

The Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Acaster Malbis**

held on Monday, 20 March 2023

Present: Cllrs G Taylor (Chair), B Hawkins, J Newark, J Redfearn, D Walker

Public: G Appleby, C Green, K Joughin, V Joughin, J Pumffrey, J Pumffrey, P Walker

Clerk: C Booth

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:32pm by welcoming everybody and introduced the members of the parish council. The Chairman asked that questions other than those to the guest speakers be asked at the end of the meeting (under Agenda item 10).

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 March 2022

The draft minutes were agreed unanimously as a true and correct record on the proposal of J Redfearn and seconded by J Newark. The minute book was therefore duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Acaster Malbis Parish Council: Chairman's Report

Appointment of the clerk

Craig Booth was appointed as clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the council.

Outstanding Matters

- The dropped kerb at the junction of Mill Lane and Hauling Lane was completed.
- Enforcement action to lower the entrance wall to Mount Pleasant was completed.
- The culverting of the ditch by Lakeside was cancelled due to the ongoing presence of water voles. The ward grant for this work has been returned.
- The quince and medlar trees by Lakeside were falling down. These have been lifted up and re-staked.
- The lean on the flower tower has been corrected. Planting is to be provided by the parish council going forward.

Planning

All applications were considered in full council meetings. The applications comprised:

- 5 side or rear extensions
- 1 step lift installation
- 1 application to increase gate height to 1.8m
- 1 replacement of an agricultural building with a new property
- 1 application to add some new industrial units

Cobblers Trod

At the last parish meeting the condition of the surface of Cobblers Trod was raised. A quotation of £5,300 was received to improve the surface but this cost could not be justified.

Himalayan Balsam

A 'Balsam Bash' was organised to help control the Himalayan balsam in the parish. The event took place slightly later than planned and 13 volunteers helped out during the bash.

Thank you to Cllr Redfern for organising the event and to all the people who volunteered.

'Balsam Bash 2023' is currently being planned to cover areas that were not possible in 2022.

Assets of Community Value

The parish council considered social assets in the village including the Ship Inn, the Memorial Hall, the Methodist Chapel and Holy Trinity Church. The council nominated the Ship Inn to the City of York Council which was subsequently approved. The Ship Inn has been added to COYC's register of community assets.

This means that the parish council would have a 6-month period with which to agree a sale of the asset should the owner wish to sell.

New Defibrillator

The parish council purchased a new defibrillator for the north part of the village. The Ship Inn and the Memorial Hall were considered as suitable locations. With the Ship Inn prone to flooding, the Memorial Hall trustees were approached and agreed to the installation of a new defibrillator on the north side of the hall. Thank you to the trustees for their help with this.

The parish council would also like to thank the volunteers that maintain the defibrillators in the village.

Platinum Jubilee

The council decided to organise a low-key celebration of the Platinum Jubilee due the proximity of the May Festival in the village. A Jubilee 'Tap Room' event was held in the Memorial Hall and the beacon was lit as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons event.

The council arranged for a copper beech tree to be planted on Mill Lane near to the pinfold. A plaque has been purchased and will be mounted next to the tree.

Thank you to those involved in the Jubilee event.

A similar style event is planned for the coronation of King Charles III in 2023.

Crime Statistics

The crime statistics for the parish remain low, but known incidents included:

- a person setting fire to their own home on Mount Pleasant
- a burglary at the Ship Inn – an internal affair
- a bright torch being shone in the face of two pedestrians that caused some anxiety

Finance

Thanks to our internal auditor David Walkden for help ensuring we comply with our accountability and transparency obligations.

Volunteers

A thank you to all the many volunteers in the village carrying out activities such as:

- Cutting and clearing weeds along paths and hedgerows.
- Litter picking throughout the year
- Leaf collection and disposal
- Cleaning the bus shelter on Intake Lane
- Cleaning and checking the defibrillators in the village
- Watering, weeding and deadheading the flower tower
- Creating the poignant remembrance display at Mount Pleasant
- Managing and maintaining the Memorial Hall
- Maintaining the community social media page
- Organising and helping out with the May festival

Local Elections 2023

2023 is an election year for the wards and parishes in York. All current councillors except Cllr Harlington have chosen to stand for re-election.

Cllr Harlington joined the council in July 2015 and was instrumental in setting up the council's first website that launched in February 2016. Pat then guided the migration process to our gov.uk domain and acted as Webmaster and Data Protection Officer for many years. The same hosting supplier and content management system are still used today.

Cllr Galvin has also chosen not to stand for re-election as the ward councillor for Bishopthorpe. John was first elected as ward councillor in the 1999 local elections, but after having lost out in the 2003 election was co-opted to the parish council. Cllr Galvin was appointed chairman of the council in May 2004 and remained in post until elected once again as ward councillor in Bishopthorpe in May 2007.

