

ALNE PARISH

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD IN ST MARY'S CHURCH
IN ALNE ON TUESDAY 2 MAY 2023 AT 8.00PM**

PRESENT: Dr Robert Brech (Chairman)
Clerk: Nigel Knapton.

3 members of the public were present.

23/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Eddie Edwards and John Price.

23/2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2022

Minutes were circulated and these were accepted and signed as a correct record.

23/3 CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT

I am Robert Brech and I welcome you to the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish meeting is held each year as required by the Local Government Act 1972. Under the law, the Annual Parish Meeting consists of "the local government electors for the parish" who meet for the purpose of "discussing parish affairs".

As I made clear last year, this is NOT a question-and-answer session and it is NOT a forum for somehow holding the Parish Council to account. The electors do that – and did that a year ago – in the local elections.

To be clear:

- The law requires me to preside over this Annual Parish Meeting because I am the current Chairman of the Parish Council, which is an entirely separate body;
- The Parish Council as a separate body is not a "local government elector" and therefore does NOT attend the Annual Parish Meeting. This means that any other parish councillors who may be attending the Annual Parish Meeting are here only in their capacity as electors.

On that basis, this Annual Parish Meeting will follow the traditionally established format.

I will give a review of Parish Council activities over the past year, and then any elector who wishes to raise any wider parish affairs is free to do so. To ensure that the meeting runs in an efficient and timely manner, the standard rules applicable to Parish Council meetings will also apply to the Annual Parish Meeting, including that the total contribution of any individual elector shall be for no more than three minutes.

Our main activities this year can be summarised as follows:

- While responsibility for footpaths rests with North Yorkshire Council, we have continued the new initiative on footpaths and are working with local landowners and North Yorkshire to ensure that all existing footpaths are clear and safe. Our thanks to

Approved Chairman

Councillor Fletcher who has taken the lead on these issues and has ensured that we continue to make progress.

- The re-establishment of the Kyle footbridge is an important part of this initiative – as you are aware from the village website, this has been delayed by Nork Yorkshire Council for budgetary reasons but is now expected later this financial year.
- The new defibrillator in the Alne Station area is expected to be fitted this month. We are grateful to the North Yorkshire Council locality fund for funding this initiative. Our thanks to Councillor Edwards who is the lead on this.
- The Parish Council has funded the complete renovation of the telephone box book exchange. This has included complete new glazing as well as a complete strip down and repaint. The internal electrics have also been renewed. This work has been carried out by two enthusiastic volunteers who have put in an amazing amount of work over the winter. A new librarian is also ensuring that the stock of books is kept in good condition and regularly overhauled.
- New trees have been planted along the Main Street to fill some holes. Thanks to Councillor Price who has done the work on this. The removal of dead trees and some crown-lifting have also been carried out by contractors in the area of the Millennium sundial and outside what was Spike's house.
- Work has continued on monitoring vehicle speeds through the village and we are pleased to report that we remain well within police and highway norms. Thanks to Councillor Walker who has braved some early-morning starts to assist with this.
- The 2023 litterpick has been moved forward to coincide with national volunteering day on the Coronation bank holiday. While this should ensure a better supply of volunteers, the rate of recent grass growth in some areas will make it harder to spot and pick the litter. Swings and roundabouts!

My thanks are due to all the councillors and also to our hard-working clerk, Nigel Knapton.

23/4 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Several questions and Freedom of Information requests were made to the Parish Council and these were referred to the Parish Council meeting following this meeting.

23/5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

23/6

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm

Approved Chairman