

The Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Acaster Malbis**
held on Monday, 14 March 2016, 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, Y C Cook, C P Dearlove, M Hall, J Pumffrey, J Rames, and D E Taylor.
Messrs – C Asquith, G W Cook, G Hall, J Hall, R Hall, J Hinton, R Rames, T Pumffrey, H Taylor, and D
Walkden.**

Parish Councillors – Councillors P Harlington, B Hawkins, J Smith and D Walker

M G Davies (Clerk)

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

2). Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting: held on 9 March 2015, were read by the Clerk and agreed on the proposal of Mr G Cook and seconded by Mr T Pumffrey. The minute book was therefore signed by the Chairman.

3). Matters Arising : there were none.

4). Chairman’s Report on the Work of the Parish Council : Councillor Taylor reported that the Parish Council had met on ten occasions and the planning subcommittee had met an additional six times.

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

Domestic: 3 domestic extensions / garages and 2 requests for removal of restrictive covenants.

Agricultural/Commercial: 3 changes of use class relating to light industrial or former agricultural buildings together with 2 applications for construction of stables.

Crime Figures : Our PCSO Angela Hollywood has been on extended sick leave but her colleagues have advised there is nothing substantial to report. Acaster Malbis is not a crime “hotspot”.

Projects, Grants and other matters:

(i) *New Tables and Chairs for the Memorial Hall.*

The Parish Council purchased 6 tables and 38 chairs at a cost of £1372.20. These were subsequently donated to the Memorial Hall Committee.

(ii) *Pinfold*

The vegetation growth inside the Pinfold has previously been cleared by Brunswick Organic Nurseries. Although we now have a regular contract with them no work was necessary this year.

(iii) *Cobblers Trod Signs*

After concern was expressed that some old village names were falling into disuse (such as Whinney Hills and Liberty Corner). It was agreed that the Parish Council would provide wooden signs at each end of “Cobblers Trod” The work was carried out at a cost of £220.00.

(iv) *Riverbank Clean Up*

Bishopthorpe Scouts again 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 £70.00. Agreement has been reached for the vegetation to be removed as and when necessary.

(vi) *Replacement Dog Waste Bin and salt bin*

The dog waste bin opposite the Pinfold had been badly damaged and was replaced by City of York Council at no cost to the Parish. The Parish Council has also maintained and refilled a salt/road grit bin on the corner outside The Ship Inn as the road from Keble Park South to the top of Hauling Lane is no longer gritted by City of York Council.

(vii) *Preventative Flood Measures*

Another meeting took place at the Ship Inn between the Environment Agency, Ms Katie Fisher (CoYC Emergency Planning Unit), Mr Steve Wragg (Flood Risk Asset Manager Coyc) and owners of properties that flood in Acaster Malbis. As a result of this (and previous) meeting(s) 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 proposal has been declared by highways engineers as unfeasible for technical reasons.

Further concerns were raised at the meetings regarding:

- a). Flood warning signs being widely disregarded, are often shown when the road is not flooded and vice versa and some are thought to be incorrectly sited.
- b). Disruption to the bus service during flooding and lack of information available to residents when the bus is diverted.
- c). Possibility of the village maintaining a supply of sandbags for ready use if required.

(vii) Broadband

The village is completely in the hands of BT. We are assured that a fast broadband service is still coming but the latest estimated date is 2017.

(viii) Bus service 21

The village bus service is yet again under threat as local council budgets continue to be squeezed. Our Ward Councillor John Galvin is hopeful that the service will be maintained with minimum cuts (if any). He is aware of the importance of the service to the village and in particular the residents of Mount Pleasant.

(ix) Parish Council Website

To ensure compliance with the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the resulting Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities Regulations 2014-2015 the Parish Council now has a website www.acastermalbis.org.uk. Councillor Taylor expressed his thanks to Councillor Harlington for his outstanding contribution to bringing this project to fruition in such a short timescale.

(x) Transparency and accountability.

In the light of the major changes mentioned in point (ix) the Parish Council has had to move to telephone and internet banking whilst ensuring all the right safeguards are in place to protect public funds. This has necessitated a huge amount of work in a very short space of time.

(xi) Retirements and new arrivals.

- a). Some considerable time prior to the local elections in May 2015 two of our long-serving members David Ellis and Tim Pumffrey announced their intention to retire and after much advertising and searching we welcomed Patrick Harlington and Brian Hawkins as new councillors on 13th July 2015. Our thanks go to their predecessors for their long service to the people of Acaster Malbis.
- b). At the same time Mrs Yvonne Cook, our clerk of eight years announced her intention to retire delaying her departure until the end of June 2015 to allow a smooth transition to the new councillors and clerk. Again sincere thanks are due to her for many years of loyal service. Her replacement Mr Matthew Davies took over as clerk and responsible financial officer on 1st July 2015.