In 2009 Cllr Galvin was appointed as Lord Mayor of York and nominated York Against Cancer and the Brunswick Organic Nursery as his two charities. Subsequently, Cllr Galvin returned to his familiar role of ward councillor where he has served until now.

4. The Knowles Educational Foundation: Chair's Report

In 2022 the usual three meetings were held and grants of £1,349 were distributed. The grants included; swimming lessons, gym and dance lessons, equipment for a medical student and equipment for Bishopthorpe Infant School. The level of grants was lower than in previous years, mainly due to fewer school trips.

Income from investments was £3,387 (an increase of around 10% on the previous year) resulting in a funding surplus of £1,280 after administration costs of £757.

Administration costs will be reduced going forward due to moving from HSBC to a Lloyds account without charges, and the resignation of the paid secretary. The duties of the secretary will be shared and carried out by volunteers.

Investments fell by 13% in poor market conditions, and total assets at the year-end were £94,614.

Thanks are due to Mr David Walkden for providing an independent examination of the year's accounts.

5. The John Knowles and John Kettlewell Charity: Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The trustees awarded £100 in grants in December 2022, which was gratefully received by one beneficiary.

The charity's investment was valued at £3,423.98 on 31st December 2022 (a decrease of £201.97 vs Dec 2021). We received a total of £193.40 in dividends in 2022 (an increase of £20.97 vs prior year). There is £195.24 carried forward to 2023.

Our thanks go to Bob Nicholls for auditing the accounts again.

The trustees held 2 meetings in 2022 and a chairman was elected at each meeting. No trustees have resigned and the trustees remain:

- Christine Oldroyd
- Pat Attwood
- Dawn Hall
- Vicki Joughin

The trustees continue to implement the data privacy policy agreed in 2019 and the annual audit will take place in June 2023.

6. Flooding and Emergency Planning: Mrs Pam Walker

January 2023 Flood

On 15 January a peak of **4.14m** was recorded at the Viking Recorder in York and a peak of **3.44m** at Naburn Lock followed. This flood was 0.4m lower at Naburn than the February 2022 event and mainly affected the road from the Ship Inn towards Holy Trinity Church. Other riverside residents deployed their flood defences.

The flood warning is moving to a fully automated system. This meant that the warnings were a little late and more generic in nature. The trigger for Acaster Malbis may need to be lowered slightly to allow for this. All residents who were likely to be affected by flooding were contacted well in advance.

Flooding occurred at the slipway corner coincided with the Appleton Road closure for the Brass Monkey Race. Although this caused concern it did not cause any issues and the slipway corner was passable within a few hours.

March 2023 Flood

On 14 March there was a small flood (peak **3.35m** at York) that only affected the road by the Ship Inn.

A number of drivers approached flood from Bishopthorpe. Most managed to turn back, some made it through and one was stranded in the middle of the road by the Ship Inn. The vehicle was kindly pulled out of the water by local residents with a heavy duty vehicle. The fate of the stranded vehicle is unknown.

Emergency Team

The team comprises:

- Team Lead – Pam Walker
- Deputy Lead – Martin Welch
- Council liaison – Cllr Jimmy Newark

Thank you to M Welch and Cllr J Newark for joining the team meaning a person should always be available in an emergency.

There is now a team of 10 core volunteers to cover all residential areas of the village.

7. Acaster Malbis Community Events: Councillor Rob Jones

Due to a previous commitment Cllr Jones was unable to attend, and Cllr Newark kindly agreed to present the information.

The first festival was held in May 2022 and was very successful due to the hard work of the many volunteers and a lovely sunny day. Some minor changes will be made in 2023 to enhance the day.

Many thanks to the Taylor family for the use of their field in 2022 and again in 2023.

A new inflatable tent has been purchased for use as the tea and cake tent, and several other tents are available should the weather be poor on the day.

The format will be similar to 2022 with music, bars, food, stalls, car show, fun dog show and activities for children. New activities for 2023 include archery, axe throwing and a 9-hole putting competition.

A raffle will be held with fantastic prizes to be won, and the popular tombola will run again. Tombola prizes are always welcome and can be donated by contacting the community events team (website and Facebook).

Craft stalls are available for local crafts and produce.

Many people in the village have put a lot of effort into making this event happen, so continued support is appreciated.

8. City of York Council Ward Member: Councillor J C Galvin

Cllr Galvin was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

9. Matters arising

There were none.

10. Open Forum

Retirement of Ward Councillor J Galvin

It was suggested that the clerk should write a formal letter of appreciation on behalf on the parish meeting to thank Councillor Galvin for his efforts over many years of service and contributions to Acaster Malbis. This was agreed by the meeting.

Minutes approved at the Annual Meeting of the Parish and duly signed by:

Chairman _____

Date _____