

**INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
AND HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
HAXEY TURBARY**

1. Meeting held at Hood Room, Haxey Memorial Hall on 1st February 2010 at 10am

2. In Attendance; Haxey Parish Council	Cllr. J W Smedley	Chairman
	Cllr. R Allcock	
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Cllr. D Knowles	Vice Chairman
	Paul Learoyd	Chief Executive
	Geoff Trinder	Chairman Isle of Axholme Group
	Matthew Blissett	NW Lincolnshire Warden

3. There were no apologies for Absence

4. Cllr J Smedley was appointed Chairman of this meeting

5. As this was the Inaugural Meeting, the following Terms of Reference were tabled ;-

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Minutes of Haxey Parish Council Meeting dated 30th December 2003

Item 484 Turbary Update

Coun. Booth read from a letter dated 21st November 2003 that had been received from Mr Burstall. The Trusts Solicitors have commented on the Draft Lease and have suggested some amendments. Mr Burstall did not believe these amendments to be of any consequence and commented on them on behalf of Haxey Parish Council. Coun. Booth read out the amendments and comments. It was agreed to support the amendments and supported comments that had been made. A Second Schedule had been incorporated into the Draft Lease to identify the terms of reference of the Joint Advisory Committee. A copy of the Consent Order that Mr. Cameron had drafted was also received for the Parish Councillors to discuss. Coun. Booth said that she had briefly read through the Order and can only find one query. This was with regard to the meetings of the Joint Advisory Committee once it was established. It is stated in the Draft Lease that " the Committee shall meet not less than once in each calendar year". However, it was originally suggested that the Committee should meet twice a year with the possibility of more meetings if required. Coun. Moyle proposed that this should be changed back to the original suggestion of twice a year, with three members of the Trust and three members of the Parish Council on the Committee and to enable the Chairmanship to alternate between the two, each year. This was agreed. Coun. Booth then said that Burstalls had replied to the Parish Council's request of an explanation to the term of a "peppercorn rent". It is said that the term was introduced to " stop someone acquiring ownership of the freehold by adverse possession" and that in the legal content it means a "nominal rent". Coun. Booth said that her understanding of a "nominal rent" was that some sort of rent is paid and she proposed that an amendment is made to the Draft Lease stating that a fee of £1 per year is paid to the Parish Council. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to write to Burstalls stating that the Parish Council would like to see these amendments included and that once these have been made, the Parish Council agree to the Draft lease and Consent Order.

6. Update on Present Situation at Haxey Turbary

6.1 Introduction.

As this was the first meeting since the Draft Lease had been agreed in 2003, there was a general discussion on the importance of the joint responsibilities for land at Haxey Turbary and of the benefits of working together in the future.

6.2 Update on the work of the Trust. For the Trust, Mr Trinder pointed out that the Turbary is an important Site of Special Scientific Interest. (SSSI) It is a high level stewardship site managed by the Trust on behalf of Natural England. Much of their work at present is with regard to shrub control and to this end they have 10 Hebridean sheep grazing on the land to control brambles, bracken and birch seedlings. In the longer term, regulation of the water table is being promoted, working with Environment Agency and Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board, to raise the normal level as at Epworth Turbary. This work is being funded by DEFRA.

6.3 Bridleway The bridleway, BR 84, passing through the Turbary is being badly damaged by vehicle and quad bike use. A barrier was erected by NLC but this was quickly torn down. The barrier did prevent access to the Trust Car Park and they were not given a key for the padlock, but they did give an assurance that they did not remove the barrier. Mr Blissett suggested that maybe a barrier at each end would be better as he wondered if vehicles coming from Greenholme Lane were finding their exit blocked and therefore resorted to breaking down the gate.

The Trust has no restrictions on access. Both the Trust and PC wish NLC to maintain the bridleway

6.4 Road from Haxey to Haxey Carr There was then discussion about the state of the road leading down to the Turbary. The PC brought the Trust up to date with dealing with NLC regarding this. The Trust mentioned that some years ago they did put some money into repairing the road.

6.5 Quarrying There was then along discussion about the sand quarry activities to the west of the Turbary. Again the PC informed the Trust about discussions ongoing about safety of the public and of the banking, with NLC. The Trust were equally concerned about the existing quarrying and future expansion. Some years ago they were involved in discussion about reinstatement and making a conservation area. Subsequent changes of ownership and deeper excavations seem to have made this impossible. Birds Wood, managed by the Trust, is scheduled for sand extraction at some time in the future.

6.6 Snowdrop Cottage. The Trust was asked if they had any interest in Snowdrop Cottage and they said that they didn't, but would be interested to be kept informed of any developments regarding the sale of the property and the re-letting of the PC land there.

7 Next Meeting

No date was agreed but everyone agreed that they should carry on once or twice per year. It was suggested that the next meeting take place in the next few months at the Turbary when the site would be inspected. Matthew Blissett would invite David Sanderson (NLC) to attend so that the bridleway and barriers could be inspected and actions agreed.