

www.acastermalbis.org.uk

Supporting the Freedom of Information Act the Government has introduced, for two reasons, a '**Transparency Code for Smaller Councils**' the first reason is that under a new audit framework which will be effective from 1 April 2017 your council will be subject to this new code to enable local electors and ratepayers to access relevant information about the council's accounts and governance. The second reason given by the government for the introduction of the new processes which the code requires is its desire to place more power into citizens' hands to increase democratic accountability.

To comply with this new and mandatory legislation Acaster Malbis Parish Council has produced a new and informative website which is free and accessible to all electors and other interested parties. It must be stressed that the site is a Parish Council site and not an Acaster Malbis Community site hence its .org domain name.

The decision to embark upon a Parish council site as opposed to a community site was based upon the fact that, in the council's opinion, the community is already well served by 'The Link' magazine and the information that it publishes.

The council believes that it has created as simple a site as is possible and one that is easy to use and freely accessible.

Entering www.acastermalbis.org.uk will open up the home page which gives a general introduction to the site. A simple tab listing runs across the page enabling further access to seven pages, each of which publishes the mandatory information required.

The tab listing is:

[Home.](#) [Councillors.](#) [Finance.](#) [Agendas & Minutes.](#) [Documents.](#) [Notices.](#) [Contact Us.](#)

A single click of the mouse on the selected page tab will open the selected page.

The Councillors page lists a picture of each of the current councillors, their respective telephone number and their responsibilities on the council. The page also lists a picture of the clerk to the council and his contact details.

The Finance page lists the annual accounts, governance statement and audit certificate as submitted to YLCA as required by the new code. The detail of each document can be viewed by clicking on the respective document which, if required, can be downloaded. All documents in finance page are archived.

The Agendas & Minutes page carries two columns; one column lists the agenda of each meeting and the other column lists the minutes of each meeting. The minutes documents are important as they carry further mandatory information such as [for example] any expenditure by the council in excess of £100. The page also carries the agendas and minutes of any subcommittee particularly planning notices and minutes of the planning subcommittee. All of the documents are archived and downloadable. Details of planning notices can be accessed via a direct link to CoYC planning department.

The Documents page carries relevant documents referred to in any agenda or minute of any meeting. Explanatory documents are also carried [for example grant information] and standing orders for the council. Some new standing orders, as required by the code, are still being prepared.

The Notices page is intended for notices of a general public interest and information. For example the page currently carries a document entitled 'The rights of Electors at Parish Council Meetings' which is intended to ensure that all attendees at Parish Council meetings are aware of their rights and their responsibilities.

Finally a **Contact us** page facilitates direct access to the parish clerk for any queries, help or information.

The crest used and references to the Slipway and the Pinfold are reproduced from the book 'Of Malet, Malbis and Fairfax ~ A History of Acaster Malbis' published by the Acaster Malbis Millennium Book Group and used with the permission of C A Appleby and D B Smith (eds).