

HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on the 23rd May 2007 in the Memorial Hall, Haxey.

PRESENT: Haxey Parish Councillors. Allcock, Booth, Boor, Cooke, J. Eckhardt, Foreman, Hailstone, Knowles, Lindley, Moyle, Whitehead, Mr. Peter Hirschfeld and Colleague from Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council and 9 Parishioners.

CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Allcock presided

To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Haxey Parish Councillors Carlile and Smedley.

To confirm and sign the minutes from the meeting held on 24th April 2006.

The minutes from the Parish Meeting held on the 24th April 2006 were approved as a correct record by those present at the meeting.

To receive any matters arising from the last meeting.

It was asked if the Parish Council were aware of the outcome concerning the parking issues that had arisen regarding Greenhill/High Street in Haxey. The Chairman stated that the proposed plans had been put to the Parish Council and that their comments had been submitted to the Highways department at North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) and that NLC were to now contact the residents in the area. Cllr. Booth added that the Police had also been asked for their comments and were looking into this.

Mr. Phil Weatherall of Westwoodside stated that the road at Level's Farm on Doncaster Road was a lot better now that the 'Ski Jump' had gone and NLC had repaired this part of the road. He asked if the Parish Council were aware of what was happening with regard to the broken Armco barrier also on Doncaster Road. Haxey Parish Councillor John Maw stated that at a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting in Westwoodside it had been mentioned that it was Clugstons who were responsible for repairing this barrier as it was one of their lorries that had gone through it. The Chairman for Haxey Parish Council (HPC) stated that letters had been sent to NLC on a number of occasions regarding this and that NLC had advised HPC this would be getting repaired however it was not known when this would be.

To receive details of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31st March 2007.

Copies of the Parish Council accounts had been circulated. It had been asked if the loan that had been given to Haxey Playing Field Association had been repaid. The Clerk stated that this had and was not shown on the accounts for the 2006/07 financial year as this had just been paid back. This would therefore be shown on the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2008.

It was also felt that the details shown on the accounts did not show an outstanding balance sheet and that the amount which is in the Parish Council's funds at the end of the year should be given. The Clerk stated that the accounts had been presented in this way for the last few years but that they would be looked at and improved for the next year. A proposal was made by Cllr. Boor, which was seconded by Cllr. Booth to accept the accounts. These were approved a fair record by the meeting.

To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Report

The report covered the period from the 24th April 2006 up to the 8th May 2007.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk and Councillors for their continued time and effort put into their work for the Parish. Between December 2006 and January 2007 the Clerk took maternity leave and a locum Clerk covered this time.

This year saw the local Parish Council (PC) election take place and as only 12 candidates were nominated instead of 15, no election was necessary. Three new Councillors were elected following co-option onto Haxey Parish Council (HPC). Cllr. Alan Holgate resigned leaving a further vacancy for co-option on to HPC which would be filled at the PC meeting in June.

Throughout the year there have been 18 full meetings of HPC, 6 of which were extra meetings dealing with planning applications. A total of 83 planning applications were considered by HPC during the year. There was also an extra ordinary Parish Meeting held at the start of 2007 which was to discuss problems surrounding the Affordable Housing Project in Westwoodside.

HPC submitted comments to North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy stating that it supports the position of the existing NLC Local Structure Plan Policy.

Councillors attended meetings with other bodies including the Isle of Axholme Drainage Board, Neighbourhood Watch Meetings in Westwoodside and NLC. HPC is also represented on a number of Committees within and around the Parish and attend regular meetings. The Parish Council also has representation on the Haxey Combined Charities and the Haxey Endowed School Estates.

There have been many issues discussed by the Parish Council during the year including road matters and in particular Road Safety and repairs to the roads in the Parish, the additional burial land, matters concerning the affordable housing project in Westwoodside, the financial support that has been given to a wide variety of projects within and around the Parish, the cleaning of the base of the War Memorial in Haxey which was carried out by Parish Councillors Booth and Maw, the results of the CPRE Best Kept Village competition and the success of the Over 70's Party which was held on 1st June 2006.

Other matters that are under consideration by the Parish Council include the production of a Parish Newsletter and Website, the updating of the Parish Directory, the production of a Parish Plan, also a review of the phone and computer equipment that is used by the Clerk and the matter of dog fouling in the Parish.

To discuss a Parish Plan for Haxey Parish – Guest Speaker Mr. Peter Hirschfeld of Humber & Wolds Rural Community Council.

Mr. Hirschfeld gave a slide presentation on what a Parish Plan is, what it should do, the benefits of having a Parish Plan and who could be involved to get this underway.

