

ALDWARE AREA PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2019 at 7.00pm
at Aldwark Manor Hotel**

Present: Cllrs John Topliss, Tina Greenwood, Richard Padgett

In attendance: Alison Pollock (Clerk and RFO), Cllr Malcolm Taylor and members of the public

Minute

91/19 Apologies for absence – Cllrs Andy Follington, Lynette Evans and Paula Thompson

92/19 Declaration of interests in agenda items – none

93/19 Public forum

Members of the public raised concerns, commented and asked questions about:

1. Traffic calming measures
 - Locations of speed signs for Aldwark, and whether flashing signs would cause problems with epilepsy, for example. Would it be possible to have a sign in between properties rather than outside one home, to be less intrusive for specific residents?
 - Residents are generally in favour of speed calming measures
 - Cllr Padgett asked about the minimum distance requirement set by NYCC, since several residents have observed high speeds just inside the village of Aldwark coming from Longlands. He asked if the council could look into this to focus on entry speeds, and also ask NYCC about other possible speed calming measures, which the Chair resolved to do
 - The Chair made a number of points:
 - The sign for Flawith has been ordered – this is a two-stage process where NYCC install a post and socket then full installation of a solar powered sign follows
 - There are NYCC stipulated distances for situation of speed signs (minimum distances from an entrance to a village/30mph signs); NYCC recommended a location in Aldwark based on these guidelines.
 - Any sign would go on a new post not an existing pole
 - Having a sign in the village not at the entrance is also partly from a desire to be able to rotate the sign in two directions
 - Local approval is important, whatever proposals are made
 - Cllr Greenwood asked if the 30mph sign could be moved further out, eg nearer to Keeper's Cottage/entrance road to Rising Sun farm, not least because of the extended village envelope and the downslope, and the Chair will also investigate

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

2. The Cottage, Aldwark
 - A resident noted that owners of The Cottage, Aldwark are challenging HDC's decision to refuse planning permission. The grounds for the challenge were not believed to be valid by the resident and he asked parish council if it would provide a written submission to reiterate its comments previously objecting to this development. After discussing the issue, the parish council resolved to make a written submission covering heritage asset issues and repeating previous objections.
3. Drainage – Keepsake development, Aldwark
 - Concerns were raised by two residents that newly laid drains at the rear of the development and existing houses are not working; the council was told that a meeting of a resident has been held with the developer who said that the pipes may be crushed. The council was shown a photograph. Residents expressed concern that water is being driven onto adjacent properties and also whether the brick structure at the culvert by the play area was appropriate and effective. Cllr Greenwood confirmed that very little water appeared to be draining this way, and also was concerned about safety given the gaps around the brick structure. The Chair agreed for the parish council to write to both planning and building control, and encouraged the residents to do the same.

94/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2019

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair. It was noted that in the minutes a solar powered option for the speed signs for Flawith was said to be prohibited by NYCC. This was correct at the time but subsequently it has been permitted and this solar option would be purchased, at a slightly higher cost but more environmentally sound.

95/19 Matters arising from the minutes and not on the agenda – none

96/19 Vehicle-activated speed signs services through Flawith and Aldwark

The discussion noted earlier in the public forum is relevant here. It was resolved to proceed with the sign for Flawith but to conduct further consultation and investigation in respect of Aldwark.

Additional speed-calming measures such as 30 mph road markings and rumble strips will be explored with NYCC as the CIL monies could be used for such works for the benefit of the villages.

97/19 Bus services through Flawith and Aldwark

The clerk advised that Mr Barry Connor has requested a further letter be sent on behalf of the parish council to NYCC. The parish council discussed this matter. The council has not received any weight of response from residents so at this time no further action will be taken.

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

98/19 Defibrillator services

The clerk agreed to speak to Joyce Whitehead at Galtres Vets and between them set up a routine to check the defibrillators in Flawith and Aldwark. The parish council discussed and agreed that a monthly check was considered adequate, in connection with the new maintenance programme with Restarting Hearts which the clerk is arranging, as previously agreed.

99/19 Grass cutting contribution from NYCC for 2020/2021

It was noted that the small contribution from NYCC will be unchanged for the next financial year at £59.71.

100/19 Subscriptions and services accessed

After discussion the council decided not to renew the £42 subscription to Community First Yorkshire for the future financial year, as the service is not being adequately used by councillors.

101/19 Gritting services through Youlton

It was noted that NYCC had refused the parish council's request to resume gritting services along the road through Youlton. The parish council will continue to pay for salt bin replenishment to help residents to address icy road conditions.

