

ALDWARD AREA PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 7.30pm
at Aldwark Manor Hotel**

Present: Cllrs John Topliss, Lynette Evans, Andy Follington and Tina Greenwood

In attendance: Alison Pollock (Clerk and RFO), several members of the public

Minute

40/19 Apologies for absence – received from District Cllr Malcolm Taylor

41/19 Declaration of interests in agenda items – none

42/19 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Topliss was elected Chair and Cllr Follington was elected vice-chair. Cllr Topliss signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

43/19 Appointments to outside bodies

It was agreed that Cllrs Topliss and Follington would act as voting representatives for the Hambleton Branch of YLCA.

44/19 Public forum

Concerns were raised by members of public about the planning application at The Cottage, Aldwark. Issues raised included possible coaching of developers by Hambleton District Council planning department to help them get round heritage issues, concerns over tandem development possibilities on the remaining L-shaped area of land, infill of houses spoiling the conservation area and misleading statements by the intended developers that the proposals offer affordable housing when they do not. A view was expressed that the refurbishment of the original cottage would be beneficial but the rest of the proposals are purely commercial and to the detriment of the conservation village of Aldwark and should be rejected.

A representative of Morrisons farms explained that criminal activities and damage were happening around Rice Lane and neighbouring farmland and properties, with access using Rice Lane. A proposal was made for a lockable barrier to prevent motor vehicles accessing at night, while not preventing appropriate usage of the bridleway.

45/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

46/19 Matters arising from the minutes and not on the agenda

None

Signed.....Chair.....Date

47/19 Co-option of councillor to represent Youlton

The councillors considered two applicants for this role and it was resolved to co-opt Richard Padgett to represent Youlton as parish councillor.

48/19 Allocation of roles and responsibilities

These were agreed as follows:

Planning: Cllr Topliss with support from Cllr Evans for Aldwark applications and Cllr Padgett for (Youlton)

Roads, verges, pavements: Cllr Follington

Leisure and play area: Cllr Greenwood

Public communications/Facebook/website/newsletter: Cllrs Evans and Greenwood

It was agreed to be more active in communicating with parishioners and that a plan of action would be discussed at a future meeting.

49/19 Rice Lane

- Cllr Follington updated the council on progress at the Community Garden. The basic construction was completed and sowing had commenced.
- It was agreed to make a contribution of £60 towards the petrol cost of John Taylor who has made an excellent job of tidying the verges and grass along the village end of Rice Lane.
- The clerk reported that Morrisons Farms had confirmed that the weedkiller used along the further stretch of Rice Lane was not toxic to people or animals.
- It was agreed that given the recent crime activity along Rice Lane and nearby farmland, the proposal by Morrisons farms to pay for and install a lockable barrier on Rice Lane would be generally welcomed (noting that it would not block easy passage by horses, cyclists and walkers).

50/19 Vehicle-activated speed matrix signs

Cllr Topliss explained that NYCC has not produced guidance on the permitted types of speed matrix signs and the next step is to put in an expression of interest so that NYCC will carry out site assessments for Flawith and potentially also Aldwark. The costs of the signs would be around £3,250 per sign with installation costs of approximately £500, plus VAT. Cllr Topliss agreed to start the process.

51/19 Parish Council insurance renewal

It was agreed to renew the insurance with Zurich Insurance and take advantage of premiums fixed for 3 years at a reduced rate.

52/19 Waste spreading

It was noted that information on deployments had been received and that Cllr Padgett would be asked to take up the brief on this issue.

53/19 Bus services through Flawith and Aldwark

Signed.....Chair.....Date

The significant recent reduction in bus services in these villages is a cause of concern to many residents and the parish councillors agreed to support the petitioning of NYCC to step in rather than dismissing the changes as solely a commercial operative matter. A letter of support will be prepared and delivered by the clerk. Cllr Follington advised that he has phoned Reliance and they have offered to attend a meeting with councillors. Parishioners are encouraged to complete the proforma letter to NYCC to indicate the strength of feeling in our parish.

