



AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th November 2007
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

M.o.P: Jackie Corcoran, Sherri Holland, John Cowley, Angie Hawker and John Tibbetts.

1. **APOLOGIES:** TC – late arrival
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA:**
SB – rent review - item 5.

PUBLIC SESSION & ITEMS OF INTEREST

- AH presented a booklet that she and JT have produced and told of the research carried out in a project to have the names on our War Memorial reinstated. She requested that the Parish Council apply for a grant jointly with them to achieve this. Discussed more fully in 5h.
 - It was noted with sadness that John Edwards, former Parish Councillor and School Governor, founder member of the table Tennis Club and stalwart of the Social Group had died suddenly. His contribution to the village was much appreciated.
 - JC reported ongoing problems with the refuse lorry damaging electricity cables and grass verges because of the cars parked along Manor Rd. Although the kerbstones have been replaced, a request by the P/Council to make the verge narrower to avoid further damage has been ignored. JC to put a case together, including photographic evidence, and we will write again.
3. **The MINUTES of the last meeting held on Monday 10th September** had been circulated. They were proposed & seconded as a true record by SB and BC and signed by MM.

4. MATTERS ARISING: (* TC now present)

4a. Recreational Field – grass cutting – the final bill for the year has been received. The cutting over the year has been carried out to a high standard, despite the weather, and E.Scapes (Gowton) will be asked to quote for next year.

Play area fencing & funding – a micro-grant of £1,000 from the Community Chest has been applied for. A sub-committee (MM, SB, and ER) has been set up. A condition of the grant application was to show that a portion of the work will be carried out voluntarily so the P/C will remove the existing fence and install the new bench (£275). With a total cost of £1,642, after several donations (Gardening Club, Social Group), there may be a slight shortfall for which our contingency reserve will be used, or we will try to reduce costs. Thanks to SB for the work in obtaining quotes etc.

Grind box – This free-standing piece of skate-boarding equipment was highlighted as a risk in our RoSPA report and more recently in a risk assessment carried out for the Village Hall Committee. It should be secured to the ground. After consultation with users of the equipment it became obvious that there is nowhere really suitable to install it permanently and so it will have to be removed. It will be stored in the shed for the time being and suggestions as to its use invited in the Newsletter.

Allotments – JC presented a letter requesting the removal of 3 trees in the allotment area whose roots were making some of the allotments difficult to work. BC offered to have them removed with a mini-digger. The Sycamore in the centre will be left. JC to trim the nettles shortly.

4b. Village website - TC and ER had met and TC now gave a progress report. Cards for the launch of the website have been produced (ER to deliver to every house). It was agreed to keep the format simple to begin with, with the site being primarily a source of information, and the possibility of inviting sponsorship from local businesses and services will be reviewed at a later date. The website will be a regular agenda item. AH & JT have signed a copyright form for the use of their photos on the website.

4c. AV North Cluster meeting - TC reported that Community Action operates a scheme to source and purchase land on which to build affordable housing. Jean Fox will be asked to attend our next meeting. It was noted that the footpath from Church Hill to the Recreational Field now has blue paint markings which, hopefully indicates that the weed killing and resurfacing that Bucks CC have been promising will take place shortly.

4d. A413 and traffic through the village. – There have been recent speed traps at Coronation Cottages. Since contacting Tim Fowler for a response to the **speed survey** results, a reply was received querying the fact that a survey had taken place at all as they were not aware of it at Highways. MM replied reiterating the relevant information and asked for a reply to the original request for a response. No reply as yet.

Recent road works - TC noted that some settling had occurred in Maids Moreton where cables had been laid and if the same happens in Akeley the contractors should be recalled to correct the levels.

The **drainage along the A413** is just as poor as ever despite the gullies having been pumped out. It seems the pipe work may have collapsed. JH/ES to write.

4e. Street lighting –A request has been received from a resident in Leckhampstead Rd for another street light, but there is insufficient funding for this at present. The Clerk to reply stating that the request will be added to our rolling update programme for consideration at a later date. The quote for the renewal of the bracket & lantern outside 7 Buckingham Rd was approved (£310 +VAT). A further quote for a similar update at Coronation Cottages has also been received although the Clerk had not reported this light as not working. To be queried. It is apparent that solar lighting is too expensive at the moment; there are no grants available. The Clerk to check with BALC to establish if there are any carbon neutral initiatives that we should be following.

4f. Village Hall Committee (SH) - Parish Council representative John Whitton had attended the recent Village Hall Committee meeting. Unless he actually joins the VHC and becomes a Trustee he will have no part in decision making but will attend as an observer and report back to the P/C anything relevant. It was suggested he attend at least one P/Council meeting a year. ES to write to him.

Proposed Street Van Show last weekend in June 2008 – 5pm Friday to 5pm Sunday. The P/Council requests sight of the SVA's Certificate of Insurance.

A propos the use of **fireworks** at events held at the Village Hall, the P/Council cannot allow this and will confirm this in writing to the VHC.

There is to be a **10mph speed limit** imposed on the access road.

SH requested that the P/Council considers paying for 1 hour's hire of a **Mobile Skate Park** (£40). Agreed (SB, MT). The C of E Educational Trust Fund is doing likewise and this will be booked for some time during school holidays.

4g. Conservation Area - Public exhibition and consultation **Monday 10th December, 3-8pm.**

A draft document has been received and this will be circulated. Every resident within the proposed area will be written to by Bucks County Council.

4h. War memorial – The P/Council fully supports this project and AH, JT, JH and ER will work together to apply for a grant.

5. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS

Accounts 8/9/07 to 9/11/07 – proposed and seconded by ER & MT and signed by MM. MM & ER signed the Receipts and Payments Book.

John Taylor's **annual rent review** - Agreed to maintain the rate at £90 for Sept 07-08 (3rd year) but will request payment by return. MM to respond to the letter from TFM Readers.

6. CORRESPONDENCE A reply had been received informing the P/Council that it was not eligible for any funding under the s106 scheme as all developments of 4 houses or more in Akeley were built prior to 2004 when the scheme came into force.

7. PLANNING

- **Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane** – Applic. for double garage & relocation of access.
- **Home Farm, Akeley Wood** – Applic. for change of use of land to mix of agricultural and equestrian (amended applic., without barn) minor amended plans, no consultation needed.
- **Hurst Farm, Leckhampstead Rd** – Applic. for removal of wording to condition 'A minimum building line of 45ft shall be observed'.
- **Land north of Bycell Farm** – erection of 5 stables and parking - PERMITTED

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING..... January 14th 2008