102/19 Grass verges in Aldwark

The grass verges in parts of Aldwark were discussed after complaints from several residents. It was felt that the recent drainage work by Keepsake homes, then parking by visitors to Aldwark Arms' bonfire event, had combined to leave the village looking in poor repair. The council agreed to take this forward to try to improve the appearance of Aldwark village.

103/19 Play area in Aldwark

The councillors reviewed the recent report from RoSPA following their safety inspection of the play area. It was noted that there were no major issues highlighted. Some timber decay was noted on the fencing but this has been remedied with new stakes. Councillors Greenwood and Padgett offered to jet wash the wooden equipment. The clerk agreed to investigate what stain or treatment products would be safe and suitable to treat the wood to extend its lifetime of use. It was agreed that at this stage a further grass cut was not required, at extra expense.

104/19 Hambleton DC planning applications

The following progress/outcomes were noted:

- a) 19/01896/CAT Works to trees and hedges in a Conservation Area including removal of 11 trees and replanting, Aldwark Manor Hotel – decision still awaited. To note that works appear to have commenced prior to planning consent being

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

obtained and the parish council has raised concerns to Hambleton planning enforcement about due process

- b) 19/01993/FUL Construction of single storey extension to existing South Lodge to provide additional hotel accommodation, Aldwark Manor Hotel - Granted
- c) 19/01994/FUL Redevelopment of existing walled garden to form paths, lawns, planted areas, boundary walls and a Victorian cast iron gazebo, Aldwark Manor Hotel - Granted
- d) 19/01607/FUL Full planning application for the proposed development of temporary accommodation for seasonal staff at Aldwark Manor Golf and Spa Hotel comprising of 16no bedroom pods with shared amenity space and associated parking as amended by details received by Hambleton District Council on 11 September 2019 - Granted
- e) 19/02293/CAT Works to trees in a Conservation Area, Aldwark Manor golf course – the parish council considered the proposal and raised no objections
- f) 19/01992/FUL Construction of a single storey extension to ground floor restaurant with retractable roof – the parish council considered the proposal and raised no objections
- g) 19/02307/FUL Construction of an agricultural building for the storage of agricultural machinery, Bridge Farm Aldwark, YO26 9SL – the parish council considered the proposal and raised no objections
- h) 19/00774/FUL and 19/00043/REFUSE Construction of two semi-detached cottages with access and parking and extensions to existing dwelling, The Cottage, Aldwark, North Yorkshire YO61 1UB – to note that an appeal has been made by Mr James Bladon to the Secretary of State against Hambleton District Council’s decision to refuse. The parish council discussed and resolved to make a written representation reiterating the concerns already expressed when the application was being considered by HDC.

105/19 Finance and budgeting for 2020 onwards

- a) **To note receipts and payments and bank balances, actuals vs budgets, and CIL balance to 20 November 2019** – noted and approved
- b) **To agree the budget and precept** – the budget proposals prepared by the RFO were discussed and in order to maintain a suitable level of reserves and pay for better maintenance of defibrillators, maintenance of and insurance for the new speed constraints in the parish and other initiatives it was resolved to increase the headline precept level by 10% to £4,125.

106/19 Portfolio responsibilities

- a) **Leisure/Play Area** – nothing further reported
- b) **Roads, pavements and grass verges** – it has been reported to the council that roads around Aldwark in particular are very muddy and residents have expressed concerns over safety for drivers, especially as no signs indicate road surface hazards. It was agreed that Cllr Padgett would speak to local farmers and contractors to see if matters could be improved or signage improved.

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

The road closures in Aldwark relating to the Keepsake development were not communicated well to residents. The parish council noted that it is important that the remaining poor road surface is finished off by the utilities contractors.

- c) **Public communications** – nothing further reported
- d) **Planning** – nothing further reported
- e) **Rural matters/public footpaths and bridleways** – it was noted that several residents of Aldwark had reported strong and unpleasant smells from suspected waste spreading, and this was investigated by the Environment Agency. It was short-lived but did give rise to concern and the council has requested maps of the pockets of land permitted for land spreading from external contractors etc. so as to be better informed on this type of issue.

107/19 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Taylor alerted parish councillors to the Making a Difference grants, under which £25,000 is available across the Easingwold area, usually under a matched funding approach. The councillors thanked Cllr Taylor and will consider an application next year, perhaps for play equipment, once the CIL funding position is known following current earmarked projects in the parish.

108/19 Dates of future meetings

Wednesday 22 Jan, 18 Mar and 6 May 2020 starting at 7.00pm at Aldwark Manor Hotel, subject to room availability.

The meeting closed at 9pm.