

ASENBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday March 19th, 2008 at Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall

Councillors present: Chris Millross (Chair), Jackie Avison (Vice Chair), Steven Hall,
Melvyn Arkley, Les Chapman

MINUTES

07/065 It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 16th, 2008, be accepted as true record and be signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by JA, seconded by SH

07/066 MATTERS ARISING

- i) The Parish Council meeting was preceded by a very interesting talk and slide show about Recycling in Harrogate District. This was followed by a question and answer session, after which, printed informative material was made available.
- ii) Cllrs Arkley and Chapman were co-opted onto the parish council.
- iii) SH acted upon a letter from a parishioner concerning the state of footpath from Asenby to Topcliffe. The letter and photos were forwarded to NYCC, pointing out the dangers of the path. Cllr Paul Richardson responded promptly and contacted Highways, who will bid for funding to reconstruct the footway in 2009/10 Financial Year. The proposed scheme may not receive funding. Highways will continue to submit the bid until funding is granted. In the short term, Highways will arrange for the overgrowing grass verge to be cut back to widen the footway. Grips will be dug in the verge to drain the standing water and all the chipped kerbs will be pointed up. This work will be undertaken in the New Financial Year as soon as resources become available.
- iv) The suggestion put forward by a parishioner, concerning the potential of the River Swale (particularly at the Topcliffe Mill Weir) to produce electricity from microhydropower was seen as an excellent idea. If the parishioner wishes to run with the idea, the parish council will morally support him. JA will contact John Ward Campbell at HBC for further information and also parishioner PP, who may be able to give advice. Also the company who produce the necessary machinery will be contacted. The parish council agree to make initial enquiries about this. **JA**

07/067 FINANCE AND ADMIN

Clerk's report was presented. The following information was received from YLCA and Mazars:

- i) Since the clerk was named by the parish council as Financial Officer on June 5th 2007, the responsibility for the financial affairs of the Parish Council should have been hers since that date. In actual fact the books still haven't been handed over to the clerk to this date. An independent internal auditor needs to be appointed. The names of three possible independent internal auditors were presented by the clerk to the council. It was recommended by YLCA that a *qualified independent* internal auditor be used for the next audit as an independent auditor wasn't used in the past. The chairman stated that an independent internal auditor must not be necessary, since the books have been signed off by Mazars for the past three years without problems. The chairman maintained that YLCA cannot insist on the use of an independent internal auditor as Mazars wouldn't have signed off the books had there been a problem. He stated that YLCA have no powers to do anything. All they can do is recommend things and only the audit commission have power to do anything. The clerk suggested that the chairman contact YLCA himself if he feels he needs more information.

The council were concerned that if a new independent auditor were appointed, it would mean extra expense, since they already have to pay Mazars for the external audit. The council suggested that the clerk ask Topcliffe's internal auditor if he would be willing to internally audit Asenby's books.

Proposed by JA, seconded by MA

- ii) It was proposed that since the clerk is to be in charge of the books from now on, she choose an internal auditor.

Proposed by SH, seconded by JA

- iii) The clerk should be in charge of all previous signed minutes. These will be passed to her by the chairman. **CM**

- iv) The clerk recommended a quarterly state of accounts for the council (which in fact would be every 4 months since council meetings are once every two months.) She also recommended a budget, especially since the incoming council will be a totally new one. SH was concerned that a lot of time and finances might end up being swallowed up by red tape. The clerk explained it is the clerk's job to do these things, and to make sure the parish council works legally.

- v) NYCC grasscutting quote for the playing field has been received. The percentages the parish council and the Institute paid last year need to be checked. **Clerk**

It was proposed that the parish council pay the same percentage towards the grasscutting as they did last year. Proposed by SH, seconded by MA

- vi) The clerk passed out nomination papers for the upcoming elections and pointed out the latest date and time for papers to be submitted.

- vii) There is £960 in the bank, £1,078 in the savings account and £684 in the building society.

07/068 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- i) The willows down by the A168 have been cut down so traffic coming round the Crab corner can be seen.

- ii) There is still a problem with litter bins not being emptied.

- iii) New bus timetables have been posted on the bus stop poles.

- iv) It was proposed that colour copies of the parish boundary map be made and given to the new councillors. Proposed by SH, seconded by JA **MA**

- v) Another plank has broken on the footbridge.

- vi) A litter pick was scheduled for April , meeting at 9:45 am outside the bus stop.

07/069 FISHING/SWALE BANKSIDE

- i) A cheque for £808.03 was received from the fishing syndicate. They will be tidying up and putting up new signs.

07/070 CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Distributed

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING May 14th, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the village hall