

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Acaster Malbis

on Monday, 18 March 2024 at the Memorila Hall

Present: Cllrs G Taylor (Chair), R Jones, J Newark, M Nicholls, I Nilsson-Forrest, J Redfearn, D Walker, L Welch

Public: G Appleby, J Booth, K Joughin, J Pumffrey, J Pumffrey, P Walker, M Welch, L Whaley, R Whaley

Clerk: C Booth

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30pm 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 20 March 2023

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

The report of the Chairman of Acaster Malbis Parish Council was presented to the meeting. The report is included in Appendix A.

4 The Knowles Educational Foundation: Treasurer's Report

In 2023 the usual three meetings were held and grants of £2,834 were distributed. The grants included: swimming lessons, school trips, and purchase of computers. The level of grants was higher than in recent years, mainly due to the post-covid resumption of school trips in 2023.

Income from investments was £3,672 (an increase of around 8% on the previous year) resulting in a funding surplus of £248 after administration costs of £590 (of which £541 were stockbroker fees).

Other administration costs have been reduced by moving to a free Lloyds Bank account and undertaking of secretary and treasurer duties on a voluntary basis.

The value of KEF's investments increased by 6% over the year, though the market remains volatile. Total assets at the year-end were £97,664.

Thanks are due to Mr David Walkden for providing an independent examination of the year's accounts. The relevant financial details have been reported to the [Charities Commission](#).

Susan Smith resigned as a trustee on moving from Acaster Malbis. Susie Raimes has been co-opted and is undertaking the duties of secretary.

The tenure of the two appointees of the parish meeting will end this year. Both appointees are happy to continue as trustees and request approval of the meeting. It was

Resolved: That the meeting appoints Geoff Appleby and James Hall for a further 3-year term.

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

The report was delivered by K Joughin of behalf V Joughin who was unable to attend the meeting.

The trustees awarded £300 in grants in December 2023, which was gratefully received by three beneficiaries.

The charity's investment was valued at £3,343 on 31st December 2023 (a decrease of £80 vs Dec 2022). We received a total of £199 in dividends in 2023 (an increase of £6 vs 2022). There £94.46 cash to carried forward to 2024.

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

The trustees held 2 meetings in 2023 and a chairman was elected at each meeting.

Christine Oldroyd, after 15 years as a trustee, has resigned with immediate effect. The trustees would like to thank Christine for her many years of service and assistance in finding worthy candidates for grants.

Rev Lucy Brencher has agreed to take up the vacant position and was appointed by the parish council in February 2024. The trustees welcome Rev Lucy to the charity and envisage her work with the needy will be of great help to the charity.

The remaining trustees have agreed to continue their tenure:

- 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 2024.

6 Flooding and Emergency Planning: Mrs Pam Walker

Flooding

Flooding in the 2023/24 season has been exceptional. There have been a total of 11 floods compared to 2 last year. A flood is defined locally as when Acaster Lane by the Ship Inn is covered by water.

The flood season for Acaster Malbis is usually from December to January. This flood season has lasted from December to March – a full 4 months.

Yorkshire was affected by 10 named storms and we had a total of 61 days flooded and 51 days clear – a flood rate of approximately 50%.

Although the flood levels were not very high (4.4m at York was the highest) the frequency of them caused considerable disruption. The 21 bus service had to be switched frequently onto the diverted route causing problems for passengers.

The Ship Inn flooded on 11th December and again on 29th December and only reopened in March 2024. 4 vehicles were damaged in the flood water.

The frequency of flood events occurring and standing water over the whole catchment seems to have contributed to higher than expected flooding at Acaster and the Viking Recorder predictions were much less accurate than usual.

Emergency Planning

We now have a team of 15 volunteers, covering all areas of the village in the event of an emergency.

A meeting was held in the Memorial Hall in November for all volunteers – many thanks to Carolyn and Dale from the Environment Agency for providing a presentation. Thanks also to the Memorial Hall Trustees for allowing us the use of the Hall.

