

ALDWARK AREA ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Assembly will be held at Aldwark Manor Hotel on Tuesday 30 May 2023 at 7.00 PM (following the Annual Parish meeting)

AGENDA with minutes/notes shown below in italics

1. **Apologies for absence** *Matthew Cliff gave apologies for absence*
2. **To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2022** *These were agreed*
3. **Report from the Chair of the Parish Council** *This was noted with thanks, set out below*

The last year has been relatively busy for the Parish Council both with business as usual and a record number of planning applications requiring a response.

The most significant area of work revolved around the public inquiry on the Aldwark Bridge proposed toll fee increase. The PC pulled together a sub-committee led by the PC Chair and including a number of interested residents who helped prepare the formal Statement of Case and Proof of Evidence. These were submitted and presented to the inquiry which took place over four days at the end of April 2022. The Inspector's Report was published in October 2022 and rejected the proposed increases in toll fees. The reasons quoted followed the PC's arguments on the grounds that the future usage was not adequately estimated, and the consequent income and costs were not suitably evidenced. At the time of writing this report the bridge owners have yet to submit a revised application.

Refurbishment works, however, commenced in mid-April 2023 and are due to be completed by the end of October this year. I'd like to record a note of thanks to Richard Bray amongst others who helped in putting our case forward.

Planning applications over the last year have been at record levels, largely driven by the continued refurbishment and improvement works at Aldwark Manor. The General Manager, Christophe Gitton, presented the latest plans and proposals to a very well attended meeting of the PC in March 2023. The Manor is vitally important to the local community both as a source of employment and a driver of local economic activity, and the PC continues to support the overall objectives of the hotel operator.

Following the introduction of new equipment into the Aldwark Play Area last year, it is encouraging to see the play area is being well used by local children, and families visiting The Aldwark Arms. Aldwark villagers also repainted the village phone box for the Platinum Jubilee.

In Youlton two new dog waste bins have been provided along with a replacement village sign for the millstone on the western side of the village.

In Flawith development works have commenced on the Chapel Farm site. Following a delivery driver reversing into and damaging the speed matrix sign, this was re-set and checked by the supplier in late 2022.

Speeding remains a serious concern within the villages. A speed survey in Aldwark has recommended enforcement action by the police and the PC is in contact with the enforcement team to try and ensure this is actioned. A recent data download from the matrix sign in Flawith indicates a significant number of vehicles travelling in excess of 35mph but at the moment it is proving difficult to get the police to commit to any enforcement action in the village itself. We hope to get our local police rep to the next full parish council meeting where these issues can be raised.

The defibrillators in Aldwark and Flawith continue to be maintained and are registered with Yorkshire Ambulance Service. Dates for training sessions are currently being organized.

The Parish Council secured a fresh supply of litter picking equipment in early 2023 and litter

The Community Garden along Rice Lane in Aldwark continues, under the leadership of Cllr Andy Follington, to share fresh vegetables free of charge to residents in Aldwark. This initiative was supported by the Parish Council at set up.

Last year also saw a number of other incidents including a severe dog attack of sheep and a major field fire following the exceptionally dry and hot weather.

4. Comments, ideas and concerns from parishioners

- *Speeding in Aldwark remains a concern*
- *Also in Aldwark, some hedges are overhanging the footpath, and vehicles continue to sometimes be parked with wheels on the pavement. This causes problems for pedestrians, wheelchair and child buggy users and residents are kindly asked to cut back overhanging hedges and ask visitors such as workmen not to obscure access for footpath users with their vehicles. The clerk will add a message on the Aldwark Whatsapp group accordingly*
- *Some road signs are getting obscured by overgrown hedges etc and this should be reported to North Yorkshire Council for safety*

5. Any other business *None*

THIS IS THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS OF ALDWARK, FLAWITH AND YOULTON, AND IS NOT A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. AS ALWAYS, EVERYONE IS WELCOME.