For the process to get started a Steering Group needs to be set up. This can include members of the Parish Council and any Parishioner who may be interested in becoming involved. A consultation will need to be carried out with the Parishioners asking what they would like to see for the future of the area. This can be done by a questionnaire, community events or suggestion boxes placed in local facilities such as the local shops, library or doctors surgery.

The role of the Steering Group would be to oversee the Plan, recruit members, monitor the Plans progress, to organize community events, produce publicity and to liaise with local companies/bodies.

Funding towards the process of creating a Parish Plan may also be obtained through the National Lottery's Awards for All scheme and a grant of up to £10,000 could be obtained.

The timescale for a Parish Plan from start to finish is between 12 to 18 months.

There is a toolkit available which will help the Steering Group once it has been set up.

The Chairman stated that consultation with Parishioners in all the villages in the Parish would be carried out.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hirschfeld for attending the meeting and giving the presentation. It was felt that a Working Party for the Parish Council would need to be set up in order to start the process of the Parish Plan and to get the community involved.

To discuss the possibility of producing a Parish Newsletter.

Haxey Parish Council is considering producing a Parish Newsletter which will be published quarterly and will give updates on matters that are being discussed and actioned.

It is felt that the production of a newsletter would be desirable in improving communications with Parishioners. A copy of the magazine which is produced by the Church was shown as an example of what could be done.

It was felt that distribution of the newsletters could be done voluntarily and that the local shops and Post Offices could be asked for their help.

It was also felt that along with the production of a newsletter, a website could also be designed for the Parish Council. A large majority of households in the Parish now have a broadband connection and that a website would not be too expensive to set up.

Cllr. Pauline Booth stated that the Neighbourhood Action Team were looking for somewhere that they could publish the outcome of their meetings and that the newsletter and website would be ideal. It was also felt that HANWAG could also use the facilities.

It was stated that there are web designers in the Parish who would be able to assist the Parish Council in designing its own site.

The website and newsletter would also be a good way for local groups or companies to advertise and that a small flyer, asking for comments and ideas could be placed in the local newspapers.

The Chairman added that the Parish Directory also needed to be updated and that this would be something the Parish Council would look at re-working and would hopefully be produced for the end of the year.

Cllr. Booth asked if there was a need for both the directory and the newsletter and felt the two could be combined and updated regularly.

The Chairman felt that there was a need for a separate newsletter to be produced as well so that Parishioners were aware of what is happening in the Parish on a regular basis.

Cllr. Booth felt that ex-editor of the Axholme Herald, Mr. Ron Shipley, could be asked for his advice and expertise and that the Parish Council could possibly set up a Working Party or Committee to deal with this.

To discuss the matter regarding the permanent siting of the Parish Beacon.

The Beacon was erected to welcome in the Millennium. It was on a moveable platform which made it easier to transport to the highest part of the Parish, on Tower Hill.

The Parish Council formed a Working Party to deal with the permanent siting of the Beacon. An area of land on Tower Hill that was not being used was identified for the Beacon to be sited and negotiations with the farmer and the Townsperson at the time, were held. An unused telegraph pole was removed by YEDL and it was agreed the Beacon would be placed on a piece of land on Tower Hill near the water tower.

A new Townsperson has now stated that the Beacon can not be sited on this land and the Parish Council has done a lot of work to try and get this done and have now drawn a blank on where the Beacon could be placed. The Parishioners were asked whether or not this matter should be pursued.

Cllr. Stan Boor felt this matter had gone on for too long and that this should now be left and no further work carried out. The Beacon was only lit on special occasions and the Parish has managed without a permanent one, so far.

Cllr. David Knowles did not agree with this and felt it was a good idea to have the beacon placed on a permanent site within the Parish and that another location could be identified.

Cllr. David Moyle stated that the land on Tower Hill was identified as a good location as it could be seen from all the surrounding areas.

Cllr. Booth added that there was another parcel of land at the other side of the road that could be used but that this would need to be purchased

The cost for the Beacon to be erected and to get up and running could be about £3,000.

There have been many occasions that the Beacon could have been lit but have been missed and this may not necessarily be just once a year.

Cllr. Nev Whitehead felt that this matter should be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council and the comments made should be discussed.

To receive an update regarding the provision of Burial Land within the Parish.

A slide presentation, updating the meeting on what the situation is regarding the provision of burial land since the Annual Parish meeting held in 2006, was given.

Negotiations have been held continuously with members of Haxey Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council throughout the last year and from these an agreement has been reached between both parties.

Areas of land within the current Churchyard have been identified and there is space for an additional 21 graves. When needed, the fence at the west side of the Church Hall next to the car park will be moved to allow for a 6ft strip of land, once the extra space has been filled, and this will provide space for an additional 8 years.

