

MINUTES of Astley Village Parish Council held on Wednesday, 3 June 2009 at Astley Village Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village

Present Cllrs M Perks (Chairman), P Baker, A Cain, R Fraser, I Handley, L Lennox, K Robinson, D Swards, J Thomas.

22 residents.

210.01 Apologies - Cllr Seaman

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Thomas to her first meeting as Councillor.

210.02 Declarations of Interest - none at this time.

210.03 Minutes of Meeting

A Councillor raised issue with the 6 May meeting and 1 April meeting minutes and objected to the Clerks minute taking and sequence of events and felt they were inaccurate.

A Councillor asked why their name was not mentioned when they had requested a recorded vote. The Clerk responded that it is not best practice to record Councillors names in minutes and they had not requested their name to be in the minutes.

A Councillor raised the suggestion, he had made previously, to use a dictaphone to record meetings.

A Councillor requested that their name be used in the minutes for each proposal or suggestion made and asked why Councillors names were not used. The Clerk responded that the minutes are produced using best practice guidance and if the Council wished to change the format it would need to specify the changes the Clerk would need to make for the future.

A Councillor suggested that in the future the Council looked at the standing orders to review this situation.

A Councillor asked why the minutes had not been posted on the noticeboard. The Clerk responded that the Council had not agreed the minutes and so they had not been posted on the boards.

A Councillor raised issue regarding the article in the newsletter about the Astley In Bloom and said that residents had dropped out because of the situation over the games area and the article did not reflect this. The Clerk informed that the Council had only received one letter from one organiser of the Astley In Bloom to this effect.

The minutes were not approved.

210.04 Statutory Business

Planning applications - 09/00387/FUL 125 The Farthings. No comment.

210.05 Public Participation

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

A resident raised issue about comments made on a website about his ethnic background.

A resident asked if this section was for raising questions or participating. The games area was not included in the newsletter for March, what is the method of choosing articles for the newsletter.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to restore standing orders.

In response to the residents point regarding his ethnic background, the Chairman informed that he was surprised by the accusations made against Councillors by another Councillor and does not recall any comments regarding anyone's ethnic background, this is now being investigated so will not comment further.

The Clerk will respond directly to the resident regarding the public participation section and newsletter protocols.

A Councillor commented that, of the two new Councillors co-opted to the Council in May, one did not live in Astley Village. This means that the Precept the Council sets is decided by two people not living in Astley Village and requests the Chair and other non-resident Councillor considers paying the Parish Precept. The Chair responded that this comment is astounding and if residents felt this way then they did not respond as such at the last election and it is not unusual for Councillors to not live in the area they are representing as a Councillor.

210.06 Finance

i) Consider applications for payment made to the Council.

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

£	307.00	Sprintprint	Newsletter printing June 09
£	920.00	Plantscape	Flower baskets
£	212.38	D Platt	Reimbursements (Mar to June 09)
£	410.58	Employee 1	Salary for May 2009
£	120.00	Employee 2	Salary for May 2009
£	591.49	Employee 3	Salary for May 2009
£	179.08	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI for May 2009
£	7.19	NALC	Portfolio return fee

ii) Approve the Financial Monitoring Statement - the Clerk advised there was no monitoring statement because two of the bank statements had not been received.

210.07 Grants

Councillors considered the grant applications previously circulated and decided to distribute the monies equally between the applications.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed that the following grants be given:

£50 to Penny Calley and Paul Turner; £100 to NW Air Ambulance, Derian House, Friends of Astley Park and Victim Support.

210.08 Communications and Publicity Policies

A Councillor raised an issue that the Clerk had responded to the Development Control Committee without the Council's permission; a website created by a Borough Councillor included Parish Council content without the Council's permission; the Council's newsletter seems to be a one man band and no contributed to by others.

The Chair responded that the first item is later on the agenda.

A Councillor responded that the Parish Council's information is in the public domain but change the website to be linked to the Parish Council's site, rather than include documents.

The Chair responded that the publication schedule of the newsletter is included on the bottom of all the minutes for Councillors information so they knew when to submit articles for the newsletter.

A Councillor asked why his article in the newsletter had not included his name or contact information, as he had requested in his email submitting the article. The Clerk responded that his email did not request this. Copy of the email to be produced at the next meeting.

210.09 Village Vision

Councillors had been circulated with the current plan and agreed that the plan would be reviewed in conjunction with the precept setting at the end of this year.

210.10 Environment Committee and Reports

i) Received reports of issues in the village - A number of observations of problems were noted to be reported.

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

Lancashire Local - the representative said he had not been to any meetings for a long time because he had not been given papers or the dates. The Clerk informed the next meeting is not until July, there had been a break in the meetings, last being March.

PACT - all future meetings will now be on a Monday, the new dates have been issued.

Friends of Astley Park - Balsam Bash dates are in the newsletter. Mormon Church members will be volunteering with projects. No further progression the animal enclosure. Reports on the new restaurant have been good.

Chorley Civic Society - the new website will be going ahead and visits to Parish Council's to raise awareness and encourage new members. Requests have been publicised for site suggestions for the Chorley PALS monument. The Lightoller plaque will go on St Albans school. The Disreli statue is still in a dangerous condition and estimates for repairs are about £20,000.

210.12 Matters for information

There being no further business the Chairman declared the public 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 September 09	7 August 2009	14 August 2009
1 st week December 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

PUBLIC MINUTE

(to be issued, following the approval of the minutes)

PRIVATE, PART II ITEMS

Exclusion of Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Paragraph 1, Part 1 ss1. It is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public are excluded from the forthcoming items of business.

210.13 Clerk

The Clerk's job description and contract are to be reviewed by the Council.

210.14 Councillor

Council to consider the copy of a letter from a Councillor to another authority attempting to influence a democratic process using the title of 'Councillor'.

(The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 Part 1 General Provisions, 6a) you must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage).

RESOLVED: Council agreed that the letter did not breach the Code of Conduct.

210.15 Complaint

Report receipt of a Complaint letter to the Council and the outcome of the procedure.

RESOLVED: Council noted the letter, that Chorley Council had investigated the issues and that the complainant will be following this matter up.

210.16 Council

Reported to Council the receipt of a County Court claim against Astley Village Parish Council by a Councillor for damages of £5,000.

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

The Clerk informed that a resignation had been received from Cllr Fraser, and declared a Councillor vacancy on the Council.