

AZERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

DATE: Thursday 26th September 2013
TIME: 19.30 hrs
LOCATION: Galphay Village Institute
PRESENT: Councillors Colin Macintosh (Chairman), Lauren Carr, Roger Fleetham, Nick Jackson, Brian Thackray and Robert Weatherhead.
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk) & 3 members of the public.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Weatherhead declared an interest in item 10.2 (footpaths near Bush Farm, Grewelthorpe) due to the fact that he rents buildings and land from the applicant.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Merrin as he was on holiday.
Apologies were also received from District Councillor Margaret Atkinson.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25th July 2013 were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – none.

5. PROPOSED REDUCTION TO BUS SERVICE SUBSIDY

A consultation by North Yorkshire County Council on proposals to save money on subsidised bus services was considered. Changes to the 137 and 139 services through this parish were considered (full details are available on the County Council's website). It was agreed that the consultation should be advertised in the Council's first newsletter and on the website to give those service users most affected the opportunity to respond directly.

It was further resolved that the following comments should be submitted on behalf of the Council:

The Parish Council considers that the proposed levels of service are a bare minimum and would strongly oppose any further, future cutbacks. The Parish Council also offers the following specific comments:

- 137 – *What is the purpose of this service? It doesn't offer residents the opportunity of spending time in Ripon and just seems to be a circular trip to nowhere.*
- 139 – *Could the time between arrival in Ripon and the return journey be extended at all? The bus provides a valuable service to those requiring transport, but only if it facilitates a useful sojourn in Ripon.*

6. PROVISION OF A WEBSITE AND PRODUCTION OF A NEWSLETTER

It was resolved that the Clerk should, on behalf of the Council, set up and maintain a website using a free kit provided by BT. The website address will be www.azerleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

It was also resolved that a newsletter, detailing the work of the Parish Council, should also be produced and sent out after each full meeting. Councillors agreed to help arrange the distribution to each property on the electoral roll.

7. BROADBAND IN THE PARISH

It was noted that recent activity by BT (believed to be connecting the Galphay exchange to the one in Kirkby Malzeard for superfast broadband) had caused significant local interest.

A county wide project called Superfast North Yorkshire is hoping to have 90% of properties connected to superfast broadband by the end of 2014. Although it is not yet clear exactly when this service will be coming to the villages in this parish residents are encouraged to register their interest on the superfast North Yorkshire's website: www.superfastnorthyorkshire.com

This will also ensure that they are kept up to date with the latest developments.

AZERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

8. PARISH CONSULTATION MEETING WITH HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL

It was noted that this annual meeting offers an opportunity to meet with representatives of and ask questions about Harrogate Borough Council and Highways North Yorkshire functions. This year's meeting will take place on 11th November at 6pm in Ripon Town Hall. Councillor Macintosh agreed to attend on behalf of this Council which will submit the following questions for inclusion on the agenda:

- Can Harrogate Borough Council advise how much money is spent per capita on residents in Harrogate town, compared to those in Ripon and compared to those in the outlying areas of the District?
- How will North Yorkshire County Council ensure that there are efficient protocols in place this winter for the timely deployment of snow clearance contractors?
- The Parish Council is concerned about the backlog of highways repairs. In particular the fact that temporary repairs are being carried out which quickly fail. In some cases the Parish Council is aware of sections that have been repaired two or three times with a permanent repair still not imminent. Surely it offers better value to carry out a permanent repair in the first place? If not, how often does Highways North Yorkshire recover the costs of failed repairs from the offending contractor?
- What plans are in place for the routine emptying of litterbins across the District? Since the commencement of the wheelie bin scheme the bins have not been emptied sufficiently, leading to littering problems around each site. Although the bins were quickly emptied when a complaint was lodged (ref. 422898) the personnel attending gave no indication that they would be doing this on a regular basis.

Any further questions for submission should be sent to the Clerk as soon as possible.

9. PARISH CARETAKER

It was agreed that the following tasks be included on the November task list:

- Clear out Galphay bus shelter.
- Galphay pinfold – clear out rubbish and prune bushes.
- Clear out the accumulated debris at the side of the bridges in / near Galphay and Winksley.
- Clear out pipe underneath road at Winksley riverside common land (still not done to Councillor Fleetham's satisfaction).
- Tripping Lane flood hazard – advice as to what can be done to remedy this problem.
- Clear gully under road and ditch down Azerley Lane – Councillor Weatherhead to be contacted to advise.

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 Updated highways fault sheet.

It was noted that the blocked / collapse culvert near Woodhouse Farm, Winksley has now been replaced.

10.2 Diversion order - Bush Farm, Grewelthorpe.

It was noted that the diversions of footpath no. 15.7/34, Azerley and footpaths no. 15.52/8 and 15.52/9 at Bush Farm, Grewelthorpe have now been completed.

11. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

11.1 Consultations on applications.

- 6.37.17.K.FUL 13/03212/FUL – Erection of a two storey extension at Woodhouse Farm, Winksley. It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.
- 6.37.16.I.COUC 13/02784/COU – Change of use of land to allow 12 camping pods in place of 12 tent pitches on land within existing caravan park at Woodhouse Farm Caravan Park. The Parish Council has agreed that it objects to this application.

