

HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2011 in the Memorial Hall, Haxey.

Present: Cllrs Allcock, Boor, Booth, Bloomfield, Carlile, Cooke, Knowles, Lange, C Lindley, Maw, Orton & Smedley, and 9 residents.

Chairman: Cllr Smedley presided.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Foreman and Whitehead.

2. To receive any matters arising from the last meeting

No matters arising. It was noted that residents would have liked copies of the minutes from last year although they were approved at the May Parish Council meeting. Item to be reviewed for next year.

Cllr Smedley also pointed out that the Parish Council had taken a resolution to ERNLLCA which had been passed to ensure that in the future Parish Councils are consulted on Caravan and Camping sites within their parishes.

3. To receive details of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011

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

4. To receive the Parish Councils Chairman's Report

The report covered the period from 28th April 2010 to 9th May 2011.

This report is available on the website and notice boards.

Cllr W Eckhardt reported that NLC had been limited in what action could be taken regarding the Hood field and that he had spoken with NLC regarding Article 4 which the Parish Council had followed up with NLC and was currently awaiting a response. At the NLC Planning Committee meeting held on 27 April the Article 4 Policy was adopted which should allow NLC to use more powers.

5. To receive a report on the Best Kept Village Competition

Mrs Starr stated that when NLC cut the grass they leave the debris and do not clear it up and that there is always litter on the verge. Cllr Smedley informed residents that the Scouts were going to carry out a litter pick prior to the judging in June.

Cllr Lange pointed out that the state of the Hood field could affect the results of the competition.

The Clerk read out the results of the competition last year and informed residents that 1st prize had been received for the Best Kept War Memorial.

Taking into account some of the comments received last year ten beds will be planted and maintained with summer flower by the local handyman.

6. To receive a report on the Isle of Axholme Flood Risk Strategy

The Flood Risk Management Strategy for the Isle of Axholme is a 100 year plan that sets out how to adapt, improve and prepare the area for dealing with flooding.

The Isle of Axholme strategy considers solutions to manage flooding from the rivers Torne and Idle.

Flooding from the Trent was dealt with in the Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (TCFMP) which you will remember began by the Environment Agency first proposing Policy 2 for the Isle which proposed:-

(Reduce existing flood risk management actions accepting the flood risk will increase over time and much of the area will revert back to marsh and fen landscape). There was considerable outcry from the public, parish councils, the Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board and North Lincolnshire Council about this policy option and a deputation met the Environment Agency at their Headquarters to protest.

Following this in 2009 the Isle of Axholme Flood Risk Management Strategy Group was set up to look at the long term flood risk management options for the Isle. This is now chaired by Andrew Percy MP.

From the beginning the findings demonstrated the inadequacy of Policy 2 for the area showing that 28,000 properties, large area of agricultural land, the M180, Keadby Power Station, SSSI's and other critical infrastructure and essential services (gas, water) would be affected.

These have an estimated asset value of £5.2 billion.

These findings were presented to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee of the Environment Agency in Solihull in October 2010.

Cllr Ron Allcock and a colleague representing the Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board were allowed to address the Environment Agency and as a result they voted in favour of Policy option 4 for our area.

This applies to the river Trent and tidal areas and ensures that the Trent banks will be maintained for the future and

improved where necessary to accommodate tidal rise as a result of climate change and urban development. This is good news.

Now a strategy is being devised to deal with flood risk in the inland areas of the Isle which are drained by pumping stations operated by the Environment Agency at Keadby on the River Torne and West Stockwith on the river Idle and the numerous drains and pumping stations operated by the Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board and other Drainage Boards in the area.

The Environment Agency Strategy document was issued for consultation in January 2011 and set out a number of options for managing flood risk in the Isle.

1. Sustain Existing System
2. Flood defences - provide an appropriate standard of protection
3. Terminal pumping stations - stop pumping and rely on gravity outfall to the River Trent.

The Parish Council response was to sustain the existing system and I understand that the response from NLC and Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board and the majority of consultees supported this view.

All parties considered that the current standards of flood protection should be maintained and increased where necessary if this can be justified.

In supporting this approach it has to be realised that additional alternative funding including that from the local community may be required. It was considered that the local community will support funding the maintenance of current standards of protection in the knowledge that the alternative is living with the uncertainty that standards may be lowered increasing the risk of flooding.

In supporting this approach it is accepted that the whole drainage system operated by Environment Agency and the Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board should be investigated to see if efficiency saving can be made by changing the way assets are currently operated and by seeking more innovative solutions.

In addition to the strategy work there have been major changes in responsibilities for managing flood risk and drainage with the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The lead authority being the Local Authority who will be required to work with the IDB's. The EA will be responsible for the overall strategy and all will operate under the auspices of DEFRA.

Already in accordance with the new Act the Isle of Axholme IDB and NLC has formed a consortium with a number of other neighbouring boards to form The Isle of Axholme North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board.

