

The Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Acaster Malbis**
held on Monday, 9 March 2015, at the Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Acaster Malbis
commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor W G Taylor (Chairman)

Councillor John C Galvin (Ward Member – City of York Council)

Mesdames – C Appleby, A Asquith, C P Dearlove, M Hall, M Harlington, J Jenkinson-Smith, J Pumffrey, J Raimes, D E Taylor and L Taylor.

Messrs – C Asquith, G W Cook, M Davies, G Hall, J Hall, J Hinton, A W Nicholson, R Raimes, D B Smith, M Smith, R Taylor and D Walkden.

Parish Councillors – Councillors L A Frost, G Loney, T G R Pumffrey, J Smith and D Walker
Mrs Y C Cook (Clerk)

Welcome and Introduction: The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the members of the Parish Council.

Superfast Broadband

The Chairman welcomed Mr Steve Dann (CoYC York District Community Co-ordinator (Broadband) and Ms Rhiân Davies (CoYC Digital Officer) who have kindly agreed to bring us up-to-date on the developments of Phase 2 for the implementation of Superfast Broadband.

Mr Dann thanked the Parish Council for the invitation to speak about the future of the digital programme for York – the ending of Phase 1 on 31 March 2015 and more importantly information regarding Phase 2. He began by giving a brief history of Phase 1 of the project. This was implemented by North Yorkshire County Council and run by a contractor set up by them called NYNET who abdicated decision making to BT. Installation by BT was mainly in the city and urban areas of York. CoYC were not at all happy that they did not have a say in decision making and for Phase 2 they have joined with West Yorkshire. The intention is that 96% of the properties in the York area will have higher speeds. A Digital Team has been set up to improve digital technology in the city for the community. Wi-Fi has been installed in the city centre and on the Park & Ride buses. Three businesses in Acaster Malbis have applied for the wireless connection.

Ms Davies reported that CoYC have prioritised installation in seven villages – Acaster Malbis, Askham Bryan, Askham Richard, Naburn, Hessay, Holtby and Kexby with BT carrying out the work under their instructions in early 2016. Broadband will come from the telephone exchange to a BT cabinet sited in the village and then copper cable to properties.

Various questions were posed: ⁽¹⁾ if there are not sufficient resources available for all seven villages will he who shouts the loudest be successful. Mr Dann replied that how decisions are made must be clear and transparent – maximum number of properties they can get connected per pound. ⁽²⁾ some businesses within the village have wireless connections, does this undermine CoYC's decision. Mr Dann replied "no this will not happen". ⁽³⁾ can a commercial company share their wireless connection. Mr Dann replied that this is against EU laws. ⁽⁴⁾ what will be the monthly cost for superfast broadband. Mr Dann replied that this will be up to the provider - at present it is approximately £18.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dann and Ms Davies very much for attending and for what they are doing.

Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting : held on 10 March 2014, were read by the Clerk and **agreed** on the proposal of Mr Cook and seconded by Mrs Hall.

Matters Arising : there were none.

Chairman's Report on the Work of the Parish Council : We had our usual number of full council meetings this year attended not only by council members but at every meeting members of the public/villagers were present. Our Planning Subcommittee met on two occasions.

Planning related matters : This has been a lean year for planning:

Domestic: 5 single and double storey extensions and 2 garages and 2 replacement dwellings (new build)

Agricultural/Commercial: 3 separate lots of ground-mounted solar panels, and retention of parking area. This area was granted on a temporary basis for one year then to be reviewed.

Crime Figures : Our PCSO Angela Hollywood had nothing substantial to report.

Projects :

(i) New Signpost

We have had a new signpost erected at the Pinfold/top of Hauling Lane at a cost to the Council of £1000.00, and the sign has been added to our insurance policy.

(ii) Pinfold

The vegetation growth inside the Pinfold has been cleared by Brunswick Organic Nurseries at a cost of £36.00. We now have a regular contract with them for this work.

(iii) Notice Board outside the Memorial Hall

The board needed alterations and repairs and this was carried out at a cost of £285.00.

(iv) Riverbank Clean Up

Bishopthorpe Scouts carried out this work, from the caravan park to the railway bridge. A donation of £200.00 was given to the Scouts.

(v) Path Clearance opposite Mount Pleasant

This work was carried out at a cost of £80.00. Agreement has been reached for the vegetation to be removed as and when necessary.

(vi) Bench at The Slipway

An enquiry had been received asking if a bench could be sited at the Slipway to enable parishioners/visitors to sit and enjoy the river and its traffic. The Parish Council thought this an apt suggestion and the tenants were consulted; the tenants in turn contacted their insurers. The insurance company stated that this was not a feasible proposition due to health and safety reasons. The slipway is a working environment and a secure fenced off area would have to be provided around the bench, and supervision required for visitors passing to and from the seated area, and they would not be prepared to provide liability cover.

(vii) Preventative Flood Measures

In February a meeting took place at the Ship Inn between the Environment Agency, Ms Katie Fisher (CoYC Emergency Planning Unit) and owners of properties that flood in Acaster Malbis. As a result of this meeting a request was put to the Parish Council for the Clerk to write to CoYC Highways Department asking if it would be possible to fit non-return valves to the two roadside gulleys that empty into the river outside Mill Garth/old Post Office, and also at the Ship Inn near the caravan park. The roads become blocked by floodwater before the river bursts its banks. We have been informed that this request is being considered but priority for funding is given to properties rather than inconvenience of access. Consideration may have to be given by the Parish Council to making a contribution for this work to be carried out.

Grants :

(i) Holy Trinity Church

A letter from the Church Wardens of Holy Trinity was received seeking assistance in the funding of work to replace the guttering and drainpipe system. A donation of £800.00 was given towards this work.

(ii) White Rose Football Club (who play at Moor Lane, Bishopthorpe)

Under Section 106 of the Building Regulations CoYC sent the Parish Council a sum of money paid by developers of new buildings to subscribe to ⁽¹⁾sporting facilities; ⁽²⁾Children's play areas; or ⁽³⁾public and open spaces. We will not receive any more money under this Regulation as we have only one new property outstanding and Section 106 will only apply to new developments in excess of 10 properties. This money is not owned by Acaster Malbis Parish Council and if we do not use it we lose it. As the village cannot meet the three criteria, we agreed to give a grant of £2000.00 to the White Rose Football Club towards the purchase of a motor mower and other sporting equipment as we have quite a number of youngsters who play football in Bishopthorpe.

Accounts : (i) Parish Council for the Year Ended 31 March 2014 Copies of the Receipts and Payments were circulated to those present. The Chairman reported that the Council Tax **Precept** has been held at £2774.00. He gave a brief explanation on the 'Receipts' and 'Payments' figures. Mr Cook proposed, Mr Davies seconded that these accounts be accepted.

(ii) The Knowles Educational Foundation Mr J Hall presented the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2014. Copies of the Statement of Accounts had been circulated. Mr Hall was pleased to report that the Foundation saw a small increase for the year 2014. The Trust's investments provided an income of £2980 which, after management expenses of £733 left them with £2247 available for grants. The sum spent through the year increased from the previous year, to a total of £1366 thus leaving a surplus of £881. The accumulated capital for the year of £54,648 is comprised of a variety of unit and investment trusts which are administered by Finn's Stockbrokers. A variety of applications had been received with some very rewarding and interesting feedback from some of the

recipients. He thanked Mr Walkden for providing an independent inspection of the accounts. He also took the opportunity to provide the meeting with a brief description of how the Trustees are appointed. The Knowles Educational Trust is made up of 8 trustees: 2 of whom are appointed by CoYC with a term of office of 4 years; 1 is by Naburn Parish meeting every 3 years; 3 are Co-opted trustees serving 5 years; and 2 members are appointed by Acaster Malbis Parish meeting every 3 years, and it is these two offices that are up for election this year. These posts are currently held by Mr Murray Addison and himself and they are both very willing to serve again as Trustees and sought the meeting's approval – this was agreed.

(iii) The John Knowles and John Kettlewell Charity Councillor Pumffrey presented the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2014. He pointed out that this was a small but not insignificant charity as far as the village is concerned. Grants are very favourably received and always have more people that they would like to give to than money available. He thanked Mr Bob Nicholls for auditing the accounts, and Mrs Raimes who acts as treasurer and secretary. He, Mrs Raimes, Mrs Oldroyd and Mr Smith are willing to stand for the coming year and sought the meeting's approval – this was agreed.

City of York Council – Ward Member : The Chairman took this opportunity to thank Councillor Galvin for all the hard work he carries out for the Parish Council with CoYC. Councillor Galvin confirmed that on the 25 March 2015 the **Residents' Form** will take place at the Old School in Bishopthorpe meeting at 6.30 pm to commence at 7.00 pm; the Residents' Forum supersedes Ward Forums. In Bishopthorpe there is a big problem with **dog fouling** waste being bagged and then thrown into hedge bottoms. The problem in Acaster Malbis is not as bad but it is hoped that in the future dog owners will be more responsible. **Wireless broadband** – he had some leaflets if anyone was interested in considering this option. **Local Plan** – the Plan has been put on hold for the time being but it is not anticipated that buildings will be put up around Bishopthorpe or Acaster Malbis as there are no proposals to release or change the green belt.

Superfast Broadband

See above.

Open Forum

(i) Cobbler's Trod

The Clerk received a communication pointing out that historically there are several place names within the Parish which are known to a diminishing number of local residents but which are still referred to – eg Liberty Corner, Whinny Hills and Cobbler's Trod. With regard to the latter it was asked if consideration could be given (for historic, current and future benefit of locals and visitors alike) to the erection of signs at each end of the public footpath. The meeting was in full agreement to this suggestion.

(ii) Planning Application – Appleton Roebuck

Mr Raimes asked what CoYC and Acaster Malbis Parish Council were going to do about the planning application for 14 houses on land just outside the boundary of this village. The developers are trying to claim the land is brown field rather than green belt. Councillor Galvin reported that this is a Selby matter, but CoYC will be attending a meeting in Selby on Wednesday (11 March) expressing their opposition. The residents and one of the largest landowners in Appleton Roebuck are against this proposal.

(iii) The Weir

Mr B Smith enquired into the work that had taken place at the weir. The Environment Agency had created a fish ladder for eels and lampray to return to their breeding grounds. There is not a lock on the gate at present but they are aware of this.

(iv) Parish Council Elections

Elections for a new Parish Council take place in May and vacancies will occur as two Parish Councillors are standing down.

(v) Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

The Clerk will be standing down at the end of July after almost 8 years in the post. Anyone interested in taking on this role should apply to the Clerk.

The Chairman **closed** the meeting at 9.10 pm and thanked all for their interest in attending.