Whilst it has no objection to the principle of replacing tent pitches with pods, and indeed has no objection to the siting of the 6 woodland pods nearest to the main site, it does have concerns about those proposed near the pond.

AZERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

The Parish Council is concerned that this represents an extension of the site into the open countryside (even though it is within the bounds of the site ownership) and that siting the pods in such close proximity to an existing pond could adversely affect the ecology and bio-diversity of this area.

11.2 Updates and decisions on applications, appeals and enforcement investigations.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Update / Decision</i>
6.19.169.FUL 13/01192/FUL	Erection of porch at Beech House, Mickley.	Passed
6.19.108.D.FUL 13/00982/FUL	Removal of spillway grids and installation of stone weir wall at Mill House, Mickley.	Passed
6.19.49.F.FUL 13/02760/FUL	Erection of single storey extension at Newfields, Gate Bridge Road, Galphay.	Refused
6.37.20.H.FUL 13/02412/FUL	Erection of single storey extension at Peacock Farm, Winksley.	Withdrawn.

11.3 Leaning wall in Mickley.

It was noted the condition of the boundary wall adjacent to the Church Room has been reported to Harrogate Borough Council's Planning Enforcement Department by Highways North Yorkshire and will be followed up by the Clerk.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on items received including:

12.1 Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) – Harrogate Branch Meeting

It was noted that the Leader and Chief Executive of Harrogate Borough Council will be attending the next YLCA Harrogate branch meeting on 7th October 2013. The meetings offer an opportunity for local parish councils to get together to discuss issues of change and mutual interest.

12.2 Annual settlement survey.

This annual survey, of the facilities in each village, was completed for return to Harrogate Borough Council.

12.3 Harrogate Borough Council - District Panel.

An invitation for Councillors and members of the public to join this new focus group has been received. The opportunity will be advertised through the Council's new website and newsletter.

13. FINANCIALS

13.1 Financial report.

It was resolved that the following report be approved and recorded:

Bank Balances as at 20/9/13:

Santander Current a/c ****2922	£6,117.88
HSBC Current a/c ****9449	£0.00
HSBC Savings a/c ****3194	£0.00
TOTAL	£6,117.88

Payments to be approved and recorded:

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	
DTMS Ltd	Caretaker, June 2013 (Invoice 5722)	£135.00
DTMS Ltd	Caretaker, July 2013 (Invoice 5783)	£264.00

AZERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Iona Taylor	Clerk, July 2013	£97.22
HMRC	PAYE, July 2013	£18.80
Farm & Land Services Ltd	Grasscutting (Invoice 3892)	£232.80
DTMS Ltd	Caretaker, August 2013 (Invoice 5851)	£357.00
Iona Taylor	Clerk, August 2013	£100.19
Farm & Land Services Ltd	Grasscutting (Invoice 3950)	£230.40
Core Accountancy Solutions Ltd	12/13 PAYE	£108.00
TOTAL		£1,543.41

Receipts to be recorded:

<i>Received From</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Harrogate Borough Council	Ground Maintenance Grant	£145.41
Northern Powergrid	Wayleaves	£16.60
HMRC	VAT Reimbursement (1/4/13 - 31/7/13)	£145.90
Harrogate Borough Council	Precept, 2nd Part	£2,000.00
TOTAL		£2,307.91

13.2 External auditor's opinion on the 2012/13 accounts.

The auditor's opinion was that:

"On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."

The auditor did however bring to the Council's attention the fact that the grit spreader, purchased for use in Mickley, should be added to the asset register (see 13.5).

13.3 HSBC accounts.

It was noted that the Council's HSBC bank accounts have now been unused with a nil balance for two years. HSBC are therefore proposing to close the accounts, unless the Council requests otherwise. It was agreed that this should be allowed to happen as they are not required.

13.4 Signing instructions and correspondence address on Council's Santander bank account.

It was resolved that all serving Councillors should be signatories on the Council's bank account and that the correspondence address should be updated to be Morningside, Grewelthorpe, RIPON, HG4 3BT.

13.5 Asset register.

It was resolved that the grit spreader for Mickley, valued at £118, be included on the Council's asset register. An updated register was approved and signed by Councillor Macintosh.

14. NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as being on 31st October 2013 (to consider any planning applications) and 28th November 2013 at 19.30 hrs in Winksley Church Room (for the next ordinary Parish Council meeting).

AZERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Waste collection.

The Clerk will enquire as to when Mickley residents can expect a garden waste collection service to begin.
Councillor Thackray also commented on the irregular and inadequate emptying of the litter bins in the parish (see 8).

15.2 Back Lane, Galphay.

Ongoing concerns about the use of Back Lane, Galphay by HGV's were raised by Councillor Weatherhead.
It was noted that incidents on this lane are now rare and that there is little else that can be done after Highways North Yorkshire's previous provision of advisory signage.

Meeting closed at 21.05 hrs.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Iona Taylor, Clerk to the Parish Council.

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: