

ASENBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the above-named Parish Council held on
Wednesday 4th December 2024 in Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall at 7.00 PM

Present:-

Councillors: Steve Gallon (Chairman), Malcolm Sollitt, Tom Miles, Sue Hazelton, Tim Rawden

Parish Clerk: Colin Grimston

Members of the Public: 1

1) APOLOGIES: None

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Previous meeting held on 25th September 2024 agreed (MS proposed, TM seconded) with a minor correction to the day for next meeting. Should be Wednesday and not Friday.

3) DECLARTIONS OF INTEREST:

None

4) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(Information only) and opportunity for public questions.

A member of public raised concern regarding the dangers of the road from Asenby to Topcliffe Bridge – speed of traffic, narrow path, lighting, and hedge cutting.

In response, the Chair outlined the ongoing work with North Yorkshire Council and a recent report produced by NYC which was currently under review.

The member of the public conveyed his thanks to the Parish Council for their work in the Community Park.

5) REPORT FROM EXTERNAL COUNCILLOR

a. Report and Forum update

For the benefit of new members, the Chairman and Clerk explained the background to the forum, the purpose of which enabled Councillor Nick Brown to meet Parish Councils in a more effective way than attending individual meetings.

A discussion ensued which resulted in the following decisions:

- a member of Asenby Parish Council to attend regularly whenever possible,
- to contribute an initial £100 to the costs of administering the forum. (4/5 Councillors).

Actions:

Clerk: share decision with Councillor Brown and arrange to pay the £100.

6) PLANNING

No current plans to review.

The Chair questioned whether the Planning Department had been contacted regarding recent work at Hillside, Asenby. The Clerk confirmed that he believed a member of the department had made a site visit but no plans had been submitted as yet.

Actions:

Clerk: to obtain update from Planning Department.

7) VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

a. Abandoned van and caravan update (SG)

Updates provided in relation to contacting police (SG/MS) and contacting North Yorkshire Council (CG). In both cases there had been recent contact but both awaiting responses.

b. Update on 7.5T signage and potential change to A167 speed limits to Topcliffe Bridge

Updates provided under item 4.

c. HGVs through village (MS)

MS had noticed that there seemed to be more HGVs through the village of late. The Chairman shared recent experiences of challenging drivers and the disinterest received from the manager of a local company. MS went on to suggest taking of numbers/photos. MS suggested that it might be the right time to undertake monitoring again. It was agreed unanimously to set up random monitoring again.

d. Village Improvement Plan (SG)

The Chairman provided an update on the original plans.

- rubbish behind bus shelter had now been cleared,
- footpath along Crab Manor had been cleared,
- the new Christmas tree in the park had been planted and appears to be doing well,
- further plans included ivy on the bus shelter, children playing signs, cleaning and planting of village entry signs, maintenance of benches.

e. Footpath between Crab Manor and bus stop

Has now been cleared of leaves and debris.

f. Field adjoining community park for dog walking

The Clerk confirmed he has contacted the owner who has confirmed the field is currently subject to an agricultural environment scheme so nothing can be done at present.

Actions:

Clerk:

- follow up with NYC and share information regarding new security forum that had been set up which encouraged crime reporting.
- to re-circulate NYC review report on A167 issues to Parish Councillors

Chairman: contact Topcliffe Parish Council to see what plans they have in monitoring HGVs.

SG/MS: follow up with police and attend police station if necessary.

8) COMMUNITY PARK

a. Allowing dogs in the park

Following on from the last meeting the Council reviewed the situation. The Chairman reported that the issues of dog-fowling had improved but there was a strong feeling that there could still be risks associated with safety for children if dogs were allowed. A unanimous decision was taken to continue not allowing dogs in the park.

b. Replacing the basketball ring

The Chairman confirmed the pole was in an acceptable condition and could be refurbished. The plan was to replace the ring and ideally lay down an improved pad.

c. Budget for future events including ring-fenced funds

Clerk's update presented under items 11 and 12.

The Chairman provided an update on the budget for the Carols and Santa event on the 13th. Plans were well under the allocated £500 budget, possibly under £100. The Crab and Lobster being very helpful providing the raffle prize and refreshments free of charge. The charge of £2 for children to see Santa should also cover the costs.

d. Any further updates (SG)

The Christmas tree planted in the park was intended to be a long-term investment i.e. it would grow as children also grew.

The storage container needs the roof repairing and cleaning out.

Actions:

Chairman:

- to manage the repairs and upgrade to the basketball ring
- to investigate the container further and arrange when weather improves.

