

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING 2009

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th May 2009 in Aberford school.

PRESENT: Councillors D. Howson, R. Alderson, Mrs G. Broadley, I. Forster, P. Hancock, D. Stainton

Apologies were received from Cllr. D. Gluck

In attendance were 5 members of the public and the Clerk

ATTENDANCE RECORD

The Clerk read out the attendance record of Councillors during the year. Out of a possible 12, these were as follows: Cllr Howson – 12, Cllr Hancock – 12, Cllr Stainton – 10, Cllr Forster – 10, Cllr Gluck – 9, Cllr Alderton – 6, Cllr Broadley – 5.

CHAIRMAN 'S REPORT

Several matters had been progressed throughout the last year. There were now speed warning signs at the north and south of the village which seemed to be having an effect but motorists were still speeding at times.

Ongoing talks were being held between the PC/Leeds City Council and 'the estate' to try to bring the old school field/tennis court area into the trusteeship of the Parish Council. This would allow the tennis courts to be refurbished and set out for netball to the benefit of the school. Longer term the PC would like to see the whole area improved and made available to residents.

The PC was pleased that the Village Hall committee and a resident were working to try to develop facilities for older children via a Youth Group. The PC would want to be supportive of these efforts.

There had been a good show of spring bulbs this year around the village, thanks to the efforts of several residents and many favourable comments had been received.

Some of the problems dealt with in the past year included missing gully lids down Kingfisher Lane, parking for a disabled resident, removal of graffiti at the Play Area and on another occasion in that area and the bridge.

Talks were ongoing between LCC/the contractor and the Parish Council about streetlights in Main Street – hanging basket positions and Christmas lights would need to be taken into consideration. The cost of 'heritage style' lights was felt to be prohibitive at roughly £1000 per light.

The PC now had a dedicated website at www.aberfordonline.com and this was regularly updated and contained much information about the PC. A Newsletter had been delivered to residents with a copy on the website and it was hoped to repeat this one or twice throughout the year. It was hoped this would stimulate interest in the work of the PC and encourage people to come forward to serve as Councillors. The expertise of different people was valued.

Lastly the Chairman said he would like to thank his fellow Councillors for all their hard work during the course of the year and extended his thanks to Mrs Ruth Reed who had retired as Clerk earlier in the year and to the present Clerk. He also thanked the members of the public who had attended the meetings and gave their input from time to time.

Councillor Stainton said he would like to thank the Chairman on behalf of his colleagues for his work throughout the year, during which he had attended very many meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

ACCOUNTS

It was recorded that the balances in hand as at 31st March 2009 were : HSBC Current a/c - £4319.48. HSBC High Interest No 1 a/c - £25,648.27. HSBC High Interest No 2 a/c - £38,809.73. Barclays Bond - £40,000.00.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The serving Officers then stood down. It was proposed by Cllr Stainton and seconded by Cllr Broadley that Cllr Howson be re-elected Chairman for the coming year. This was unanimously agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Hancock and seconded by Cllr Forster that Cllr Stainton be re-elected Vice-Chairman for the coming year and this was unanimously agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Alderson and seconded by Cllr Stainton that Cllr Forster be elected the Responsible Financial Officer for the coming year and this was unanimously agreed.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.