

ALDWARE AREA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 7.00pm at Aldwark Manor Hotel

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

In attendance: Alison Pollock (Clerk and RFO). A number of members of the public were present.

- **Opening of meeting; thanks to previous chairman**

The chairman of Aldwark Area Parish Council, Colin Stroud, did not stand for re-election in early May 2019 but he kindly provided a report for the Assembly on matters over the previous year, which is covered later and was endorsed by all the councillors.

The vice-chairman of the parish council, John Topliss, agreed to chair the Annual Parish Assembly.

Cllr Topliss gave warm thanks to former chairman Mr Stroud, for his many years of service to the parish, as councillor, clerk and chair.

- **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly on 8 May 2018**

These were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

- **Local Policing issues – PCSO Mike Crosthwaite**

A presentation was made by PCSO Crosthwaite giving useful guidance on rural crime matters and the North Yorkshire Police's Rural Taskforce, believed to be the largest unit dedicated to tackling rural crime in England. Written details, advice on reporting rural crime, and a breakdown of reported incidents in the parish for the calendar year to 13 May 2019 were also provided, and are appended to these minutes. PCSO Crosthwaite was thanked for his presentation and the useful information also supplied. While it was noted that the area was generally low in crime, PCSO Crosthwaite believes that some crimes go unreported and encouraged residents to report using 999 or 101 as appropriate. The recent issues of damage and trespass around the Rice Lane, Aldwark area were discussed and PCSO Crosthwaite resolved to let local police know and ask that they do spot visits when possible. The chair of the parish council mentioned the speeding issues in Flawith especially at commuting times, and again the police will do their best to support our initiative to make the village safer. It was agreed that the parish council and police would keep in more regular touch.

- **Chairman of the parish council's report**

The chair of the meeting shared the report by former chair, Cllr Colin Stroud as follows:

Appointment of a Paid Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

At the beginning of the year Cllr Stroud gave notice that he intended to give up the post of Clerk which he has done unpaid for over 4 years. Similarly, Cllr Gemma Chapman said she wished to give up her role as the unpaid Responsible Finance Officer. Following extensive advertising and a recruitment process, 4 applicants were interviewed for the post and Alison Pollock, an Aldwark resident, was appointed in December 2018. Alison's contact details are as follows:

Alison Pollock (Parish Clerk)

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

Aldwark Area Parish Council

Beechcroft Farmhouse, Aldwark, York YO61 1UB

Tel 01347 838189

Email aldwarkpc@gmail.com

Website and Social Media

Our website which can be seen at www.aldwarkparish.co.uk and a Facebook page is used to advertise local events and canvass opinions. Anyone who wishes to make use of this media should contact the clerk.

Recycling and litter picking in Hambleton

At the Annual Assembly in May, Tracey Flint, recycling officer, Hambleton district council gave a comprehensive, illustrated explanation of the recycling services offered by HDC.

Roads, pavements, footpaths and grass verges.

The Parish Council monitors the condition of our roads, footpaths and grass verges. We report problems to the Highways Dept. of NYCC although due to budget constraints, their services are much reduced. The parish council has again made representations to the NYCC to restore the gritting of the road from Alne Cross to Aldwark Bridge during icy conditions. The Parish Council continues to pay for grass cutting in Aldwark and for some roadside verges and has also paid to have the footpaths cleared in Aldwark.

Planning

The Parish Council continues to comment on planning applications in the villages.

Speeding through the Villages

After the Community Speed Watch initiative in Flawith the council is now exploring the possible purchase of 'Vehicle Activated Speed Signs' in both Flawith and Aldwark through a scheme which has recently been approved by NYCC.

Community Infrastructure Levy from Developments in Aldwark and Flawith

The Parish Council is still exploring suitable uses of the payment of £5,197.50 from Hambleton DC in respect of the development of 3 new houses in Aldwark which has to be spent by October 2021 to improve the infrastructure of the village.

Cllr Follington carried out a survey of residents within Aldwark to gauge views on whether new play equipment (swings) or speed matrix signs for the village should be provided using this money. Out of 25 respondents to the survey 17 expressed a preference for speed matrix signs and 8 for play equipment. Both options are being kept open pending further details of the cost of the speed matrix signs.

A further CIL amount of £5,230.50 has recently been received in respect of a housing development in Flawith. It is likely that this money will be used to purchase a vehicle-activated sign to deter speeding through the village.

Bad Smells from Waste spreading.

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

The Parish Council continues to monitor the nuisance caused by this in the villages. Concerned residents are advised to register complaints on the Environment Agency hotline on 0800 807060 which can be done anonymously.

RAF Linton on Ouse

Following the announcement that the base will cease flying operations in 2019 the parish council is concerned about the likely impact of this on our villages. It has again expressed an interest in taking over the former boathouse which the RAF owns adjacent to the golf course and church in Aldwark, for use as a village hall or other amenity.

Policing

At the January meeting, Sam Hutchinson from the Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, explained that his job involves meeting with parish councils and others to find out about community needs. During his talk the following matters were addressed:

- Appropriate information on local policing matters will be provided to the Parish Council monthly.
- Incidents involving large vehicles, particularly of waste-spreading contractors, should be reported to the police supplying dash-cam footage if available.
- Speeding in the villages remains a concern, particularly in Flawith and the actions being taken by the parish council were re-affirmed.

Aldwark Community Garden

The parish council recently approved a small grant to support the development of a community garden in Rice Lane by a group of local residents.

Local Council Elections 2019

During the year Cllrs Stroud and Chapman announced their intentions not to stand for re-election in May 2019. Lynette Evans, Andy Follington and Tina Greenwood for Aldwark and John Topliss for Flawith, were subsequently elected unopposed. Sadly, no nominations were received for Youlton and this vacancy will be filled by co-option by the parish council in due course.

Thanks

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their voluntary work during the past year. Thanks also to Aldwark Manor Hotel for kindly providing a room for parish meetings free of charge.

Cllr. Colin Stroud, Chairman

▪ **Comments, ideas and concerns from residents**

The pot-holed and generally poor condition of the roads in the area was raised. Particular points of concern were the seemingly ad-hoc approach to deciding on which repairs would happen and the apparent lack of control over quality of workmanship. The parish council noted and agreed with the concerns. Given budget constraints it was agreed that it was unlikely that the situation would markedly improve but that we should all continue to report potholes – a NYCC portal is now available to do this.

- Any other business – None

Appendix – written report from North Yorkshire Police at 13 May 2019

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