9) EVENTS

The Chairman presented the running order for the Carols and Santa in the park. He confirmed setting up would be at 9:00am on the 13th, and breakdown would be 9:00am on the 14th. Further volunteers needed for the various roles on the evening.

Expectations were currently around 50 children giving a total of over 100 with adults.

Actions:

Chairman: to invite further volunteers for Carols and Santa event.

10) DEFIBRILLATOR

- a. This is currently checked weekly. The pads had recently been replaced due to being out of date.
- b. The Clerk confirmed the equipment is registered with the national network (the Circuit) and the ambulance service.

It was suggested that offering familiarity training could be very beneficial. It was also questioned as to whether this could be extended to include basic first aid training.

Actions:

Clerk: it was agreed unanimously to obtain a spare set of pads at a cost of around £100 but to investigate further the idea of 'infant pads'.

Chairman: Investigate training options.

11) ACCOUNTS

a. HSBC Community Account (*2139)	25 th Nov 2024	£ 684.09
HSBC Business Money Manager (*8257)	25 th Nov 2024	£6,449.92

The following receipts and payments are reflected in the above bank balances.

b. Payments to confirm since last meeting:		
SGS (grass cutting)		£1,008.00
ROSPA Inspection (Playsafely)		£ 112.80
Webador (website hosting)		£ 122.40
General (gift,		£ 67.78
Bank charges		£ 5.40
c. Receipts received since the last meeting:		
North Yorkshire Council grass cutting		£ 104.40
d. Payments to confirm (not reflected in the above balance):		
None		
e. Accounts – Cashbook/Forecast spreadsheets provided separately (CG).		

12) FUNDING

a. 2025-26 precept (notes sent separately)

A discussion relating to the impact of changes to the annual precept acknowledged that the current precept was very low compared to neighbouring parishes and an increase would have a relatively limited impact on individual households.

It was agreed unanimously to raise the 2025-26 precept by 50% on the previous year's i.e. £2,700 + £1,350 = £4,050.

b. Community Infrastructure Levy (sent separately)

The Clerk highlighted that these funds had already been received and needed to be allocated to relevant projects and, although the timescale was around two years, it was important to keep NYC informed.

It was recognised that a large proportion of the funds currently held by the Parish Council were, in reality, ring-fenced either by imposed conditions or by choice.

Actions:

Clerk: to return the relevant paperwork informing North Yorkshire Council of the planned precept.

13) COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

a. Allocation of responsibilities (SG).

The Chairman outlined his thoughts on allocating different responsibilities e.g. liaising with the grass cutting contractor, monitoring funding/grants, fund raising.

It was agreed to have as an agenda item at the next meeting.

MS and SG agreed to be responsible for the Community Park.

b. Bank mandate (CG).

As a result of changes with a new Clerk, Chair, and Council member, the clerk provided an update on bank accounts, the mandate and suggested changes we needed to make.

It was unanimously agreed to the following resolution:

- Both accounts to remain open (Charitable and BMM account),
- The Council accepts that the arrangements with the bank remain unchanged i.e. terms and conditions, other than the following:
- Secondary online users: add S Gallon
- Signatories: add S Gallon, T Rawden; remove P Palmer, S Hazelton and D Cockburn. The new list of signatories will be S Gallon, C Grimston, M Sollitt, T Rawden.
- Instructions to the bank to be authorised by any two signatories,
- Apply for online banking services such as BACS/CHAPS as appropriate but it was agreed a business card was not required.

c. Managing excess emails (CG).

- i. Method used for circulation.
- ii. Emails unsubscribed/blocked/not shared (e.g. Sports and Play Consulting, Changing Places, YLCA Training)

It was agreed that the online member's area for sharing emails/information was an improvement and should be retained. It was agreed that the Clerk should use their own discretion for what should be shared e.g. obvious sales emails should not be shared and should be unsubscribed.

d. Rainton emergency plan (CG).

Rainton Parish Council are producing an emergency plan and the Clerk to Asenby had agreed that they could include the Clerk's contact details for the purpose of being an adjacent Parish Council.

e. Date of next meeting date to be arranged.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7:00pm.

f. Various other correspondence and updates have been circulated

It was agreed (4/5 agreeing) to purchase three of the RBLI commemorative Christmas signs as circulated @ £4.95 each + postage.

Actions:

Clerk:

- to arrange for the agreed bank changes to be put in place,
- to share Rainton's emergency plan when published,
- purchase the RBLI signs.

Meeting closed at 8:55pm.