AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FIRST or ANNUAL MEETING held on THURDAY 17TH MAY 2007

at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Stan Bennett, Terry Cavender, John Hockley (Vice-chair), Mary Taylor, Mike Mortimer (Chair) and Ellen Sayer (Clerk).
M.o.P.: Veronica Baker, Jackie Corcoran and Sherri Holland.

MM opened the meeting and presented Veronica Baker with a card and a plant (a Veronica) and thanked her for her contributions and input to the Parish Council over the last 8 years.

1. **APOLOGIES** Brian Coxall

2. The six newly-elected Councillors signed their **DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** and Terry Cavender was welcomed to the Council. MM then stood down and handed the Chair to JH who invited nominations for Chairman. MM was proposed by SB, seconded by TC and was prepared to stand again. JH was proposed and seconded as Vice-Chairman (MM, MT) and accepted**.** The **CO-OPTION OF the 7TH COUNCILLOR** was then discussed. Mark Heale had verbally declared his interest in being co-opted back on to the Council and another application (proposed and seconded by villagers) had been received. A decision must be reached, by means of a vote, within 60 days and so a special meeting will be held.

PUBLIC SESSION & ITEMS OF INTEREST

- The Bank Holiday Walk around the village, organised in conjunction with the Scouts, had been a success. SH to write to thank them.
- SB has been a Parish Councillor in Akeley for 31 years and this long service is to be recognised with a framed certificate from the Chairman of AVDC. The arrangements to be discussed in 5g.
- There was a collision between a school coach and a 4x4 (which drove into the back of the coach when it stopped) on Leckhampstead Rd. on Tues. 15th (see 5f).

3. **The MINUTES** of the last meeting held on Tuesday **20th March** had been circulated. They were proposed and seconded as a true record by SB and MT and were signed by MM

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

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

5a. Recreational Field

i. Grass cutting – David Gowton is doing a good job and SB will approach him with an agreed budget of up to £50 to treat weeds by the allotments and along the footpath from Church Hill. Nettles elsewhere will be strimmed. SB to take an overhanging branch from the Sycamore next to the allotments. The Bio-diversity team from AVDC will lift more trees later in the year.

5b. Village Hall Committee –The Parish Council has been invited to nominate someone to join the VH Management Committee. It does not have to be a Councillor and it was decided to approach John Whitton, who has expressed an interest in becoming involved. The acoustic damping treatment is to be installed in the roof of the hall 4/6/07.
The ongoing query by the VHC into the costs charged by Bucks CC for setting up the easement (right to cross) on the school playing field (for the creation of the access road to the hall) has been dragging on since April 06. The VHC took the case to the Ombudsman who advised them to go to the small claims court to settle the dispute. However, since the intervention of David Polhill (County Councillor), Bucks CC have, as a goodwill gesture, offered a refund of £500 as they acknowledge that, due to poor timekeeping records, the surveyor is unable to account for the hours spent in setting up the easement. The VHC would be satisfied with £1,000 and will reply to this effect.

5c. Use of Recreational Field for a 'Village Summer's Day' event (July 15th) and by the Caravan Club – The P/Council needs a letter from the organisers of the former setting out the details and the insurance will be looked into. The use of the field by the caravanners will be declined due to the poor drainage of the ground. (ES to write✓).

5d. Village website – The Parish Council needs to purchase web space and set up a website for the village. TC to look into this.

5e. Welcome Packs for new villagers – VB, although no longer a Councillor is willing to carry on with these. It was confirmed that there is a Footpaths Map in each pack.

5f. A413 and traffic through the village – The original letter to Sian Thomas, sent on 21/1/07, following the school bus accident had been referred to Tim Fowler, her senior. No reply had been received and a letter had been sent to him at the end of April. Still no reply to date. As regards a width/weight restriction along the A413, it appears that even if Highways were in agreement, an application has to go through Thames Valley Police whose response is likely to be that because of lack of man-power they would not be able to enforce the restriction and so it would not be implemented. TC may be able to attend the Local Area traffic meetings at Winslow in future. MM to book the speed strips as discussed at last meeting (£195 for 7 days – JH, TC) for sometime in June outside The Rectory. They monitor traffic flow in both directions, measuring axle distances thereby determining vehicle type, and provide data in 1-hour breakdowns. There was a speed trap 3 weeks ago in the village; 3 people were stopped and cautioned. There was an accident on Leckhampstead Rd on 15/5. It appears the policeman who arrived to deal with it was very off-hand with those villagers who had been helping with the traffic and this was reported to Sgt. Sue James. It seems it was an Akeley Wood coach. ES to determine the designated school bus routes in Akeley.(✓) MM to write to A/Wood school.

5g. Long Service Award – Stan Bennett has been on the Parish Council for 31 years and is to receive an award from the Chairman of AVDC. It was decided that this should be presented before the start of the next meeting on 9th July.

6. **FINANCE and ACCOUNTS**

6a. Accounts 21/3 to 31/3/07 – proposed and seconded by SB and TC
Annual Accounts - proposed and seconded by MT and JH
Accounts 1/4 to 15/5/07 – proposed and seconded by MT and JH.
All were signed by MM, who signed the Receipts and Payments Book along with the Clerk.

6b. Insurance cover - annual review – ES to extend the personal accident cover age limit to 85 to cover our oldest member.

6c. Completion and signing of Audit Return – MM went through the audit return and, after consultation with the rest of the P/Council, signed Sections 1 and 2 as required. This will now be passed to George Eagle, our internal auditor, for completion before being sent off to Hacker Young, the external auditors.

6d. – **School fence adjoining children's play area –** This has been replaced by the school and it was agreed (MT, TC) to make a £50 donation towards the costs (✔ES).

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Conservation Areas Review – meeting required**.** MM to contact the writer of the letter. VB, SH and JC to attend.
Affordable Housing – MM to contact
Safety Surfacing repair company – MM to investigate as action needs to be taken on surfacing below the bigger swings.
Sustainability Fund – It appears the P/C is not eligible.

8. **PLANNING**

- **2 dwellings rear of The Roses – amended house types (addition of conservatories), additional vehicular access and parking for The Coach House and The Roses – APPROVED. The planting scheme should be monitored, as should be complete before occupation.**
- **5 Manor Rd. - Applic. for concrete base and storage tank for LPG.**
- **Akeley Wood School – Applic. for repairs to windows and roof, replace roof tiles and associated works on The Stables building, and applic. for erection of temporary classroom.**
- **Home Farm, Akeley Wood – Applic. for change of use of land and agricultural barn to agricultural and equestrian, and erection of additional barn – REFUSED.**

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING…….. July 9th 2007 **(7pm? SB presentation - TBC)**