



AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th March 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

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

M.o.P: Stefan Balbuza (District Councillor), Jackie Corcoran, John Cowley, Angie Hawker, Sherri Holland, Christine & Brian Peplow and John Tibbetts.

1. APOLOGIES: None

Public Session & Items of Interest.

- AVDC is hiring a mobile skate park to the Village Hall Committee on 3/5/08, 1-4pm. The Parish Council confirmed its pledge to donate £40 towards this.

2. The **MINUTES** of the meeting 14/1/08 had been circulated. They were proposed as a true record by TC and ER and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS RELATING TO ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA: BC-4b

4. MATTERS ARISING:-

4a. Recreational Field.

Play Area – It was unanimously agreed to purchase a **new wooden seat/bench** for the play area at a cost of £380 inc. VAT. BC to arrange collection.

E.Scapes have quoted to **cut** untidy areas of the **Recreational Field** on an 'as and when' basis at a cost of £15 per hour. Quote accepted unanimously. Instructions to go through the Clerk. An offer of £40 (which is roughly its scrap value) has been received for the **grindbox**, which we need to remove as it is considered a liability. Acceptance of this offer agreed. This will be collected by Easter.

Thanks to ER and her husband for personally providing the **stain for the seat in the play area** and staining it, and for the **shed**, which will be done in due course.

The pub has donated a **recreational table and seating unit**. It is proposed to purchase additional fencing (£188 + VAT) to extend the toddlers section of the play area by approx. 2 metres to accommodate this. The Clerk to check with RoSPA to check any safety implications of this before ordering fencing. (See 5. Finance and Accounts)

4b. Drainage around the village - Several P/Councillors recently walked the village to note any problem areas. MM to write to Simon Dudley again re. the perennial surface water problem along the A413. **Ditch and hedge maintenance by landowners (TC)** – BC informed the P/C that he had recently cleared the ditches bordering his land along Chapel Lane. It is not clear who is responsible for clearing the ditches along the A413 where problems occur. To be investigated.

4c. Conservation Area – The proposed area was approved on 5/3/08. Notification to be put in the newsletter and on the website.

4d. War Memorial restoration (JH, ER) – See update in Annual Parish Meeting minutes.

4e. Welcome Packs – Thanks once again to Veronica Baker for distributing the Parish Council's Welcome Packs to newcomers to the village over the years. ER has agreed to take over this role (Prop. MT, sec. TC).

4f. Website inc. commercial advertising – After approaches from several sources, it was agreed to allow adverts from businesses only within the parish of Akeley. Any concerns to be referred to the P/Council.

4g. Historical archives of Akeley (TC, SB) – Storage is needed for the many records and artefacts relating to the village. To be considered.

4h. Manor Rd – parked cars causing obstruction – Refuse vehicles cannot reach some properties and emergency vehicles would not be able to access the far end of Manor Rd. A letter to be sent to the Housing Trust.

4i. Bus shelter, The Square – roof repair needed – felt obtained and will be repaired soon.

4j. Affordable Rural Housing – JH had attended a seminar following the P/Council's meeting with Jean Fox. The P/Council agreed to support a village survey to ascertain feasibility, need, available land etc. This would be at no cost to the village. It will go out with the Akeley News and be collected by hand. JH to liaise.

4k. Street lighting – It was agreed that the next lights for replacement should be at Manor Rd, Coronation Cottages and Jasmine Cottage.

5. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.

The Accounts for the period 13/1 to 7/3/08 were proposed and seconded by TC and ER and signed by the Chairman. The Receipts and Payments Book was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

Donation to CAB - £50 agreed (JH, MT)

It was agreed to purchase the extra fencing at £188 + VAT (MT, TC)

Youth Club dormant account - The funds should be returned to the village. MM to arrange.

Appointment of external auditors

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

The school has kindly offered an item of play equipment but it was thought this was superfluous to our needs.

MM had attended a NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) meeting (NOT as a Parish Councillor) and showed a leaflet regarding a scheme called Community Speedwatch. A portable camera, manned by villagers, would detect speeding vehicles and take the registration numbers. Warning letters would then be sent to the drivers. If caught again the culprits would receive a stronger letter, then mobile police cameras would be used. It was considered that the scheme was flawed and badly thought out and we would not want to make use of it.

7. PLANNING: –

- **Old Century Cottage – Applic. to replace stable with new garage/workshop, internal alterations and to replace window with French doors. PERMITTED**
- **Thyme House (Lylo), Main St – Applic. for single storey front & side exts., single storey rear ext., new front entrance & porch and pitched roof over 1st floor flat roof.**
- **8 Manor Rd. – Applic. for 1st floor side ext., single storey front & rear exts.**
- **Home Farm, Akeley Wood – Applic. for retention of mobile home for 3 years.**
- **Akeley Wood School – Applic. for new sports hall.**
- **Verendale, The Square – Applic. for renewal of 03/00151/ALB (int. alterations to create living accommodation, changes to external doors & windows).**
- **Birchanger/Mountside – Demolition of garage & side ext., erection of 1 & 2 storey exts., loft conversion with dormers , detached garage - REFUSED**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – ANNUAL/FIRST MEETING – 12/5/08