

ALDWARK AREA PARISH
MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT ALDWARK MANOR, ALDWARK
ON TUESDAY 20 MAY 2014 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillors: Colin Stroud (Chairman), Henry Dean, Allan Boddy, and Sue Southall.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk: District Councillor Nigel Knapton.
County Councillor Peter Sowray

No members of the public were present.

14/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Crooke.

14/2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2013

Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

14/3 CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT

Introduction

Following the resignation of the 2012/13 Chairman Cllr Roland Crooke and the Vice-Chair Cllr Alison Pollock, Cllr Colin Stroud was elected as Chairman and Cllr Henry Dean the Vice-Chairman for 2013/14.

The Council wishes to thank to Cllrs Crooke and Pollock for their service to the parish over many years.

In July, due to pressures of work and other commitments, Cllr Pollock resigned from her position on the Council. Following proper procedure, Sue Southall of Aldwark was duly co-opted on to the PC in November 2013.

In addition to its regular activities such as considering planning applications, and monitoring the condition of the roads, footpaths and street-lighting, during the year under review the Parish Council has worked hard on behalf of local residents in the following ways.

Waste Spreading

There was continuing concern regarding the nuisance caused to residents by the spreading of waste on farmland by Coast to Coast Recycling Ltd. Members of the PC made representations to NYCC, Hambleton DC, The Environment Agency, North Yorkshire Police and Anne McIntosh, MP but were disappointed by their responses. Consequently several councillors gave an illustrated presentation to NYCC's Hambleton Area Committee at County Hall in January 2014. However, whilst this presentation was well-received, again the PC was dissatisfied by the response. Consequently, a meeting between Coast to Coast and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council took place in September to negotiate fresh guidelines for its activities in the parish. A waste spreading agreement with Coast to Coast Recycling Ltd was agreed and signed by both parties and was displayed on notice boards. To date the agreement appears to be respected by Coast to Coast as no major problems have been reported.

Approved Chairman

Date.....

Street Lighting

In May Cllrs Stroud and Dean attended a meeting organised by NYCC to discuss a proposal to save energy by switching off certain street lights between midnight and 5am. It was subsequently agreed that two streetlights in Aldwark and Flawith would be exempted and would remain lit for security reasons. Members agreed this was a satisfactory arrangement and felt that the energy-saving was justified.

Drains in Flawith

Following representations made by Councillor Crooke work on the drains in Flawith was carried out by Yorkshire Water. Thanks to Cllr Crooke's persistence, this problem has, we hope, now been resolved.

Adoption of the disused Telephone Kiosk in Aldwark

Following the successful conversion of the kiosk in Flawith, the Parish Council acquired the disused telephone kiosk in Aldwark from BT for the nominal sum of £1, and with the voluntary efforts of a local resident the kiosk has been repainted and fitted out for use as a Book Exchange. We are grateful to Brian Warris for the generous donation of his time and energy.

Superfast Broadband North Yorkshire

During the year it was learned that residents of Ane, Tholthorpe and Tollerton would benefit from BT's installation of Superfast Broadband in the area. But people in the outlying parishes would not be able to get this as BT decided it was uneconomical to upgrade the local telephone lines and bring optical fibre to these villages.

The Parish Council thought this was unfair and through an organisation called Superfast North Yorkshire, arranged a public meeting in January to consider alternative options. This was attended by over 50 residents and as a result, LN Communications, trading as 'I Love Broadband', is now offering Superfast High Quality Broadband for residents of Flawith, Youlton, Aldwark and Myton-on-Swale using modern radio technology.

Winter Weather Arrangements

Rural Action Yorkshire's 'Winter Weather Agents Toolkit' was considered by the Council but it was agreed to continue with the informal arrangements previously agreed by the council to identify people who might be at risk, and involve local people and farmers with 4x4s and tractors to assist in any support that was required. The co-operation of local residents would be appreciated in drawing to our attention any residents who might be vulnerable in adverse weather conditions.

Roads, pavements, footpaths and grass verges.

Following extremely wet weather and road closure in Newton on Ouse due to flooding, the roads and footpaths in the parish were left in a very poor condition. Led by Councillor Boddy, regular representations were made to NYCC Highways to carry out repairs. This was only partly achieved but further repairs to the roads are planned including the major refurbishment of the road from Aldwark village to Aldwark Bridge. We are grateful to Cllr Boddy and others for their generous personal efforts to keep our verges in good order.

The new footpath along the banks of the River Ure from Aldwark Church to the bridge was advertised to residents.

Approved Chairman

Date.....

The Aldwark Ramble in Easter week 2013 organised by Boroughbridge and Area "Walkers are Welcome" group through the Parish Council was a great success. More than forty people took part including several local residents.

A new footbridge over Shorn Dyke in Youlton has at last been installed by NYCC and is of rugged construction.

Following a request from an elderly resident in Youlton a simple bench was duly installed in Hag Lane in early April 2014. It is frequently used by residents, walkers and cyclists.

Parish Newsletter

Following a request from the Parochial Church Council the PC agreed to make a financial contribution of £50 towards the cost of an additional A4 sheet in the Parish Newsletter so that more parish news could be included in it. Residents of the parish are invited to submit items of general interest for publication.

NYCC Cuts

County Councillor Sowray reported to the PC that in addition to the £77m of budget cuts already identified an additional £94m of cuts in expenditure were also required up to 2019. This will result in a reduction in the services being provided by the County Council. For example we have been told that we will no longer get a grant for amenity grass-cutting in 2015. The PC will continue to monitor the impact of these cuts on our residents.

Policing

The Parish Council was disappointed by the lack of attendance at its meetings by the local police. However, in view of constraints on police time, it was agreed that police officers would only be invited to meetings to address specific matters of concern.

14/4

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Questions were asked of County Councillor Sowray regarding the lack of feedback on road repairs undertaken and also the yellow pot hole markings between Alne Cross and Youlton. Councillor Sowray would follow up on these comments.

The Meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Approved Chairman

Date.....