

MINUTES of Astley Village Parish Council held on Wednesday, 2 September 2009 at Astley Village Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village

Present Cllrs L Lennox (Chairman), K Robinson, D Swards, D Slessor.
15 residents.

214.01 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: Cllr Lennox was elected to be the Chairman.

214.02 Election of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED: Cllr Thomas was elected to be the Vice Chairman.

214.03 Apologies Cllrs Smith, Thomas.

214.04 Declarations of Interest - none at this time.

214.05 Minutes of Meeting

- i) RESOLVED: Minutes of 1 July 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- ii) RESOLVED: Minutes of Extra Ordinary meeting of 12 August 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

214.064 Statutory Business

- i) Planning - no applications.
- ii) Councillor Vacancies - Clerk updated that an election had been called on three of the four vacancies on the Council. The fourth could still have an election called upon it up until 10 September. Councillors discussed polling cards. This item to go on the October agenda.
- iii) Complaint letters

RESOLVED: Council received and noted the letters and responses.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

214.07 Public Participation

Members of the public raised a number of points: request that the Council, in future, attempts not to be party political but work for the village; the street light on Broadfields still not working; will Council consider joining the LALC; will Council consider moving the meeting to 7pm; no alternative was achieved when the games area project was rejected, what will Council do about this; it was a shame that valuable Councillors were lost during the consideration of games area project, believe it was right decision but not for the young people; kids need to be more motivated to use the facilities they already have on their doorstep such as football, park, schemes, tennis etc.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

Membership of the LALC will be considered at a future meeting for the precept.

Councillors briefly discussed the games area project and alternative provisions such as play spaces and will discuss ideas in the future, when the Village Vision plan will be reviewed in time for the precept.

214.08 Finance

- i) Approve two new bank signatories for the bank account.

RESOLVED: Councillors Swards and Thomas will be bank account signatories.

ii) Consider applications for payment made to the Council.

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

£	156.63	D Platt	Reimbursements
£	410.58	Employee 1	Salary for Aug 2009
£	146.55	Employee 2	Salary for Aug 2009
£	591.49	Employee 3	Salary for Aug 2009
£	185.68	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax&NI Aug 2009
£	64000.00	Lancashire CC	Return of grant monies

iii) Consider how the Council will meet its 'urgent' financial commitments, whilst it has only one authorised signatory for the bank mandate.

Council discussed the issues. Council requested the Clerk investigate paying salaries by BACS.

iv) Approve the financial monitoring statement and receive an updated budget.

RESOLVED: Council received the statement and update.

v) Consider the cost of the August election and possible costs of the October election and

RESOLVED: Council resolved that, election costs would be taken from the Election budget first, followed by the Astley Village Field fund. At precept the election fund will be considered to top back up and ensure the fund can fund an election in May 2011.

214.09 Draft Protocol: Parish Member/Employee Relations

RESOLVED: Council agreed the protocol, with minor amendments.

214.10 Review standing orders

Council reviewed the template standing orders recommended by SLCC/NALC.

RESOLVED: Council adopted the standing orders with minor amendments. This item will be referred to the October agenda for final adoption.

214.11 Newsletter

Council discussed the current newsletter which is delayed to include information about the election and vacancies and, whether to remain with 4 a year or reduce to 2. This item is referred to the November agenda to discuss the protocol, frequency, whether to have an editorial committee and precept requirements for next year.

214.12 Village Caretaker premises

Council received an update on the information distributed, Ravensthorpe had offered a garage on site for £15 per week. Council is grateful for the offer of the garage but felt the cost was very high.

RESOLVED: Council to offer £600 per year for the garage, to include electricity/light and request a tenancy agreement.

214.13 Football Field

RESOLVED: Council considered and approved two applications from Astley Village Juniors and Chillies Football Clubs. Clerk to obtain comparison rental charges from Chorley Council and increase the rent accordingly.

214.14 S106 policy from Borough/Parish committee

RESOLVED: Council received and welcomed the policy and made no comment.

214.15 Local Development Framework - Community Survey

RESOLVED: Council agreed to submit the field behind the school and the area on Chancery Road adjacent to the school for protected open space.

214.16 Lancashire Local - Chorley, Highways Allocation

Clerk updated that Hallgate would be repaired and re-surfaced, the other suggestions the Council made were not supported by the Highways Department.

214.17 Environment Committee and Reports

The Clerk submitted a report on all current items and their progress.

Problem	Location	Cllr
The Charnocks has no name plate	The Carnocks, Hallgate	
Strimming on the banking	Grass banks aside the subway	
Steps need levelling and re-setting	Two step sets aside the subway	
Two holes in pavement	Corner of Harewood/Hallgate	
Back of shops is a mess, doors need painting, clearing out, yard grids	Back of shops, Hallgate	
Litter bins overflowing	Various locations	
Litter bin missing	By subway	
Graffiti	In subway	
Weeds	In front on Community Centre	

Council discussed the contract offered to Stonham (The Charnocks) and offered the service for free until they have a budget in April.

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

Borough/Parish Liaison - s106 money would receive application once the policy has been approved which is out for consultation with parishes until end of September.

PACT - there is a new Sergeant Ian O'Brien.

Friends of Astley Park - sensory garden project, River Chor buying waders with grant money to get in the river, Forum for the Park has been set up, Balsam bashing finished and photo competition will be judging soon.

Civic Society - applied for a grass roots grant for a website, Disreli is being restored but there is a bit of disagreement as to whether he should have been taken down and where he will go back, seats on play area have not been turned round.

Clerk to write to Friends of Astley Park supporting their views that the play area is small, does not have many items of equipment for smaller children in comparison to what the old area had.

214.19 Matters for information

Clerk reported that a repair at Westway Ponds was needed on the decking and handrail of £260.

Christmas to be put on the next agenda.

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	Delayed	Delayed
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

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.

214.20 Review of Clerks Contract and Job Description

RESOLVED: This item will be referred to the November agenda, when the Council has a full complement of Councillors. *^

Clerk to write to all former Councillors to thank them for their contribution and services on the Council over their term.

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