



**AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**  
**at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

**1. APOLOGIES:** Sherri Holland

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

- 20 people are to attend Dance Classes arranged by the Social Group.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> and most recent mobile skateboarding session was not so well attended, possibly because families may have been away on holiday.
- The village was saddened on learning of the sudden death of Cate Graham, of The Old Rectory, on 30/8/08.
- The War Memorial restoration was completed 7/8/08. The unveiling ceremony is due to take place at 11am on 18/10/08.

**2. The MINUTES** of the last meeting held on Monday 14th July 2008 were proposed and seconded as a true record (SB, MT) and signed by MM.

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

**4. MATTERS ARISING:**

**4a. Recreational Field –Grass cutting** – the contractors are battling against the wet weather but continuing to do a good job. **Children’s Play Area-** the final touches need to be put to the draft maintenance contract. RoSPA inspection snag list – The protruding fence bolts have been removed (SB), the alleged movement clash in front of the swings has been monitored at different times by several P/Councillors and is not perceived to be a hazard, Playworld are due to reseal the failing join in the safety surfacing below the ‘springies’ during the next week and the gaps needing infilling under the swings have closed with the cooler weather. Thanks to ER for painting the seat. **Electricity** – A tree caused the recent power-cut in the village and led to a full survey by E-On. There are several problematic sites around the village and the P/C was asked for its permission to cut greenery in the area around the transformer and lower the hedge. It was understood that this may lead to 1 day when the village is without electricity but that due notice will be given.

**4b. Roads and traffic** – MM recently attended a NAG meeting where it was confirmed that Akeley, along with Great Horwood, is regarded as being the village with the severest vehicle **speeding problem** in the area. There have been speed traps in recent weeks. The £3.5million available for the **Parish and Patching Gangs** has been allocated throughout the Bucks CC area. David Polhill (County Councillor) and Ken Horne (Local Area Technician) decided where the money should be spent. There will be no patching of roads in this area. The Parish Gang will carry out minor maintenance work, such as cleaning signs. There will be another 4 million pounds available next financial year.

**Flooding along A413** - Finally, a works order has been raised by Bucks CC Highways to enhance the drainage of the ditch in front of The Old Rectory and the work should take place 6-8 weeks after 27/8/08. Flood signs were put up recently after complaints from residents. A blocked drainage gully at the corner of Coronation Cottages was exacerbating the problem and this has also been reported. The fact that vehicles are driving in the centre of the road to avoid the flooding was noted as a hazard. An item will be put on the website to encourage residents to report flooding and any other problems to HOC (Highways on Call) via an e-mail. **Dead elms** overhanging the road opposite Daisy Bank had been reported to Bucks CC who will try to establish the owner of the piece of land behind Old Century Cottage (the P/C has tried to do this in the past). If unsuccessful, they have the power to take action if the situation becomes dangerous.

**4c. Affordable Housing Survey results** – previously, the P/C had agreed to go ahead with a survey within the village to establish if there was a need for an Affordable Rural Housing Scheme. 240 survey forms were delivered and 58 were returned (a rate of 28%, which is slightly above the average). 81% of respondents were in favour of a scheme. Figures show that 6 units would be required: 2x2bedroom shared -ownership flats, 3x2 bedroom and 1x3 bedroom rental homes. In principle, the P/C wishes to progress to the next stage, which is to source land on which to build, but will first talk to Tingewick P/Council, who are currently setting up a second scheme, to address any concerns. A précis of the results will be put on the website.

**4d. Replacement tenant for Chackmore turn field** – The current tenant has given short notice to quit at the end of September. There have been 3 approaches from parties interested in renting the field:

- i. The Heritage Fruit Tree Company – although an attractive idea, in reality this is not a practical option.
- ii. Residents of Lillingstone Lovell and owners of the adjoining piece of land (Hedgehogs Retreat) - they are keen to rent it and put horses on it.
- iii. A horse owner who currently rents another field in Akeley.

It was decided that the second option should be investigated. The Clerk to write and invite the couple to liaise with SB and JH.

**4e. Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts especially with relation to the website.** The P/C has signed up to the F.o.I. Act under the Code of Conduct. However, it also needs to be registered under the Data Protection Act (amended 2000). TC to process Form 870. The £35 fee was agreed (JH, MT).

**4f. Buckingham Local Area Forum – Parish council nominated representative required.** TC to take this on. Next meeting 25/9/08

## 5. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS

The **Accounts 11/7 to 5/9/08** were approved and seconded (TC, MT) and signed by MM who, along with the Clerk, signed the Receipts and Payments Book. It was agreed to donate £100 to the Thames Valley and Chilterns **Air Ambulance Trust** (TC, MT) and an item put on the website. The payments for the cleaning of the **bus shelters** will revert to being calculated on a weekly basis (£5) rather than per calendar month as this is simpler for admin. The annual contribution from the P/C to the Village Hall Committee is now due and it was requested that they provide a copy of their recently audited accounts and a financial projection for the next meeting to ascertain if this is needed this year.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

- The P/C has been advised that any child being employed by it should be over 13 yrs and obtain a Work Permit from Bucks CC. The Clerk to follow up.
- The letter reporting the dead elms mentioned above will be circulated.
- The Chairman had received correspondence from Andy and Nuala Waide regarding their dispute with the Bull and Butcher. The Chairman advised them that he would not circulate this but report it at this meeting. At Mr Waide's request this *will* now be circulated amongst the P/Councillors, along with a copy of the Premises Licence. Mr Waide informed the meeting that he had not requested a review of the licence.
- Quality Parish Council status – this is not something this P/C wishes to pursue.
- The visits from the mobile library will be discontinued due to lack of use. To be put on website.
- The statistics for the use of our website had been received. The search for "rules for village show Victoria sandwich" was the 13th hit on Google in the entire world and some commercial websites can't even manage that!

## 7. PLANNING

**Removal of notices** – letter received from AVDC advising that their resources did not allow for staff to remove the yellow planning notices put up on site, and requesting that we assist in removing out of date notices in our village.

- **Home Farm, Akeley Wood.** – Change of use from agricultural to agric. & equestrian – APPROVED & retention of mobile home until June 2011– APPROVED
- **Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane** –2 storey rear ext. - APPROVED & erection of double garage -APPROVED
- **Priory Mill House, Leckhampstead Rd.** –2-storey rear ext. and insertion of side window - APPROVED
- **Woodlands, Main St** – single-storey front ext. and internal alterations to garage to provide accommodation above - APPROVED

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING..... November 10<sup>th</sup> 2008