We now await the final report of the EA on the Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Cllr W Eckhardt stated that he had attended a meeting with the Environment Agency a month ago where the options had been presented. The following day NLC and the Environment Agency had a meeting and various suggestions were put forward on how to formulate a response. Cllr Eckhardt explained that he had suggested a response and this is the one that was put forward.

7. To receive a report on the Parish Awards Map

Cllr Carlile informed parishioners that the Tithe Book has now been to the restorer where it was cleaned and repaired, the Maps are currently with the restorer for cleaning and repair.

The Books have been photographed and the process is ongoing to put them into a format that can be used from a disc which is hoped to make available for anyone who may want to use them for research.

The cases have been lined with the advice received from the restorer and it is hoped a new case is created for the maps as the old case is in a poor state of repair.

The only outstanding matter is the production of a display case for the books. A specification has been created. The Maps and Books are normally stored out of site in a safe in the Church, but the Parish Council is looking for places to display the books for the public to view.

8. To receive a report from Humberside Police

Humberside Police were unable to attend. The Clerk read out a report received from PC Starbuck which will also be placed onto the website.

The past year has seen continued success for the Isle of Axholme Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Sergeant Michelle Garlick remains in charge of the team.

PC Godley along with PCSO's Wendy Frear and Paul Fearon continue to cover the North of the Isle.

PCs Starbuck along with PCSO's Stewart Pearson and Sue Fahy cover both the South and Central. We have also been fortunate to gain an additional police officer, PC Sally Jameson, who works alongside PC Starbuck also covering the South and Central Wards.

Jenny Mordew still opens the police station every Monday and Thursday between 9am and 3pm.

During the past year, much of the rural area of North Lincolnshire has been suffering at the hands of travelling criminals who come to our area in order to participate in hare coursing and daytime poaching. Local farmers raised

concerns across the county and together, along with our partners Countryside Watch has been formed. This includes a network of various people such as farmers, landowners and gamekeepers who now work alongside the police to tackle this problem. PC Starbuck chairs quarterly meetings in Epworth. A dedicated training day was organised by Safer Neighbourhoods where representatives from the police, the courts and other agencies learnt about the best way to tackle this problem. Since the course there have been several successful prosecutions for offences such as Poaching and Hare coursing. Positive feedback has been received from all concerned.

2010 also saw the inset of a new government and with it new ideas on Policing. The Policing Pledge which was still in its infancy was scrapped by the new coalition, however Humberside Police has decided to maintain the pledge 'values' with regards to keeping people informed.

During 2010 the team have continued to look at innovative ways in which to meet and engage with members of the community. We now regularly hold 'street surgeries' along with partners from North Lincolnshire Homes, and drop in sessions at various locations throughout the Isle. We continue to work with the Neighbourhood Action Teams to tackle local problems which are important to our residents.

The coming year see's challenging times. It is well publicised about the cuts which are being made to the police budget. The Comprehensive Spending Review 2015 (CSR) is a programme now embedded into the business of the Force. The programme is primarily designed to deliver the budget reductions required by the coalition government whilst maintaining performance and introducing changes in business processes and IT provision where appropriate. In a Nutshell we have to do just as much, with a lot less. This includes a reduction of staff across the force. The full impact of the cuts is yet to be seen. Fortunately Humberside Police have been somewhat ahead of the game in anticipating these cuts and have already been putting steps in place to ensure we have leaner processes in place. One such impact of these is that Sergeant Garlick has been given additional responsibilities which she will have to complete as well as her role as the sergeant at Epworth. Sergeant Garlick is confident that the additional role will not impact on her work as the neighbourhood sergeant at Epworth.

The Isle of Axholme team along with colleagues from Safer Neighbourhoods and other partners will continue work to make North Lincolnshire a peaceful place to be, and we look forward to working with you during the next 12 months.

Cllr Carlile added that he was a Parish Council representative on the Farm Watch Group. The Group is a self help group and seemed to be helping local participants.

Cllr Carlile re-iterated that ALL crimes must be reported.

9. To receive a report on the outcome of the Parish Plan

Cllr Smedley informed the meeting that the task of creating a Parish Plan (which is for a period of 5 years) was completed and if anyone would like a copy then it was available from the Library or the Parish Clerk. The Plan produced 53 actions to improve the parish and currently the group are actively working on 23.

The Parish Council have just received confirmation that they have been successful in obtaining a grant to create a Heritage Trail which will include leaflets and information boards around the parish.

10. Judging Haxey Parish Council & Axholme Camera Club Photographic Competition 2011

Cllr Smedley thanked everyone for judging the competition and the Camera Club for assisting with the competition and mounting some of the prints submitted by the public.

Mr George Fiddler announced the winners.

- Camera Club category - Mr John Roberts
- Adult category - Miss Lindsey Percival
- Youth category - Craig Neal
- Junior category - James Bannister

The presentation of the prizes and trophies will take place at 6.45pm on Tuesday 24th May prior to the Parish Council meeting.

11. To receive any other items of business from Parishioners

Mr Garner asked if the Parish Council would consider have public participation as a permanent agenda item. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

.....Chairman