

MINUTES of Astley Village Parish Council held on Wednesday, 6 May 2009 at Astley Village Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village

Present Cllrs M Perks (Chairman), A Cain, R Fraser, I Handley, L Lennox,
K Robinson, H Seaman, D Swards.

37 residents, CBM Melia and PCSO Newton.

209.01 Election of Chair

Cllr Perks was proposed and seconded. Cllr Lennox was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED: The vote was carried for Cllr Perks to be Chairman for the coming year.

A Councillor raised the point that they had requested all policies relating to communication and publicity but put on the agenda for consideration. The Chair agreed they would be on the next agenda.

209.02 Election of Vice Chair and Representatives to Outside Bodies

Cllr Cain was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED: Council agreed Cllr Cain would be Vice Chairman for the coming year.

RESOLVED: Council agreed the following appointments:

Lancashire Local - Cllr Handley, PACT - Cllrs Seaman and Handley, Borough/Parish Liaison meetings - Cllr Swards, Friends of Astley Park and Chorley Civic Society - Cllr Robinson.

209.03 Apologies - none.

209.04 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Fraser informed that he is a Governor of Buckshaw School and joined a politically party. He was supplied with a new Register of Members Interest Form to complete.

209.05 Minutes of Meeting

A Councillor asked why a comment he had made on item 208.07i) was not included in the minutes. The Clerk advised that as he had refused to qualify his comment, when requested by the Chair, and the matter was carried, the unqualified comment was felt not relevant to the minutes.

A Councillor questioned the accuracy of the minutes, and proposed they be altered. The Clerk cautioned the Council over amending the minutes as suggested, and added she would be obliged to annotate them if the proposal was agreed, as the change was not in accordance with handwritten notes, which rendered the suggested decision illegal as the item was not on the agenda.

RESOLVED: The minutes would be altered to read: The Chair responded to the point made by a resident that, subject to planning permission being granted, the Parish Council will take no action until it has consulted with all Astley Village residents, and at the next meeting Council will discuss how to consult the residents.

RESOLVED: Minutes of 1 April 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman when the above adjustment was included.

209.06 Statutory Business

i) Councillor vacancies.

Vacancy for Catherine Bates' seat: Ms Jayne Thomas was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED: Ms Jayne Thomas was co-opted to the Council.

A recorded vote was requested. Vacancy for John Lawson's seat:

Mr Dave Slessor was proposed by Cllr Lennox, seconded Cllr Robinson. 3 votes
Mr Peter Baker was proposed by Cllr Cain, seconded Cllr Seaman. 4 votes
Mr John Nuttall was proposed by Cllr Fraser, seconded Cllr Lennox. 1 vote

Mr Nuttall was excluded from the next round of voting.

Mr Dave Slessor received 4 votes and Mr Peter Baker received 4 votes.

RESOLVED: Mr Peter Baker was co-opted to the Council with the Chairman's casting vote.

Mr Baker signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

ii) Planning applications - none received.

209.07 ii) Public Participation

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

There were a number of members of the public attending the meeting and a great number of questions asked around the subject of the games area, the location, why other areas were not chosen, the planning meeting, future repairs and maintenance.

A question regarding the trees behind Long Croft Meadow being cut down.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to restore standing orders.

The Chairman requested that item 209.09 be moved forward on the agenda because this was linked to the residents questions.

209.09 Multi Use Games Area

To consider implementation of the games area or any further discussions needed:

A Councillor asked for qualification that the games area was wanted by everyone, but it was the location which had disagreement. Councillors and the meeting agreed they all wanted a games area.

A Councillor said he understood the public's call for a different location but this was a good project undertaken by young people. It had done through two separate Development Control meetings and he disagreed with the residents claims that much of the village disagreed with the location. The offer of the lease from Chorley Council still needed Council approval, and this would not be until its July meeting. If a leaflet is used it should be neutral.

A neutral Chair was suggested for the public meeting. Meeting should avoid holiday week and be aimed for June. A Councillor requested Councillors refrain from using newspaper articles.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the proposal for a public meeting with residents, in the school offered free by the Headteacher, publicised by a separate leaflet inserted in the newsletter, inviting all residents to discuss the location of the games area.

The suggestions from the meeting to be given to the Council and the locations investigated and their viability reported at the following Council meeting, July.

209.07 i) Public Participation - Chorley Standards Committee

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

Councillor Stella Walsh introduced herself to the meeting. Councillor of Coppull Parish Council and Chorley Borough Council and a member of Chorley Standards Committee. Once a year members of the Standards Committee aim to visit all the Parish Councils between them to introduce themselves, explain the work of the Committee and the help Chorley Council can offer.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to restore standing orders.

