

ASFORDBY VILLAGES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

Held in the Parish Hall @ 24 Main Street, Asfordby Village

On Tuesday 30th May at 7.15pm

The meeting was opened by the chairman of the Parish Council at 19.20hrs after a short delay.

Welcoming members of the public and Councillors alike, Good Evening Everybody...Welcome to this Asfordby Parish Annual Meeting held here in a greatly improved Asfordby Parish Hall on Tuesday 30th May.

Before the meeting proper commenced.

The parish Council extend their deepest sympathies to the family and close friends of Mr John Garland, a very well-respected member of the parish who we were sad to learn passed away suddenly last week.

We ask you to join us in a 1minute silence in recognition.

In Attendance:

6 Members of the public & 3 Members of the Parish Council

Agenda.

1, Apologies for Absence were received. From Cllr Julie Whitehead, and Parish administration Manager Mrs Helen Callaghan.

2, Declarations of interest. None.

3, Annual Parish Report for the fiscal year April 2022 to March 2023. Presented by the chairman of the Council.

Report

Generally, It's been a much easier year than 21 / 22 but still very challenging with serious unplanned issues relating to damp with the whole integrity of the hall including the roof coming to the fore, and requiring urgent remedial work.

These had a considerable impact on finances because they cost something over £23K which was not budgeted for.

Moving on to the agenda detail,

3a. Parish Finance.

The Parish is in good order in spite of the Council having progressively reduced the precept from £123,570 in the 2019 / 2020 year:

To £118,933 this year, representing a real time reduction on local tax of app 4%all in a period when inflation has topped 11% and is still running at 7.5 to 8%. This represents a very real contribution to the well-being of all living in our community.

3b. In Addition

The Council Have:

1. Installed the long-awaited adult recreational equipment originally planned some years ago.
2. Commissioned a long overdue but un planned full structural survey of the hall following recognition of the nature of serious damp issues which had been in existence for a number of years and several administrations.
3. Commissioned and completed works to finally eradicate the damp issues, using the most up to date and professionally recommended system available, without which the result could have required closure of the hall.
4. Commissioned total overhaul and repair of both roofs, an intermediate 5 years medium term action. A recommendation to strip the pitched slated roof to allow felting, currently non-existent, together with increasing the spec of insulation planned within 10 years.
5. Engaged a consultancy company to carry us through a tangle of legislation and laws, so that we can progress the development of the Hoby Road Cemetery extension. (Urgently needed)
6. Recruited staff including
 - a. An administration manager. (training for SILCA accreditation)
 - b. A caretaker
 - c. A cleaner
 - d. An administrative assistant. (training for basic accountancy qualification)
7. This has all cost a considerable amount of time and commitment from your Councillors who are volunteers and earn not one penny for their commitment (they deserve the parishes recognition.) we may be few but we deserve your thanks)
... In terms of the unexpected cost, Council have drawn from reserves put aside for other essential projects. Under spend in the last fiscal year has partly been used to reduce this year's precept and replenish the reserve.

8. Essential projects will of course now come to the fore:

a, The Cemetery a very large project all required to meet legislation and complete the physical work, it's very major for the village with a final cost estimated to be in excess of £250 k

b, Parish hall toilets and cloakroom. Legislation requires that staff toilets and cloakroom facilities as opposed to customer facilities (Particularly where young and disadvantaged children and young adults are present) must be provided.

We have to do it The Cost somewhere between £80 & £150k (not a new idea the first plans drawn up for this were in 1998)

c, Included in the works are new and repairs to old bus shelters, Replacing the old rusted and dangerous rubbish / doggie poo bins. Improvement works on the allotment site, and dealing with health and safety issues at Glendon Play area are a few that will cost the parish around an estimated £60k.

Moving on to item 4.

Some of YOUR Parish Council priorities for 2023/24 fiscal year.

- a. Your Parish Council intend to seek advice and consult on bringing the Poppy day Remembrance- commemorations back to the village hall because older members of the community have expressed an interest in it.
- b. Continue with the Cemetery extension works which will include full public consultation on the plans and design.
- c. We are in the process of recruiting two village street Hygiene operators.
- d. As above.
- e. Commission plans for an additional toilet and cloakroom to the hall. Which may involve public consultation. And may be accessible from the outside.
- f. The all-weather hard footpath, planned to facilitate all year access to the park and its facilities for all people including the elderly and disadvantaged has been put to one side for the time being because of cost factors.
- g. To advertise the availability of the hall and its facilities to attempt to reduce the burden on the parish by increasing usage to help pay for the considerable cost to maintain and run. (The last full audit was in 2018 when the cost was in excess of £21k (£404 per week) That was just to break even then. Since then, there have been considerable cost increases which are presenting serious challenges to the Parish Council.

Moving to item 5. Public Forum and open discussion in brief.

Parishioner 1 asked about a comment made by the chair in an external environment relating to the possible use of air source heating.

Chair response, “that medium” at the current time would not provide the expected benefits and would in all probability result in greater costs being faced. Replacing the windows would provide greater cost saving and value in the short term.

Parishioner 2. Asked about the silted pond in the village field and long grass in the meadow, suggesting that clearing it of silt should perhaps be a priority objective. Further commenting about past field usage, the and pursuits limiting general public access.

There being no more questions:

Meeting closed at 20.15

Note: Representation:

2011 census Borough (B)27158 / Parish (P) 2758.

(B) X 28 BC's = 970.

(P) X 4 PC's = 689.....X 5PC's = 552.