

ALNE PARISH

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
IN ALNE ON TUESDAY 23 MAY 2018 AT 7.45PM**

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

6 members of the public were present.

17/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were apologies from Cllr David Walker. There were no declarations of interests.

17/2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 2017

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

17/3 CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT

This has been a busy year in many respects.

We checked, approved or disapproved of 28 planning applications during the year

We kept a close eye on Yorkshire Water who continue to have to do work in the village to replace and restore the ageing pipework. We tried to get as much done as possible before work started on the verges.

We have implemented the new Parish Council Transparency Code and you will see the results of this as we get to grips with the detail and put more and expanded information on the village website. We have also implemented the requirements of the dreaded GDPR and we are pleased to report that we are going to be compliant with the new regulations.

There are a number of things that we tried to do but without success as yet. We have tried to get some of the signposts reinstated. We have tried to get a speed limit on Back Lane. We have tried to get the temporary barriers replaced with a permanent solution at the Forest Lane railway bridge. We have tried to get the Alne end of Forest Lane repaired as a safety measure. All of these things are still on our agenda but none is within our own control. We are now also working on the possibility of new signs designating the historic area of Alne Station.

My own main preoccupation over the last year has been the restoration of the Alne verges. The original plan was for the contractors to start in March-2018, as reported at this meeting last year, and for it to be completed within 6 to 8 weeks. For reasons of their own, the contractors started the work on 23rd October 2017. The upside of this was that we had barrier protection of the verges throughout the winter which prevented any further deterioration. The downside was that the contractors had to contend with bad weather on the job, and missing personnel whenever it was frosty as the same crews drove the gritting lorries. So there was a tendency for them to be up at 3:00am, finish gritting at 8:00, turn up at Alne at 9:00 and knock off at 10:00!

Approved Chairman

We monitored the work closely over the winter but there was a definite slowdown as the spring approached and we are now getting increasingly frustrated at the inability of the contractors to finish the job. NYCC Highways sent me an email on 18-April saying that the work would all be complete by 04-May. There followed two blank weeks when nothing happened, then the tarmac was laid very quickly and we were 90% complete by 11-May. But nothing since. There is still topsoil and seeding to be done, a raft of rectification work (loose setts etc) and the dropped kerbs on Mitchell Lane to be installed. But the good news, just received this afternoon, is that work will re-start next week.

On the plus side, we have a fixed-price contract so the inefficiency of working does not affect us financially and we are not paying until the work is complete. And, on the positive side, we have received many compliments on the project both from within the village and from outside. It will be even better when it is finished!

Further research has been undertaken on the history of Alne. I was conscious that David Newton's book The Alne Annals was the main work on this subject and that, with the death of David in 2010, this historical anthology could have been lost. With the approval of the Newton family and the financial support of Alne Parish Council, this work has now been republished and greatly expanded with the help of many past and present residents of Alne. It includes stories about life in Alne in the 1940s and 1950s, the old shops and post offices, the 1944 bomber crash, Alne station and the railway, the vicars of Alne, Alne Cricket Club, the schools and the Village Hall, the War Weapons Committee and the Coronation Committee. There are also many old photos and I recommend it to you.

That is probably enough from me. I would like to thank all our Councillors who all get on with their own specialities and make my life much easier. And a big thank you to the Clerk who continues to do all that is necessary despite the distractions of other high offices.

17/4

EASINGWOLD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CARE ASSOCIATION

Helen Lambert spoke about the work of the EDCCA. The charity had been running for 30 years, Helen had worked there for 18 years and is currently the volunteer coordinator. Funding comes from statutory agencies, the Co-Op community fund, Aviva and legacies and donations. She detailed the main projects the charity delivers:

The community transport scheme uses volunteer drivers in their own cars to transport the ill or frail to appointments. Clients are charged 50p per mile and the volunteers get 10p per mile. The community visitor scheme uses trained volunteers to make visits so carers can have a break. Two day centres are run in Spring Hill Court. Usual attendance is 6 to 8 people and the charge is £25. There is also a new day centre for dementia and this is £35 but includes lunch. The newest project is the community minibus funded by NYCC. It is £40 for a half day and £75 for a full day. Drivers must be MIDAS qualified. It is wheelchair friendly. As well as community hire trips are organised to the Vanguard Centre, Studley Royal, Castle Howard etc. The cost is usually £5 per trip.

Meals on Wheels is very popular especially over the winter. Meals are made at Clarks Bakery. The cost is £6.50 per meal.

Approved Chairman

A wheelchair hire service is also available and three new wheelchairs have recently been acquired.

There are 120 volunteers and thank you events are arranged to support them. Seven part time staff are also employed. Helen left leaflets explaining the service offered. She then answered questions from the floor relating to car insurance for volunteers.

17/5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A question was asked regarding the kerbing work and what effect the overrun had on the NYCC budget. Also that no details of the contractor were displayed on a sign.

17/6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm