



AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14/1/08 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

Members of the Public: Jackie Corcoran, Sherri Holland.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Brian Coxall

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

PUBLIC SESSION & ITEMS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there have been several burglaries in the area recently. The PCSO for Akeley, Nicola Bruce, will be visiting the village

3. **The MINUTES of the last meeting held on Monday 12th November 2007** had been circulated. They were proposed and seconded as a true record (ER,TC) and signed by MM.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

4a. Recreational Field

Grass cutting quotes – The quote for the coming year from E.Scapes was considered and accepted (JH,TC) [but will be amended to allow for the regular maintenance of the edge of the concrete footpath and untidy areas], and that from David Dunkley for the Churchyard (no increase from last year (TC,MT).

Play area - new fencing due to be delivered w/c 21/1/08, to be installed by David Gowton as per previous quote. A new seat will be installed by a party of volunteers. The Gardening Club will donate £75 and, subject to confirmation, the Social Group £250. The £200 shortfall will be paid by the P/Council. The project should be completed by end of March, as specified by The Community Chest funding of £1,000.

- **A maintenance contract** to be drawn up to make the existing arrangement more formal (MM,SB).

- **The shed** needs staining. ER volunteered to get the stain (will be reimbursed) and do this, as well as staining the wood on the **slide play unit** and the existing **seat**.

4b. Village website Thanks to TC for all his input. Several maps of the village are to be put on the site. Any commercial links that are approved will be minuted. A mailbox, giving an automatic acknowledgement, will be opened and 2 weeks prior to each P/C meeting any messages forwarded to all P/Councillors. An item is to be put in the Akeley News to let villagers know of this facility.

4c. Affordable Housing - meeting with Jean Fox arranged for Monday Feb 25th, 7.30pm. To be put in newsletter.

4d. Highways and traffic through the village- No response from Highways to our letters. Drainage problems are ongoing. TC, JH, MM and ER to carry out a comprehensive survey of the problems in the village. MM to then write to the Chief Executive to complain that maintenance standards are falling.

4e. Street lighting –In the light of recent burglaries, a notice will be put in the newsletter asking householders to cut back any trees on their property which are obscuring street lights (MM).

Annual payment to VHC for play area light now on their meter - £20. The bulk of our previous bills was the standing charge.

More street lights seem to be found to be unrepairable when they fail. This will have an impact on the setting of the precept.

4f. War Memorial Restoration Project (ER/JH) Several quotes have been obtained for either re-inscribing the names in situ, or providing 2 plaques and 2 blanks to be mounted on the memorial, in granite or limestone. The latter seems the better option. The likely cost will be £1,370 +VAT. The P/C has agreed to make a donation in principle. If it does, then the VAT may be claimed back through the Parish Council's accounts. Donations are being sought from relatives of those remembered on the memorial. JH informed the P/C that the PCC must apply for a faculty to carry out the works. The hall hire charge for a fund-raising afternoon will kindly be waived by the VHC.

4g. Conservation Area - A summary of the P/Council's comments has been given to the Conservation Areas Officer, as requested, for the final documentation.

5. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS

The accounts for the period 10/11/07 to 12/1/08 were approved (JH,SB) and signed by MM.

The Scouts rent, payable April 2009, was reviewed and kept at £50 (MT,TC)

After due consideration of the finances, it was decided that the precept should remain at £9,500 for a further year (ER,JH). The VHC still requires the annual donation of £500 from the P/Council as this goes towards their insurance and they have encountered some £300 of unexpected annual expenditure relating to health and safety maintenance checks. (TC,ER).

6. CORRESPONDENCE - MM had written to the Green Spaces Officer to ask if the village was eligible for any 106 payments. These are contributions to the local amenities from housing developers. Unfortunately, any such development has to be of 4 or more dwellings and the only such development in Akeley (opposite the school) was completed before the system came into force.

7. PLANNING

- **Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane – Applic. for 2-storey rear extension.**
- **Old Century Cottage – Applic. to replace stable with new garage/workshop, internal alterations and to replace window with French doors.**
- **Birchanger, Buckingham Rd., - Applic. for demolition of garage & side extension. Erection of 1.5 storey ext., loft conversion with dormer window, detached garage.**
- **Hurst Farm, Leckhampstead Rd – Applic. for removal of wording to condition ‘A minimum building line of 45ft shall be observed’.** PERMITTED
- **The Coach House, Main Street – Demolition and erection of 2-storey dwelling - PERMITTED**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING..... March 10th 2008. This will be the Annual PARISH meeting. Reports are invited from

- **Parish Council Chairman**
- **Parish Council Allotments Officer**
- **Parish Council Footpaths Officer**
- **Village Hall Committee**
- **Gardening Club**
- **Social Club**
- **Akeley Charities and C of E Educational Trust Fund**