AZERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Councillors
Colin Macintosh (Chairman) – Galphay, Reg Merrin (Vice-Chairman) - Mickley, Lauren Carr – Azerley, Roger Fleetham - Winksley, Nick Jackson – Winksley and Brian Thackray - Mickley, have been Councillors throughout the year.
Robert Weatherhead took up office as a Councillor for the Galphay ward in June 2013.

Meetings
The Council has met 11 times since the 2013 annual meetings.
6 meetings were ‘ordinary’ ones when a full agenda of business was considered.
A further 5 meetings were called to consider planning applications and other urgent items of business.

Planning and Development
- The Parish Council has considered 16 applications during the past year.
- Proposals considered have ranged from camping pods to French doors to extensions to dwellings.
- Following a well attended meeting in November 2013 the Parish Council objected to revised proposals for a caravan site off Gate Bridge Road, Galphay.
- The Parish Council also objected to proposals for a wind turbine near Grantley.
- The Parish Council has responded to consultations by Harrogate Borough Council on its proposals to review the Core Strategy (a document which guides development in the Harrogate District).

General
- The Parish Council agreed a budget that allowed it to keep the precept (money raised for it through Council tax) at the same rate as in 2013/14.
- DTMS Ltd from Fellbeck have continued as the parish caretaker, carrying out 6 hours of maintenance works in the parish each month.
- The Parish Council has continued to correspond with Highways North Yorkshire about a number of road defects across the parish. Satisfactory resolutions are increasingly hard to come by given the financial constraints and priority system imposed upon the Highways Authority.
- The Parish Council has responded to consultations on changes on bus services. These resulted in a number of cuts to services operating in the parish.
- The Parish Council facilitated a meeting with representatives of Superfast North Yorkshire when it was disappointed to find out that much of the parish will not benefit from superfast broadband until at least 2017. The Parish Council has asked to be kept informed of efforts by Galphay residents to make use of alternative technologies which are already available.
- The Parish Council is continuing to pursue its application for the creation of a public right of way on the Green Lane to Hodgson’s Top in Winksley.
- Parish Council representatives have attended Laver Project Steering Group meetings hosted by the Nidderdale AONB. The project is working to improve water quality along the River Laver and its tributaries.
- Farm & Land Services Ltd continues to carry out grasscutting in Mickley & Winksley on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The Council has regularised its payroll systems, which are now completed internally on a monthly basis by the Clerk.
- The Parish Council has begun to publish a newsletter after each meeting. It now has its own website: www.azerleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk