

HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2009 in the Memorial Hall, Haxey.

Present: Cllrs. Allcock, Boor, Booth, Carlile, Cooke, J Eckhardt, Foreman, Knowles, Lange, C Lindley, Maw, Smedley, Whitehead and 17 residents.
Chairman: Cllr. Allcock presided.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bloomfield & W Lindley.

2. To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22nd May 2008

It was resolved that the minutes from the Parish Meeting on 22nd May 2008 were approved as a correct record with the agreement matter of accuracy. **Proposed by Cllr Maw, seconded by Cllr Boor. All in favour.**

3. To receive any matters arising from the last meeting

No matters arising.

An introduction to all the Parish Councillors was carried out by the Chairman after a request from Mr T Condliff.

4. To receive details of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009

The Clerk explained that the accounts had been audited by the Internal Auditor. The Clerk then explained the Income & Expenditure, Bank Reconciliation and Asset sheet and the Statement of Accounts in the Annual Return to the Parishioners who had been tabled copies prior to the meeting starting.

A question was asked as to why the Parish Council had asked for a precept of £30,000 when there was a large surplus. Cllr Allcock stated that there was in excess of £79,000 in the proposed budget for 09/10 including running costs, provisions for Allotments, grants to local organisations / clubs and repairs and maintenance which fell under the Parish Councils remit.

The accounts were approved at the Parish Council meeting held on April 28th **It was resolved that** the accounts be approved by the public. **Proposed by Cllr W Eckhardt, seconded by Cllr Maw.**

5. To receive the Parish Councils Chairman's Report

The report covered the period from 29th April 2008 until 28th April 2009.
See attached.

Item 7 was brought forward at this point to allow the film to be shown.

6. To report on progress of a Parish Plan for Haxey Parish

Mr Terry Condliff informed the attendees that a Parish Plan Steering Committee had been formed in the autumn of 2008 to which he is a member. The Group has met on a number of occasions and good progress is being made.

Consultation meetings have been held in Haxey, Low Burnham and Westwoodside and a total of 160 people attended. The objectives were to find out what residents would like to see in the next 5 / 10 years in terms of facilities and improvements needed in Haxey Parish. A wide variety of requests were put forward by way of post it notes and these are now being collated by the Group. It was disappointing that the majority of the people attending were over 60. To assist in getting a broader range of ideas the Steering Group is issuing questionnaires to primary school children and teenagers.

A grant for £250 was initially received from the Parish Council to assist in the setting up. A further grant has been received from 'Awards for All' for £2,691 and this should be of great help in producing a Parish Plan.

7. To receive reports on the Village of the Year and the Best Kept Village Competitions

A film of Haxey Village was presented by Mr George Fidler of Axholme Camera Club. This film has previously been shown to the judges of the Village of the Year Competition.

Haxey Village won the Village of the Year competition 2008 and therefore had an opportunity to get recognised at National level. A further presentation had been made by judges this year and Cllr Smedley has been informed that Haxey has not gone through to the next round of the Nationals but have fared well in a number of sections. Results will be issued and published on the website when available.

The Best Kept Village Competition was also won in 2008 and this included Haxey, Westwoodside, Low Burnham, Graizelound and East Lound. The Parish Council will be supplying flower baskets and flower troughs again this year and we have requested North Lincolnshire Council to review the current street cleaning policy and visit Haxey and the surrounding villages more often.

8. To report on the progress of the Allotment project

Following a request for allocation of Allotment Land by Parishioners in 2008 and in accordance with Government directives to provide support, Haxey Parish Council set up an Allotment Project, managed by the Land Working

Party, to take the request forward.

Three potential sites were initially identified in the Parish and a fourth emerged as the project developed.

Initial Expressions of Interest for the development of a site were obtained from 8 local Contractors.

A feasibility Study and Business Plan was produced.

Parishioners with an interest in Allotments, currently in excess of 20, set up an Association – the Haxey Parish Allotment Holders Association. Regular meetings of the Association have been held, observed by the Parish Council.

The Allotment Project was discussed at the March meeting of the Parish Council and the following decisions/directives were made:

- a) Authority to spend funds on the project agreed.
- b) The primary site for the 32 Allotments would be Cove Road. Documentation had come to light showing that the site was the Parish Allotment site in the late 19th and early 20th century.
- c) A secondary site, Parish Land at Haxey Turbary, which had potentially become available in the medium to long term was also identified and offered as an option.
- d) The initial contractual period for the Allotment land would be 5 years.
- e) The preferred contractual vehicle for the Allotment Land would be with the Allotment Association.
- f) The projected costings in the Allotment Business Plan were accepted.
- g) Haxey Parish Council Land Working Party was authorised to formally contact the Allotment Association, share with them the Parish Council site options, costing and preferred contracting information and confirm they wished to go forward.

Following a meeting of the Association on 27th April the Cove Road site was chosen and the contractual arrangements and 5 year period with Haxey Parish Council was agreed. Next steps are:

- a) A further meeting with the Association to agree the Constitution and commit to the Contractual documentation.
- b) Official Tender for the work on the site to be issued.
- c) Contractor chosen.
- d) Work to commence.
- e) On completion hand over of the site to the Association.

9. To report on the progress on communication with the public in relation to Website, newsletter and e-mails.

The Parish Council decided to have a website nearly two years ago. This was seen as a way of improving communication with parishioners on Parish Council matters. The areas that have been developed are to cover a broader community based site so that local groups can show what they are doing. This is an ongoing development and three council members meet monthly for this purpose.

The Council business includes Agenda and Minutes, information on the work of the Council. It is also being updated to include information relating to the Freedom of Information Act.

The section relating to the community includes places, things and topics of interest, this is being continually updated and we look to interested groups to provide an introduction about themselves which is then permanently displayed on the website. The remaining part is a document upload which groups can send information about what is currently happening within the group.

The last section is interactive, from time to time questions are asked which affect the parish and parishioners can vote on these issues. In this section people are also invited to air views on matters within the community. It has been disappointing that the up take has been low and the Working Party are currently looking at whether the request for identity information is creating a problem, this information is purely to ensure no abuse of the system takes place and not for publication unless otherwise requested.

While it is appreciated not everyone has a computer we consider this is money well spent and believe it is a useful communication tool in an age of multi media. In April 217 people visited the site.

Questions were asked about the advertising of the website. Cllr Allcock informed the meeting that the website is advertised in the Parish Councils article each month in the Arrow newsletter and was on all previous newsletters for 2 years now.

There was also discussion about advertising the Parish Meeting. Cllr Allcock pointed out that the Notices had been on the Noticeboards for almost 2 weeks, there had been an advert in the Epworth Bells and it was advertised in the Arrow and on the website. The Parish Council were always prepared to look at new ideas to increase involvement of the parishioners.

10. Judging Haxey Parish Council & Axholme Camera Club Photographic Competition 2009

The results of the competition will be published on the noticeboards and on the website. Mr Gilliat who has sadly passed away donated the cups, and his son will be presenting the cups at the next Parish Council meeting.

11. To receive any other items of business from Parishioners

None received.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

.....Chairman