

MINUTES of Astley Village Parish Council held on Wednesday, 7 October 2009 at Astley Village Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village

Present Cllrs L Lennox (Chairman), R Fraser, J Nuttall, K Robinson, D Swards, D Slessor, J Thomas.

15 residents.

214.01 Apologies - none.

214.02 Declarations of Interest - none at this time.

214.03 Minutes of Meeting

RESOLVED: Minutes of 2 September 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with one alteration regarding the letter supporting the Friends of Astley Park, to be sent to Chorley Council.

214.04 Statutory Business

i) Planning - no applications.

ii) Councillor Vacancies - Clerk updated the Council. The election had been uncontested and three new Councillors had been returned being Cllr Fraser, Hodgson and Nuttall. There are currently two further vacancies which may be filled by co-option at the next meeting, following the passing of the election closure date of 20 October for one of these two vacancies. The vacancies were advertised in the recent newsletter.

214.05 Public Participation

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

Placed for People Ian Campbell and Mark Boothroyd representing the landscape contractors informed the meeting of the proposed landscape and tree management work to take place in the village. Some 70 trees are proposed to be felled or taken out to improve the area, to ensure other trees grow to their full potential and to improve safety. Residents were invited, and took up the offer, to ask further questions of the representatives, outside this section of the meeting, and proceeded to take the questioning into another room.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

214.06 Finance

i) Consider applications for payment made to the Council.

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

£	50.00	Paul Turner	Grant (re-issued cheque 1/7)
£	2190.04	Chorley Council	Election charges Aug09
£	600.00	Places for People	Garage rental
£	307.00	Sprintprint	Sept newsletter printing
£	299.00	Groundwork	Repair rails at WWP
£	97.59	D Platt	Reimbursements
£	368.14	Employee 1	Salary for Sept 09
£	119.80	Employee 2	Salary for Sept 09
£	591.49	Employee 3	Salary for Sept 09
£	157.42	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax&NI Sept 09
£	460.00	BDO Stoy Hayward	Audit fee

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

RESOLVED: Council received the statement and update.

iii) Approve and accept the Annual Return following its return by the Auditor.

RESOLVED: Council approved and accepted the Annual Return following its return by the Auditor. Council noted the issues raised by the Auditor and agreed these will be rectified.

iv) Consider having polling cards for the 29 October election and the cost.

This item did not need to be considered as the election was uncontested.

v) Consider whether to move the bank account to another provider.

Council requested the Clerk look into alternative banks and bank accounts and present a proposal at a future meeting.

214.07 Standing Order Adoption

RESOLVED: Councillors each received a revised version and adopted the new standing orders.

214.08 Consultation on the submitted draft North West Plan Partial Review

RESOLVED: Council received the information.

214.09 Astley Village Field

Council discussed the lease on the field. The lease does not cost the Council any money, the grass cutting costs approximately £250 per year, depending on how many cuts were possible during the season. The revenue for football teams, this year would be £160. The field costs the Council approximately £90 per annum. The notice period of surrendering the lease is no less than 6, no more than 12 months.

RESOLVED: Council will surrender the lease on the field and request if this can be done by the 31 March, to coincide with the new financial year.

214.10 Christmas 2009

The Chorley Silver Band is available for the evening of Thursday, 17 December. Councillors were asked to assist with putting the lights on the tree, when it arrives.

214.11 Policies

i) Training Policy

The Clerk informed that Module 1 training had been arranged for Wednesday, 18 November to be held in Astley Village and this was suitable for new Councillors or as a refresher for established Councillors. She informed also that, as there was to shortly be an update made to the Code of Conduct, the Monitoring Officer at Chorley Council would be offering training some time in December or January to brief on the new version, this training is extended to Parish Councillors to attend.

RESOLVED: Council agreed the proposed Training Policy.

ii) Complaints Procedure

RESOLVED: Council agreed the revised Complaints Procedure.

214.12 Environment Committee and Reports

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

Problem	Location
Hedging	All along Chancery Road
Flags raised	Outside 1 Studfold
Pile of cut hedging/trees	Back of Elmwood
Japanese knotweed	By subway
Litter and smashed glass	Foxcote play area
Hole in corner of building	Shop building

Council discussed buying English Blue Bells to plan and wanted a minimum of 1000 or up to £150 worth of bulbs.

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

PACT - criminal activity was down and reports had decreased.

Friends of Astley Park - the clean up of the River Chor was successful and increased its flow.

Civic Society - is building a website, arranged a talk in November from a Conservation Officer on 26 November at 6.30 pm.

214.14 Matters for information

A Councillor raised the sad news that the Lions would not be holding a bonfire in Astley Park this year.

A Councillor raised issues with the website and the Chairman said that new Councillors should make efforts to submit new information to update the site.

Neighbourhood Watch had reported a bogus contractor called 'Ben's Gutters' going round offering work on gutters and trees to gain access to back yards. Residents should be aware of this contractor.

Council agreed to adjust two of the forthcoming meeting dates: 4 November to move to 11 November and 2 December to the 9 December.

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 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
1 st week September 10	End of 1 st week of August 2010	End of 2 nd week of August 2010