7 Acaster Malbis Community Events: Councillor Rob Jones

There have been two very successful years of our May Village Festival. Last year everything went according to plan, and the weather smiled on us again. There are always little improvements and changes to be made in order to make the next festival a little better.

The May Festival is not just having a great fun day, but about bringing everyone in the village together, working together for a common goal, and celebrating village life. The success of the festival is down to the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers in the village, and of course the central organising team.

Planning is well under way for this year's festival, and once again we thank the Taylor family for their generosity in allowing use of the field on Hauling Lane.

A new enclosed stretch tent has been purchased for this year and will be used for tea and cakes. This frees up the inflatable tent to be used for outdoor events should the weather be inclement.

There are some new bands (Bang, Bang Bang and Love Generation), and new activities (a Children's Petting Farm and a Golf Driving Dartboard) this year as well as some of the old favourites.

As usual you are welcome to drop in at any time during the day, and bring your own chairs and picnic if you wish.

Advance entry tickets for the event are already on sale online at atacasterevents.co.uk (£8 per person advance price, under 14s free) - tickets on the day will be £10.

The much loved raffle and tombola will there again – this year's raffle prizes include:

- 55 inch 4K Samsung smart TV
- Apple watch
- Wetherby racecourse dine & view for 2
- Sightseeing Private light aircraft flight 30 mins
- £100+ hamper including Champagne and glasses
- Plus many more fantastic prizes!

Last year we donated £1,500 from the festival proceeds to York Against Cancer. This year we will be donating to the very worthy local charity Lollipop, who support children, young people and families with deafness.

If you wish to volunteer, bake cakes, have tombola prizes or would like a craft stall, then please contact us on [Facebook](#) or info@acasterevents.co.uk or speak to one of the central team.

8 City of York Council Ward Member: Councillor M Nicholls

Cllr Nicholls advised the meeting that he has been a councillor on Bishopthorpe Parish Council for a number of years, and was elected to ward councillor in May 2023. His intention is to be a councillor that represents the people's views rather than one of political aspiration.

Two recent topics that Cllr Nicholls has been leading is the 20mph scheme for Bishopthorpe, and extending the double-yellow lines on the corner of Acaster Lane. There is an element of frustration in the time taken from when the decision is made to when it is implemented.

Recently, Cllr Nicholls invited a highways engineer to look at the roads in Bishopthorpe and this led to an opportunity to train the public in identifying damaged road surfaces that will develop into pot-holes if not addressed soon. The cost to repair a pot-hole is £25/m² but the price to address a damaged surface is only £5/m². Those wishing to be trained should contact [Cllr Nicholls](#).

A donation of £500 has been made from the ward budget to the Acaster Malbis May Festival to support this community event. Cllr Nicholls has also taken a stall at the May Festival and invites those attending to stop by and discuss any problems, issues or concerns that you have.

The fallen sign on Appleton Road is due to be repaired this week. Upon suggestions from local drivers, the sign is to be re-located to provide better visibility when exiting Temple Lane.

The Dial & Ride scheme has been discontinued, but Cllr Nicholls would like views from those that used the service to tell him how they used the service. Cllr Nicholls is keen to explore any potential to have it re-instated.

9 Matters arising

There were none.

10 Open Forum

Local Plan

A question was asked as to whether there was any progress toward the adoption of a local plan.

Post meeting note:

There is a page on the City of York website that details the [progress of the Local Plan](#). The latest updated of 18 March 2024 indicates that the phase 5 hearing is now complete.

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

Chairman _____

Date _____

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023/24

Introduction

This is the Chairman's Annual Report for the year 2023/24 for Acaster Malbis presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 18 March 2024.

Council Meetings

The council held the normal 10 council meetings in the year plus additional meetings in August and December to discuss planning applications. These applications did not fall conveniently for our scheduled meetings and were also considered outside the scope of the clerk's delegated authority.

All council meeting [agendas, meeting packs and minutes](#) are available on the parish council website.

Policies

Many new policies have been created this year to meet our statutory obligation as a local authority, and a significant number have been reviewed and updated.