Cllr. Booth stated that the cost would have been high if land had been purchased by the Parish Council for this and that the agreement that had been reached would cost a lot less.

She added that this agreement had been reached through Cllr. Allcock's sterling work in steering the Working Party for the Parish Council towards this achievement. She thanked Cllr. Allcock and the members of the Working Party.

The Chairman added that the Green Paper produced by the Government was still under consideration for graves over 100 years and if contact had been lost with the relatives of those people in the graves, it may be considered re-using these areas.

Cllr. Wilf Lindley believed that this should be pushed forward.

To receive an update on the problems surrounding the Affordable Housing Project in Westwoodside.

Cllr. Allcock stated that this had been a problem for a long time.

There have been a considerable amount of emails sent between Haxey Parish Council (HPC), North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) and South Yorkshire Housing Association (SYHA) since the properties have been built.

SYHA did not observe Planning Condition 8 in the Planning Permission from NLC. This stated that 'no development shall take place until a scheme for the disposal of foul and surface water has been agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority and none of the dwellings shall be occupied until it is connected to the approved drainage system'.

It is HPC's belief that no proper connection to the sewer system had been organised. A connection was proposed to be made in to the sewer on Thinholme Lane where problems already exist. The residents of Thinholme Lane and Holm Road are worried there will be more problems, as are the occupants who are to move into the affordable homes.

HPC took advice from ERNLLCA, the local council's advisory committee, who advised to hold an extra ordinary meeting. This was held on Thursday 22nd March in the Pavilion on Westwoodside Playing Field. There were about 50 to 60 people in attendance and it was agreed that an official letter of complaint would be sent to NLC on behalf of the Haxey Parish Meeting residents and that this would be the first stage of the complaint on this matter. A reply has been received and will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

It was also agreed at the meeting to employ an independent engineer to carry out a full survey of the sewer system and to recommend how the problem could be resolved.

HPC contacted an independent engineer and a quote for £6000, not including VAT, was received to carry out the work. This was accepted by the Parish Council and the survey has now been carried out. The Chairman has spoken with the Chief Engineer who has advised him that they are now working on the report and that this will be with the Parish Council shortly.

It has been stated that there is a large amount of surface water entering the system which is having an adverse affect on the flooding for residents. Additionally, the flap valve in the system is jammed open and is causing problems.

The Parish Council has a Working Party which will take the matter forward once the report has been received.

Cllr. Booth felt that NLC must have taken notice of what has happened as one person who was waiting to move into one of the affordable homes has been offered a different house in Haxey.

ERNLLCA have also advised that a complaint can be made to the Local Government Ombudsman and if necessary the money that is to be spent on the independent engineer could be re-claimed from one of the organisations involved in this matter.

It was felt that the money that is to be spent was a large amount. Cllr. Booth stated that ERNLLCA was asked if HPC could do this and there was a clear mandate given at the Extra Ordinary Meeting in March last year by the residents to carry out both courses of action.

Mr. Weatherall of Westwoodside stated that there was concern for a large area of Westwoodside which was prone to sewerage problems.

Cllr. Booth added that there were the same issues in Haxey near to the Post Office and that this needs looking at.

Cllr. Allcock stated that part of the brief for the independent engineer was to obtain all the sewer records for Westwoodside for the Parish Council to hold.

Cllr. Whitehead stated that the sewerage scheme had not been updated since 1948/49 and this needed to be done throughout the Parish.

It was asked if a further extra ordinary meeting would be held once the report had been received.

The Chairman stated that the report would be discussed a Parish Council meeting once it had been received and if a meeting needs to be called this will be done.

To receive any other items of business from Parishioners.

Mr. N. Garner of High Burnham asked how Parishioners could get in contact with the Parish Council regarding issues that may occur throughout the year. The Clerk stated that the contact details will be placed in the notice boards in Haxey and Westwoodside. It was also felt that this information could be placed in areas within Low Burnham, Graizelound and East Lound. The information will also be available in the newsletters when produced and the Parish Directory.

Mr. Greg Susczenia, the proprietor of Greenhill Stores in Haxey, stated that a letter had been received from NLC regarding proposed road markings on Greenhill and High Street, Haxey. He asked if the Parish Council were aware of the new plans that had been put forward. The Chairman stated that the plans had only recently been received. Mr. Susczenia asked if the Parish Council support what NLC were proposing to do. The Chairman added that these plans had not yet been discussed by the Parish Council and this would be discussed at the next meeting and a response would be sent to NLC and made available to interested parties.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date.....

Chairman.....