209.08 Finance

i) Consider applications for payment made to the Council.

RESOLVED: The following request(s) for payment were approved for payment.

£	25.00	Came & Company	Insurance premium for extra equip
£	36.92	Chorley Council	Community Centre rentals
£	71.79	Chorley Council	Dog waste bin emptying
£	35.00	Information Commissioner	Renewal of Data Protection register
£	40.00	Mrs M Ward	Internal Audit fee
£	445.28	Came & Company	Annual Insurance premium
£	393.38	Employee 1	Salary for April 2009
£	119.80	Employee 2	Salary for April 2009
£	591.49	Employee 3	Salary for April 2009
£	168.59	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI for April 2009

ii) Approve the Financial Monitoring Statement

RESOLVED: Council approved the Financial Monitoring Statement.

iii) Consider and approve the Annual Return and end of year figures and receive the Internal Auditors report.

RESOLVED: Council approved the Annual Return and received the Internal Auditors report.

iv) Consider and decide on two signatories for the bank account and sign mandate.

RESOLVED: Council agreed for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to be signatories on the bank account.

209.10 Astley In Bloom

Councillors thought that the event had been a success in the past but there not been the same public interest and volunteer gardens this year so the event could not go ahead.

209.11 Lancashire County Highways Allocation

RESOLVED: Council agreed to submit the following areas to the plan:

- Parking on the corner of Hallgate and Chancery Road junction - continued problem with parked cars blocking the flow in and out of Hallgate.
- Potholes and surfacing problems on Hallgate.
- Judeland footways - slurry surfacing works.

209.12 Information Leaflet

Councillors suggested including dog foul bins, litter bins, naming the school correctly and putting its boundary on the map and identifying the Childrens Centre, identify Astley Village field (behind the school), Derian House field, The Charnocks needs including.

Councillors agreed to forward any more suggestions to the Clerk so they could be included in a second proof and brought back to the next meeting.

209.13 Environment Committee and Reports

i) Received reports of issues in the village - A number of observations of problems were noted to be reported. The rota to be updated again with area 4 being split into two areas.

The Chairman thanked the management of Oliver House School on behalf of the Council for offering a storage space for our two village caretakers to store their equipment and supplies.

209.14 Reports from Parish Councillors who represent the Parish Council on Other Bodies

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

PACT - CBM Melia reported on a well attended PACT meeting and the three priorities to tackle damage, youth nuisance and speeding vehicles. The meeting discussed the actions taken on these priorities and progress. She informed of crime figures and that she was investigating the call to 'name and shame' offenders. The Easter period was busy and the village suffered higher than usual damage and nuisance calls. Security of Harewood was raised.

PCSO Victoria Newton was introduced, who would be working on a project involving young people of the village.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to restore standing orders.

Friends of Astley Park - Balsam Bash in June information will be supplied for the newsletter.

Chorley Civic Society - has a new Chairman, had a fund-raising dinner, looking now at Mr Disreali statue in Chorley and a plaque for local man Mr C H Lightoller, a survivor of the Titanic born in Chorley.

Astley In Bloom - the letter sent to Councillors from the resident organiser of the event was noted, which was sad news. Letter of thanks to go to the resident. The event has been successful for the last four years and the Council will discuss at the next meeting and Councillors should think of any ideas of what form the event can take this year.

209.15 Matters for information

A Councillor proposed a meeting of the Council to discuss the Clerks behaviour and minute taking and submitting documents without permission, breaches of employment terms and not acting on own initiative.

A Councillor, who was arrested for alleged harassment behaviour informed they would be suing the Parish Council for £5,000 damages.

A Councillor asked when the Council might look again at the Parish Plan. The 'Village Vision' will go on the agenda.

A Councillors asked in view of earlier discussions, will the Minutes of April mention the 'illegal decisions' discussion. The Clerk confirmed a note would be included.

A Councillor asked if the Council could be sacked. The Clerk informed that if each and every member of the Council resigned en-bloc this may give the opportunity for a full election, if a few Councillors resigned and left the Council inquorate the Local Authority (Chorley) would appoint members to co-opt new Councillors to enable it to continue business.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Distributed	Councillors deadline before: (copy posted out to you on this date)	Date goes to the printer (nothing accepted on/after this date)
1 st week Sept. 09	7 August 2009	14 August 2009
1 st week Dec. 09	6 November 2009	13 November 2009
1 st week March 10	End of 1 st week February 2010	End of 2 nd week February 2010
1 st week June 10	End of 1 st week of May 2010	End of 2 nd week of May 2010