

ASENBY PARISH COUNCIL

D R A F T

Minutes of the Meeting of the above-named Parish Council held on
Wednesday 20th March 2024 at Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall at 7.00 PM

Present:

Councillors: Colin Grimston (Chairman), Sue Hazelton, Malcolm Sollitt.

Members of the Public: One member of the public.

1) **APOLOGIES:** Parish Clerk Peter Palmer, NYC Councillor Nick Brown.

2) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Previous meeting on 10th October 2023 were approved.

3) **DECLARTIONS OF INTEREST:** None

4) **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(FOR INFORMATION ONLY) AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

5) **REPORT from EXTERNAL COUNCILLOR**

Apologies received from NY Councillor N Brown.

M Sollitt summarised discussions from the new Parish Forum held by NB on 22nd February 2024.

6) **PLANNING**

Noted the planning authority's rejection of the applications to develop five additional commercial buildings at Asenby Business Park, Wide Howe Lane.

7) **PLAYING FIELD UPDATE**

- a. The grass cutting quote for 2024-25 from SGS (Paul Ellis) was accepted and to be based on individual area cuts as and when requested.
- b. An update on funds to be applied for to develop the park was presented by C Grimston: Locality fund: £500. Commuted Sums: £808. Cost to date: £1,045 net. Discussed spend of the remainder and agreed to purchase 2 x benches (approx. £72 each), and any remaining to be spent on wild flower bombs.

8) **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

Parking off Whaites Lane: Concern has been raised regarding a caravan, van, and rubbish which has apparently been abandoned on the loop road off Whaites Lane. M Sollitt has checked it out and it does appear abandoned, and residents don't appear to have seen the occupier for some months.

Actions: C Grimston to report to North Yorkshire Council

9) DEFIBRILLATOR

The defibrillator has been checked weekly by a member of the public and all is well.

10) FINANCE, CHEQUES and COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

In his absence P Palmer had sent information for the current financial status. As of 20th March 2024:

a. Bank balances

HSBC Community Account: £ 237.65
HSBC Money Manager: £4,681.00

Payments made since last meeting:

Village Hall	Play Park meeting	£ 9.00
Webador	New website	£ 61.20
SGS	Grass cutting	£1,446.00
Fox Signs	'No Parking' signs	£ 98.88
Clear Insurance	Insurance Premium	£ 385.04
Thorpe Trees	Trees for Park	£1,253.95

NOTE: All figures include VAT which is recoverable from HMRC.

b. Recruitment Update

C Grimston reported that one new member of the Council had recently been recruited, formalities to be sorted with another very interested. The potential new Clerk had intended to attend the meeting but unfortunately is ill. She is still very interested.

Actions: C Grimston to follow up with prospective councillor and clerk. Also, with P Palmer on formalities.

c. Change of email address

C Grimston shared with the meeting information received regarding the Government's invite to have a domain that has the 'gov.uk' extension e.g. www.asenby.gov.uk. This is a national campaign and highlighted benefits relating primarily to security and data protection.

CG explained that there could be fairly significant costs involved and only a £100 grant from the Government if you use a recommended provider. Also, that we could set up some of the recommendations ourselves anyhow e.g. parish email addresses at a cost of £15 per address.

It was agreed that we should not progress at the moment but monitor what happens with the project.

d. Local bus service

The inclusion of Rainton in future service was confirmed and the parish council's support for the service.

e. Fishing rent

The revised fishing rent was confirmed to be £1,114 pa for 2024-25. This represents a 5% increase.

- f. Precept
The increase in precept for 2024-25 was confirmed at £2,700.
- g. Budget for 2024-25
The proposed budget for next year was presented obo Peter Palmer, Clerk, with this year's figures to date for comparison.
The proposed loss was as expected.
The budget was agreed.

11) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

- a. D Day 80
C Grimston shared information provided for 6th June 2024. The opportunity for communities to be involved with setting beacons, displaying lamps, or bell ringing was discussed.
It was agreed that the Prish Council did not currently have the resources or support to lead on something of this nature.
- b. Hedgehog Highway
A national project to encourage home owners to provide access for hedgehogs through modern solid fences. Kits are available to purchase which include fence hole borders, leaflets and stickers which seem to be aimed at children and young people. It was decided not to progress and that this was something perhaps more for schools.
- c. Breakthrough website training
C Grimston reminded the meeting of the training information that was regularly circulated and confirmed that it should be considered for new councillors and clerk if appropriate.
A budget for training was not allocated at this stage.
- d. By-election charges
No-one present was aware of what this referred to.

Actions: To be carried forward and P Palmer consulted.

12) NEXT MEETING

The Annual Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7:00pm in the Upper Committee Room of Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting will also be held at this time.

Meeting closed: 8:30pm.