A key document that has been produced is the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is the council's medium and long term plan for the village and parish of Acaster Malbis. A public consultation started in January 2024 and ends at the close of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Policing and Security

Our crime figures come from the police.uk website and are reported at each meeting. The figures seemed higher than expected and this was eventually resolved when it was discovered that the crime area does not map fully onto the parish area. This led to some crimes in the Keeble Park area being reported as ours in the minutes.

In June an application was made to form a Community Speedwatch group in Acaster Malbis. A number of people volunteered and were trained and deployed in August/September 2023. In one of the early deployments, 10 vehicles were noted exceeding 35mph in a 30mph limit.

Planning

The council has a public participation session in each of its council meetings that only tend to be used when there is a controversial planning application that the council are considering. Our village lies within the designated green belt, and we are subject to flooding at various points in the village and so we consider applications with care. In August 2023 we considered an application where 14 members of the public attended the meeting.

The planning applications we have considered are listed in the [Planning](#) section of the council website along with the council response to the application.

Issues & Topic of the Year

i Intake Lane Resurfacing

Intake Lane has long suffered from pot-holes that have been patched and re-patched. In July 2023 a 'large patching' was carried out and has improved the road significantly.

ii Appleton Road Bridge

After a structural report on the bridge on Appleton Road in Bishopthorpe indicated that the bridge was in poor condition, an 18t limit was placed on the bridge In August 2023. This meant heavy good vehicles being diverted through Copmanthorpe and Appleton Roebuck. A decision was taken in March 2024 to authorise £300,000 to strengthen the bridge.

iii Village Boundary Signs

The village signs were commissioned by the council at the millennium. With poor verge maintenance by the City of York the signs are barely visible. The council has been looking at the issue and has a development goal to improve them.

iv Flood Signs

The flood warning signs have been an issue for quite a while and the council has written to the Highways Authority to suggest ways to improve the visibility of the signs and to gain permission to open and close the signs ourselves.

v Flower Tower

The council continues to re-plant the flower tower twice per year. The summer planting for 2023 attracted a number of positive comments and was well received by villagers.

vi Defibrillator

Maintenance of the defibrillators continues. We purchased additional pads for the Mt Pleasant defibrillator, and all defibrillators are checked regularly by volunteers. Thankfully, the council owned defibrillators have not been needed.

vii Precept

The precept has long been low in the parish, but this is no longer sustainable and hence the 36% increase in the precept for 2024/25. The [Business Plan](#) and the [Budget](#) for 2024/25 are available on the council website so you can see how the funds are to be spent.

Thank You!

Acaster Malbis has a lot of volunteers that work tirelessly to create the community that we have. Thank you to all volunteers in the parish.

i Coronation of King Charles

The beacon was lit again in 2023 for the coronation of King Charles III. The Memorial Hall was again the venue of a well attended event to celebrate the coronation. In 2024 we can look forward to the beacon being lit once again as part of the D-Day 80 beacons remembrance.

ii Balsam Bash

Jane Redfearn has put together an enthusiastic team that endeavour to keep the Himalayan Balsam under control. The team of 20 people spent some 112 hours uprooting this weed during the 'bash' in 2023.

iii May Festival

It takes many hours and many people to make this event happen. Thank you to all those involved in the planning, organising and execution of this highly regarded community event.

iv Other Notable Work

- 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 Facebook page
- Managing the KEF charitable trust
- Managing the JK & JK charitable trust
- The Emergency Planning team
- The Flood Resilience Team
- Organisers of other charitable events, garden parties etc.

v The Clerk

Thank you to Craig Booth our clerk who does a lot more than he needs to – he seems to be involved in everything that goes on in the village.

vi Flood Warden

Finally, A big thank you to Pam Walker the team leader for the Emergency Planning and Flood team. Flooding this year has been almost continuous since mid-December 2023. Pam has been providing the many flood updates, keeping people informed directly, and is always conscious of the correct time at which the Moor End sewer pumps need to be stopped and started.