5) Accounts:

(i) Parish Council for the Year Ended 31 March 2015: Copies of the Receipts and Payments for the year were circulated to those present. The Chairman reported that the Council Tax **Precept** has been held at £2774.00. He gave a brief explanation of the 'Receipts' and 'Payments' figures. Mr G Cook proposed, Mr R Raimes seconded that these accounts be accepted.

(ii) The Knowles Educational Foundation Mr J Hall presented the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2015. 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 2015. The Trust's investments provided an income of £3016 which, after management expenses of £776 left them with £2240 available for grants. The sum spent through the year decreased from the previous year, to a total of £1310 thus leaving a surplus of £930. The accumulated capital for the year of £55,578 is comprised of a variety of unit and investment trusts which are administered by Finn's Stockbrokers and the Trustees have adopted a medium risk profile in their selection of investments. Mr Hall thanked Mr Walkden for, yet again, providing an independent inspection of the accounts.

Mr Hall expressed sadness that a long standing Trustee Mrs Nicola Stephenson-Barr, Head Mistress of Naburn School was leaving to take up a new post in Bubwith. Mr Hall also advised that the Trust's Secretary, Mrs Joyce Jenkinson-Smith, was standing down after 25 years' service. Her consummate professionalism and knowledge would be sorely missed. Mrs Julia Campbell has accepted the role of Secretary and future applications should be sent to her. The other Trustees have agreed to serve for a further year. This was agreed by the meeting.

(iii) The John Knowles and John Kettlewell Charity: Mr T Pumffrey presented the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2015. 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. The Charity had an income of £160 in the year and awards were given to 5 recipients. 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.

6) City of York Council – Ward Member: The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Councillor John Galvin for all the hard work he carries out for the Parish Council with CoYC.

Councillor Galvin confirmed that superfast broadband was still on the way and it was likely that Acaster Malbis would be upgraded between the first and third quarter of 2017 although the plan was to upgrade two BT cabinets and the faster service may not reach all properties.

Councillor Galvin also confirmed that the 21 bus service was safe until the current contract expired in September 2016 and was likely to continue after that date. North Yorkshire County Council currently do not plan to cut jointly funded services such as the 21 although nothing is certain. A bus consultation is due to be launched in April where residents will have the opportunity to comment on proposed changes (if any).

The question of non-return valves on highway drains on Mill Lane and near The Ship Inn is currently on hold as they are not thought to be practical.

There have been a number of complaints regarding the flying of model aircraft in fields opposite Mount Pleasant and some are alleged to have been flown at low levels close to houses. CoYC are monitoring the situation closely.

Changes to S.106 monies meaning that such charges only apply to developments of 10 or more houses are currently under review and the situation may be reversed in due course.

7) Parish Council Website: Councillor Harlington gave a report on the development and launch of the Parish Council website. He has been instrumental in its design and setup. Under new transparency rules the Parish Council were obliged to create a website which was free to use and a difficult decision had to be taken as to whether this should be a village website or simply one for the Parish Council. To ensure compliance with the new regulations within a very short timescale, amongst other reasons, it was decided to restrict content to Parish Council finances and business only with provision to display some additional notices relating to items of public interest such as CoYC information leaflets and election information. The Parish Council financial information together with agendas and minutes for all meetings will be published in compliance with the Transparency Code. Councillor Harlington distributed an information sheet to those present giving more information. This document introducing the website is available at www.acastermalbis.org.uk under the notices section.

8) Open Forum: Mr Pumffrey enquired as to progress made in development of the draft local plan. Councillor Galvin responded that as no party has overall control in York progress is slow as a consensus has to be reached on everything. There is reportedly a need for between 820 and 850 new houses but one party believes the figure is nearer 570. The Government will impose a plan if agreement cannot be reached locally. The local green belt is still not formally defined.

Mr Walkden enquired as to progress in creation of the "Northern Powerhouse". Councillor Galvin reported that there were a number of options as to how this would be formed but in his view North Yorkshire County Council, East Yorkshire and possibly West Yorkshire would be involved.

Mrs Raimes asked if there were any plans to formally celebrate The Queen's 90th Birthday. Councillor Taylor responded that this had been discussed by both the Parish Council and the Memorial Hall Committee but nothing was currently planned. It was suggested that she raise the matter with the YCA and Holy Trinity Church. The Parish Council would be happy to arrange the lighting of the beacon at any appropriate event.

The Chairman **closed** the meeting at 8:50pm and thanked all for their interest in attending.

The above minutes were read to the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on Monday 20 March 2017. No alterations or amendments were requested. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mrs M Hall, seconded by Mrs J Raimes and agreed unanimously by those present. The minute book was duly signed at the meeting by the Parish Council Chairman Mr W G Taylor.