfactory.

4e. **Chackmore turn field** – a contract for the new tenants needs to be drawn up. It was agreed to contact the land agents, TFM Readers, to find out if it is possible to use a model contract and get a costing.

4f. **Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts** The Parish Council is now signed up to, and covered by, the Data Protection Act and the £35 registration fee has been paid.

The revised Freedom of Information Act needs to be adopted at this meeting. It was agreed to adopt the model scheme but to amend the template offered for use by NALC to state that important information would be posted on our website, any request for information must be made to the Clerk in writing, there should always be a P/Councillor present with the Clerk when someone is viewing documents, and there will be a minimum £10 charge for sourcing and copying documents.

Thanks to TC for dealing with these 2 matters.

4g. **Website** –It had been agreed by at least 50% of P/Councillors (as required) that a new page entitled “Neighbourhood Policing” would be added to our website. A “Statement of Purpose” has also been added.

4h. **Notice boards** – Some need attention and SB and JH agreed to carry out some maintenance/repair work.

4i. **Community Governor for the school.** –JH to put an item in the next Akeley News inviting applications /nominations for this post.

4j. **Risk Assessments and Work Permits for under-16s working for the Parish Council.** TC had carried out RAs for the teenagers who clean out the bus shelters (Michael Greener) and deliver the Akeley News (Ben Phillips). These were slightly amended and copies will be given to their parents. They will be reviewed in 1 year's time. They have both been provided with reflective tabards and protective gloves. The P/Council is in the process of applying to Bucks CC for Work Permits for them both.

4k. **Street lighting** – the next priority under the rolling replacement programme will be decided at the January 09 meeting.

5. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS

Accounts 6/9 to 7/11/08 - Proposed and seconded by MT and BC and signed by the Chairman who, along with the Clerk, signed the Receipts and Payments Book.

Village Hall – Annual contribution by the P/C to their insurance – A copy of the VHC's recently - audited accounts and a financial forecast were examined. Historically, the P/C has always paid for, or made a contribution to, the annual insurance cover premium because the VHC is regarded as a community asset, and whenever they apply for funding, e.g. from the lottery, it stands them in good stead if they can show financial support from the community. It was agreed to pay £500 now, and again in 2009, then review the situation in 2010 (MT, BC).
(exit TC)

Clerk's annual salary review – It was proposed and agreed (MT, BC) to increase the Clerk's salary to SCP 27 on the salary scale (to £11.78 per hour, as agreed by NALC), effective 1/4/08.

(exit SB)

Play Around the Parishes 16/4/09 2 to 4.30pm – The Village Hall Committee will not charge for the hire of the hall for this event.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- Refuse freighter 3/12/08 7.30 to 11am Manor Rd
- Perfect Village Sunday 2009 – passed to the Social group.
- A request for the siting of a skip for 1 day only in the Chapel Lane entrance to the Recreational Field had been received. The resident has been advised that the P/C is happy to grant permission as long as it causes no inconvenience to nearby residents and that they are told in advance.
- Standards Committee – Complaints procedures are now dealt with by a sub-committee. Councillors were reminded of a case where action was taken against a Councillor when he took photographs of an incidence of dog-fouling. The Clerk to check whether our insurance covers councillors for legal costs in such instances.
- The P/Council is within its rights to donate up to £5.68 per elector to charity, as long as that charity is operating in the UK.

7. PLANNING

'Possible changes to consultation process' letter. It was agreed that this P/Council would prefer to receive planning applications in weekly batches along with a bulletin, as we do currently, rather than as and when they are processed by AVDC.

- **Akeley House Farm** – Erection of 2.4m safety fence to eastern boundary – **APPROVED** and minor amended plans (to hedging).
- **May Cottage, Leckhampstead Rd** – Applic. for 1st floor ext. to cottage - **APPROVED** and minor amended plans to extend cottage and garage.
- **14 Church Hill** – Application for erection of front porch - **APPROVED**
- **Thyme House, Main St.** – Applic. for single-storey front and side ext. and new pitched roof over existing 1st floor flat roof.
- **Highfield House, Leckhampstead Rd** – Applic. for 2-storey front and rear exts. and 1st floor ext. with detached garage & assoc. works.
- **Pipers, Main St.** – Applic. for single-storey side ext., single-storey front bay ext. and alteration to driveway.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING..... January 12th 2009