

MINUTES of Astley Village Parish Council held on Wednesday, 11 November 2009 at Astley Village Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village

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

1 resident

215.01 Apologies - none.

215.02 Declarations of Interest - Cllr Swards declared a personal interest in 215.07.

215.03 Minutes of Meeting

RESOLVED: Minutes of 7 October 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that the report about the River Chor in item 214.07 should say increased its flow slightly.

215.04 Statutory Business

i) Councillor vacancies - co-options

RESOLVED: Council co-opted Ian Handley on to the Council, who signed his declaration and joined the meeting.

Clerk reported there was still one vacancy on the Council which would be advertised in the forthcoming newsletter.

ii) Planning - no applications.

215.05 Public Participation

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

Tony Ellwood, the Independent Chair of the Chorley Standards Committee introduced himself and the work of the committee and the mentoring process to the Council. The mentoring is aimed at forging closer links with the parish councils and is done on a rota system. Mr Ellwood explained the work of the committee and how it was made up of independent, parish council and borough councillor members.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

215.06 Finance

iii) Ratify the decision to purchase blue bell bulbs for planting in the village to the value of £150.

RESOLVED: Council ratified the decision to purchase blue bell bulbs.

iv) Consider the proposal to adjust the payment arrangement for salaries to avoid late payment of salaries, due to meeting date changes.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to sign salary cheques in advance so employees could be paid on time.

i) Consider applications for payment made to the Council.

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

£	20.00	Chorley Civic Society	Subscription
£	150.00	Chorley Silver Band	Donation
£	32.87	Chorley Council	Room Rental
£	368.34	Employee 1	Salary for Oct 09
£	120.00	Employee 2	Salary for Oct 09
£	591.49	Employee 3	Salary for Oct 09
£	157.02	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI Oct 2009

£	368.34	Employee 1	Salary for Nov 09
£	146.35	Employee 2	Salary for Nov 09
£	591.49	Employee 3	Salary for Nov 09
£	163.82	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI Nov 2009
£	175.02	DPlatt/Dutch Bulb Co	Bluebells Reimbursement
£	48.47	D Platt	Reimbursements (Copies/Post/Miles etc)

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

RESOLVED: Council received the statement and update.

216.07 Lancashire Association of Local Council (LALC)

Council considered the suggestion made to join LALC, any exclusive benefits it offered and its cost. The vote was lost to join.

216.08 Village Vision Plan

Council reviewed the items in the vision plan

216.09 Astley Village Field

The Clerk updated the Council that Lancashire County Council had agreed to the vacation of the land on 31 March 2010.

216.10 Newsletter

Council considered the outstanding questions raised in previous meetings, items for future issues and Councillor articles. Councillors would make efforts to submit articles for the newsletter. It was agreed the frequency of the newsletter would remain at four per year/quarterly.

216.11 Policies

Financial Risk Register

RESOLVED: Council agreed the revised Financial Risk Register.

Business Continuity Plan

RESOLVED: Council agreed the revised Business Continuity Plan.

Publicity Protocol

RESOLVED: Council reviewed the Publicity Protocol and made no changes.

215.12 Environment Committee and Reports

The Clerk submitted had no updates.

Reported items were the steps by the bus shelter and the brick walls under the subway around the steps area. Dog fouling in the leaf litter (article for newsletter), litter in the bushes particularly the school hedge. Footpath between post box at Long Croft Meadow and Broadfields footpath, where there is no path opposite) floods. Grass overgrowing the pavement stone edges. Bin overflowing behind Elmwood properties, ruts in the grass at the road junction of Long Croft Meadow, street light at the top of school side steps flashes on and off.

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

Partnership Meeting - Cllr Slessor reported on the meeting of 28 October in the Community Centre was well attended, next is at Ravensthorpe on 9 December 2-4pm. There were many issues, some were youth club in the community centre, groups working together, nursery play area outside, how groups in the village can work together. Cllr Lennox informed that the 'dual area' was raised as it was full of cars in school holidays.

Residents Association meeting - Cllr Slessor reported he attended and the concept of Assisted Technology Information was discussed by Places for People residents which would be accessed through a box, similar to a free view box.

Day of Action is on the 30 November organised by Places for People.

Places for People has donated £400 to the school towards Christmas and a magician.

Community Day has been suggested for next year, organised by the Residents Association and helped by other organisations and residents.

Neighbourhood Working tour - Cllr Robinson reported that issues raised were the overhang on the shops, dual area on Hallgate car park.

Places for People meeting - Cllr Handley reported that the shops and part of the flagged area by the shops is the responsibility of Places for People but presently they are sorting out details about their contractors with a possible view to decreasing the area of the flags and improving the grass area.

Borough Parish Liaison meeting - Cllr Swards reported that the meeting covered the items of the s106 agreement, allotments, play survey, older peoples activities and brown bins.

PACT - had a low attendance.

Civic Society - Cllr Robinson reminded members of the talk booked, the society had received a grant for a website and leaflets.

Friends of Astley Park - Cllr Robinson reported on the sensory garden, photo competition display, pets corner issues ongoing, courtyard and walled garden, River Chor cleaning, 'open spaces watch' and thanked the Council for the letter of support regarding the play equipment.

Astley Advisory Group meeting is Monday 16 November.

215.14 Matters for information

The next meeting is the 9 December, and not the 2 December.

The meeting on the 3 February would be a 7.30 pm start.

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 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
1 st week December 09	End of 1 st week of November 2010	End of 2 nd week November 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.

215.15 Review of Clerks Contract and Job Description

RESOLVED: A Committee of the Council will be set up to consider this information and carry out the annual salary review for all employees and report back to the December meeting.

Volunteers for the Committee were: Cllrs J Thomas, K Robinson, I Hodgson, R Fraser, J Nuttall.

Cllr Thomas would be Chair and choose three more members for the Committee from the volunteers and arrange a suitable date prior to the 9 December to meet.