

ASENBY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Minutes of the Meeting of the above-named Parish Council held on
Wednesday 10th September 2025, in Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall at 7.00 PM**

1. APOLOGIES and REASONS FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1. Cllr. Rawden.
- 1.2. Apologies accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1. None

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th June 2025 were confirmed as accurate.

4. UPDATES and ACTIONS

- 1.1. CPR and defibrillator training has been booked for 25 October 2025. It will be publicised in the usual places. The Village Hall will not charge for use of hall. Charges will not be made for refreshments.
- 1.2. Insurance cover for volunteers was confirmed by the clerk as part of our cover.

5. REPORT FROM FORUMS

- 5.1. The next meeting for Cllr. Nick Brown's forum will be 2nd October 2025 and two councillors will attend from Asenby.

6. PLANNING

- 6.1. It was noted that the application for a large agricultural building next to the allotment land had been withdrawn.
- 6.2. The owners of Hillside had met with North Yorkshire Planning and English Heritage who were directly involved in developments.

7. ALLOTMENTS

- 7.1. Cllr. Noble presented and talked through her report on research into a resident's request for the Parish Council to register the land currently used for allotments.
A summary of the timeline was discussed that covered history of the land from the original will made in 1735. A bequeath was made for the benefit of the poor of Asenby.
Although the timeline might suggest a tentative link with the Parish Council, there is also evidence to suggest that "the land has nothing to do with the Parish Council".
Similarly, the Allotment Charity currently managing the land has had close links for many years. From the report it was recognised that the land was not 'common land' but 'private land' and both the Parish Council and the Allotment Charity have had involvement in management of the land.
It was also recognised that although the Parish Council could have allotments, it was quite an arduous task to manage and maintain correctly.

The issue of who should register the land with the Land Registry was not resolved and it was agreed to establish if legal advice was available through North Yorkshire Council and add to the agenda for the next meeting.

Actions:

Cllr. Noble to contact NY Council for legal advice if available.

Clerk to share up to date guidance on ownership and management of allotments, and add updates to the meeting agenda for 3rd December.

8. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

8.1. The Chair reported that the village improvement plan was progressing and nearing completion.

Two larger bookshelves had been added to the bus shelter library.

There were problems obtaining a matching planter for the bus shelter but it was reported that a resident had offered to make one to match once the flowers had died back.

The Chair was still pursuing the Highways Department and the Crab and Lobster regarding maintenance of the large trees at the SW end of the village, and the current debris for the fallen branch.

The Chair reported that welcome comments had been received about the work generally.

It was noted that Topcliffe Bridge had again been badly damaged possibly by a lorry. Also, that previous requests to reduce speed limits to NY Highways had been turned down.

Actions:

Cllr. Gallon to contact NY Highways to revisit our request to consider changes to speed limits and improve warning signage.

9. COMMUNITY PARK

9.1. Safety report implementation

9.1.1. Cllr. Gallon reported cost of replacing the basket ball ring was £225 and a resident would help with installation; a local builder had offered to install a hard base. Discussed as part of funding later in meeting.

9.1.2. Costings had been received and it was agreed that we needed to look at sourcing funding. Discussed as part of funding later in meeting.

9.2. Dogs had not been seen in the park for some time, and resulting mess not an issue. Agreed still to move camera to better position as a deterrent.

9.3. Agreed to continue with additional trees (100), free from the Woodland Trust. We would need to purchase tree guards at a cost of around £250. Need to agree source of funding and arrange volunteers.

9.4. Agreed to undertake risk assessments prior to each event.

Actions:

Clerk to arrange moving camera and establish source of tree guards.

10. EVENTS

10.1. Cllr. Noble presented a report of the Summer Soiree including finances. The event was very well received, in particular the Chery Tones who provided the entertainment; and the decorated buns. The event returned a surplus of £296.96 which has been added to the reserved funds for the Community Park. The Village Hall committee had thanked for the donation for hire of chairs.

10.2. A Christmas event is planned for 12th December 2025 which will focus on children and the presence of Santa.

11. DEFIBRILLATOR (CLERK)

11.1. Ongoing weekly maintenance and registration were confirmed.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS (as at 6th September 2025)

The Clerk presented an update on finances which was accepted in full.

12.1.	HSBC Community Account (Current - *2139)	£ 995.63
	HSBC Business Money Manager (Savings - *8257)	£ 9,581.31
	Cash in hand	£ 0.00
	TOTAL funds	£ 10,576.94
	Of which is ringfenced/reserved	£ 4,554.47

12.2. The following payments and receipts are reflected in the above bank balances.
Payments to confirm since the last meeting:

SGS (Grass cutting)	£ 1,509.12
SGS (Grass cutting)	£ 754.56
Scottish Water	£ 18.95
Clerk (Children signs, hanging baskets)	£ 118.58
Clerk (Grass paint for Summer Soiree)	£ 7.19
Cllr Noble (Plants etc. at village entrances)	£ 92.57
Volunteer (Summer Soiree - Printing)	£ 35.38
Bank charges (2 months)	£ 10.00
Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall (chair hire)	£ 25.00
The Cherry Tones	£ 200.00

Receipts received since the last meeting:

North Yorkshire (Grass cutting)	£ 104.40
Summer Soiree event	£ 610.00

12.3. Payments outstanding and NOT reflected in the above bank balances:

Hedge Cutting	£ 103.20
Tree maintenance (Riverside)	£ 360.00

12.4. The Clerk presented a proposed budget for next year in preparation for agreeing the precept at the next meeting.

12.5. Summary of funds and allocations as of 6th September 2025.

TOTAL Balance of current funds		10,431.56
TOTAL Reserved or ring-fenced		4,554.47

Breakdown of fund balances received

General	5,877.09
Community Park	1,705.94
Locality Budget	433.53
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	2,415.00

Funds not applied for

Committed Sums	1,966.76	Not included above
----------------	----------	--------------------

It was suggested that the following activities could be covered by relevant funds:

Locality Budget: still available after planting flowers. Remainder can be used for a bench at the NE entrance sign.

CIL: The Clerk is exploring with NY Council the use of this fund towards repairing the safety coverings in the play park.

Commuted Sums: Would need to apply but different categories could be used for a) a bench at the SW entrance to the village, improvements to steps and path along riverside, a bench at entrance to Orchard Cottages.

13. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- 13.1. A tree surgeon has been employed to remove the dead trees and branches along the Riverside Walk at a cost of £360. It was suggested to set up a volunteer group for ongoing maintenance.
- 13.2. No further information has been received regarding the footpath repairs marked out by NY Council.
- 13.3. It was agreed that there was little the Parish Council could act upon as they were highways and possibly police issues.

14. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

- 14.1. Next meeting: Tuesday 3rd December 2025 at 7:00pm in the village hall.

Meeting closed at 8:50pm.