54/19 Hambleton DC/North Yorkshire CC planning applications – active cases

19/00774/FUL Construction of two attached cottages with access and parking. Extensions and renovation to existing dwelling, The Cottage, Aldwark, North Yorkshire YO61 1UB – the council discussed and resolved to prepare a response objecting to this development along the following lines:

- The proposed construction of the two new dwellings would have an adverse impact on the historic setting of the existing Cottage within the village and the Aldwark Conservation Area.
- There is little public benefit likely to accrue from the new dwellings unless there are specific safeguards put in place to make the new properties affordable such as restrictions limiting their sale to existing local first-time buyers.
- The reasons for the previous refusals for development on this site still apply. Although not part of this application, the remaining unallocated and undeveloped L-shaped parcel of land should be preserved to retain the character and setting of The Cottage. Major concern has been expressed about the prospect of the applicant seeking permission to develop this land in the future for additional residential development and both local residents and the Parish Council would like reassurance that any future proposals for tandem residential development would be resisted.

Finally, concern has also been raised about the way Hambleton DC planning department has coached the applicant in regard to these proposals and the potential conflict of interest this gives rise to, and the possible allegation of impropriety.

18/00209/FUL Construction of two detached dwellings and garages together with ancillary external works, drainage and landscaping, Aldwark, North Yorkshire YO61 1UB. Granted by HDC. It was agreed that Cllr Evans will pick up the action to report back on cost from developer regarding drainage pipe provision.

18/01772/LBC Listed Building Consent for new fenestration and provision of roof void ventilation – to note that parish council has responded to confirm no objections
Licensing variation – Aldwark Manor – to note that parish council has responded to confirm no objections

55/19 Hambleton DC planning decisions to note

18/02585/TPO Works to trees covered by Tree Preservation order, Court Field House, Aldwark - granted

19/00240/FUL Creation of a new access to off-street parking to the front of Auburn Hill, Flawith – granted

Signed.....Chair.....Date

19/00424/FUL Change of use of agricultural land for the siting of five tourism pods for overnight accommodation – Rising Sun Farm, Aldwark – granted

19/00382/FUL Construction of general agricultural and livestock building, part OS field 0002 Alne Road, Tollerton – granted

56/19 Finance (report from Responsible Financial Officer)

a) To note progress on annual accounts, deadlines

The accounts are in preparation and a further Parish Council meeting will be held before 17 June to review and sign off the accounts and governance statements. Then public rights for inspection will be exercised, commencing on 17 June 2019. The deadline for submission of the external audit exemption certificate (or the submission of accounts for external audit) is 1 July 2019.

b) To agree appointment of Mrs Sarah Robinson of Youlton to carry out independent internal inspection of accounts for year ended 31 March 2019 – duly confirmed

c) To note receipts and payments and bank balances – noted and approved. It was noted that the contribution to the Aldwark Community Garden should come from CIL monies and a report on CIL balances will be prepared and submitted to Hambleton District Council periodically.

d) To agree new signatories for bank account – these were agreed as Cllrs Topliss, Evans and Greenwood.

e) To decide on payment terms for election fee of £100 from HDC – it was agreed to pay as a lump sum when invoiced

57/19 Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk role and hours

Following a review of the hours required to carry out Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer duties, it was agreed that with effect from 1 May, the Clerk/RFO's contractual hours would be increased to 15 per month.

58/19 Portfolio responsibilities

a) Leisure – nothing further reported

b) Roads, pavements and grass verges – Cllr Topliss advised that the green in Flawith is not being regularly mowed and it was agreed that he should arrange for this to be done, by paying an appropriate person for the work from Parish Council funds.

c) Public communications – nothing further reported

d) Planning – nothing further reported

59/19 Report from County Councillor/District Councillors

None.

60/19 Reports from Parish Councillors

Nothing further reported.

Signed.....Chair.....Date

61/19 Correspondence received

The clerk passed on the items of correspondence that had not already been circulated by email.

62/19 Dates of future meetings

Tuesday 11th June 2019 starting at 7.00pm at Aldwark Manor Hotel

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.