

ALNE PARISH

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL IN ALNE ON TUESDAY 10 MAY 2016 AT 7.45PM

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

33 members of the public were present.

16/1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were apologies from Councillor Bradley. There were no declarations of interests.

16/2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2015**

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

16/3 **PLANNING**

The Chairman welcomed Mick Jewitt, Executive Director at Hambleton District Council. Mr Jewitt spoke about the current planning policies of the Council, how they had been impacted by ministerial statements and the National Planning Policy Framework and how they applied to Alne. He spoke about the interim planning policy which allowed modest development in the villages. He then discussed the consultation on the new Local Plan which would set the policies until 2035. Consultation would take place in October/November and then preferred options would be produced.

He advised producing a village design statement this would ensure that development respected the form and character of the village.

He spoke about how the comments of the Parish Council on planning applications does make a difference and could be comments on design, highway matters, impact and drainage.

Questions were taken from the floor regarding the existing LDF, cumulative impact, the 5 year supply of land, reduction in regulations, policy on second homes and stakeholder input.

16/4 **GREENS ON MAIN STREET**

The Chairman gave the following report on the greens on Main Street

You will all be aware that the village verges are being churned up by traffic and are fast disappearing. This has a number of consequences:

- the attractive village centre is gradually being whittled away, making it a less pleasant place for everyone in the village to live and walk about in, and to take a pride in;
- the mud generates silt that blocks the drains, leading to a worsening of the drainage problems that we already have;
- the gap between the verge and the drains means that large puddles accumulate and walkers get regularly sprayed by passing vehicles.

We can either shrug our shoulders and ignore it, or we can investigate a restoration programme.

Approved Chairman

The ownership of the verges is unclear. While some further research on this is necessary, they are probably the old village greens and thus belong to the community – it is therefore up to the Parish Council to manage them. It is also a sad reality that NYCC Highways do not have either the desire nor the cash to mount a restoration programme. Thus, anything we do do will have to be managed by, and largely financed by, the Parish.

The Parish Council has done some preliminary work and costings to see what could be done. Restoration of the verges along both sides of the whole length of Main Street from Jack Hole to Gale Road could be done with kerbs on the outside of the grass (as is already the method in some places – see picture) or with conservation blocks on the outside of the grass (as in Jack Hole or Uppleby – see pictures). Which is preferable in terms of cost, looks and sustainability is yet to be decided.

We would look to obtain some funding from Highways, from Yorkshire Water and from Heritage Lottery and other funders, but we would still have to bear the brunt of the cost through an increase in the parish precept. Initial calculations show that the likely cost would add £40 a year to a Band D house for a period of some five years. Whereas this is a not-insignificant sum, it is small in comparison to what we already pay through Council Tax for NYCC, HDC and the Police, and would amount to just a 2% increase in the overall Council Tax that we pay. And, as a beneficial side effect, the more attractive Alne becomes, the higher everyone's property is valued regardless of where in the village they live.

Our hope is that the majority of the village would want to feel proud to be part of such an important restoration of the old village greens and verges and would back the principle of this restoration. The Parish Council could then move on to put it into action over the next couple of years in consultation with Highways.

We would like to hear your views and this is why we have brought the subject to this Parish Assembly.

Following questions, the proposal was carried on a show of hands by a very substantial majority. It was suggested that further details be put in the Newsletter once more information had been obtained.

16/5

CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT

Planning applications – 27 considered. Thanks to Peter Bond for keeping us informed in meticulous detail on progress on the Village Farm development.

£1,500 donated to Village Hall restoration fund for a second year.

2 new PC notice boards

1 bench replaced

Continuing programme of replacing the old cherry trees. Thanks to Gudrun and John.

Looking forward:

£1,100 put in 2016/17 budget for church wall repair

New public notice board agreed for village X-roads and half of parish board for station.

Investigation and consultation started on restoring the verges.

Approved Chairman

16/6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Thanks were given to David Whiteley for his continued support in undertaking the grass cutting.

16/7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 May 2017 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm