

**ALNE PARISH**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
IN ALNE ON FRIDAY 10 MAY 2019 AT 7.00PM**

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

4 members of the public were present.

**19/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no apologies. There were no declarations of interests.

**19/2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2018**

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

**19/3 CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT**

This has been the busiest year that I can remember in the 24 years that I have been on the Parish Council.

We checked, approved or disapproved of 47 planning applications during the year, an increase of some 70% on the previous year. Many of these were contentious and Parish Council officers attended and spoke at a total of six full planning committee meetings at Northallerton.

Once again, my own main preoccupation over the last year has been the continuing work for the restoration of the Alne verges. The granite setts were all in by May 2018 but it took a lot of nagging before some attempt was made to restore the grass. Eventually seed was sown in September but it completely failed to take and I insisted on Highways putting down turf – which, much to my surprise, they did! This gave us good protection over the winter and further detailed negotiation on the subject gave us the additional restoration of driveways and footways which is taking place as we speak. No additional charge will be made on the Parish.

We launched the updated version of David Newton's book The Alne Annals at this time last year and I am pleased to report that we have sold most of the 100-copy print run, with only a few remaining. This project will break even for the Parish and has given a lot of historical enjoyment to many sections of the community.

We moved forward on our commitment to putting Alne Station signs on the approaches to that community. The colour is North-Eastern Railway terracotta but it also close to the ubiquitous tourist signs so that we have certainly placed Alne Station on the map! Work is also in progress on restoring the old village finger signposts. Our thanks to Councillors Willis and Newton for their efforts and blood on these projects.

We made grants to Alne Village Hall and to the new APLA swings. This money came out of CIL (Community Infrastructure Grants) which result from new building in the parish and is not therefore a charge on the precept.

Approved ..... Chairman

Three Action Plans are currently in progress and these will be reported on in more detail at the Parish Council meeting which follows this Assembly..

The first is a working group which is looking at what can be done to ease the congestion outside the Village Hall on school days. They are due to meet with Highways shortly and will report back to later Parish Council meetings. Councillor Newton is the contact point for this – if you have ideas on this subject, please let him know..

The second is a working group looking at the possibility of the community buying the Bluebell Inn which is up for sale. The inn was established as a Community Asset some years ago and this gives us a moratorium period to see if a bid can be raised. Councillor Walker is the Parish Council contact point for this.

A third action plan came out of all the recent planning controversy. Mark Harbottle, the head of HDC planning, has agreed to come and speak to the Parish Council and other interested parties in the near future in order to address the very many areas of concern that have been raised over the last few months. Councillor Walker is taking the lead on organising this and he will be agreeing and publicising a date shortly.

With regard to personnel, Councillor John Teasdale stood down during the year and we have already thanked him appropriately for his thirty-one years of service on the Council. John Newton was co-opted to replace him last summer. Elections would have been held last week but there were only five nominations for the five Parish Council seats and so all were elected unopposed. One change is that Gudrun Gaudian has not stood this time round as she is moving to Scotland and we welcome David Lepper in her place. We record our thanks and appreciation to Gudrun for her sixteen years of service, the last eight of which have been as Vice-Chair, and we will do so more publicly at an appropriate event in the future.

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 with efficiency and good humour.

I am happy to take any questions.

There were no questions.

**19/4      ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**19/5      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 May 2020 at 7.00pm.

**The meeting closed at 7.06pm**

Approved ..... Chairman