

# Haxey Parish Council, Newsletter, June 2013

Parish Clerk - Deb Hotson

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## Photographic Competition 2013



Melanie Craven – Frosty Morning in Westwoodside – Adult winner



Esme Craven – Westwoodside Sunrise - Youth winner



Mitchell Dunbar - Snowy Field – Junior winner



John Dunbar - Greenholme Bank – Camera Club winner

There was a high standard of entries again this year. Our congratulations to the winners and thank you to all those who entered, who provided so many marvellous images of our parish. The four winning photographs will be available to view in Haxey Library until mid-June.

The trophies will be presented at 6.30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> June, prior to the Parish Council Meeting.

## Haxey Parish Council – Chairman's Annual Report and Future Plans

My aim is to provide a brief report on the work carried out by the Parish Council over the past 12 months and highlight the priorities for the coming year.

I start off on a very sad note by acknowledging the passing of Cllr John Edward Maw in March. John was an exceptional and well known individual, who worked tirelessly for the Parish throughout his many years as a Councillor. He has been and will continue to be sorely missed. To mark the contribution John has made to the community, the Cove Road Allotment Site was named after him in a ceremony to mark the dedication, attended by Barbara Maw, on 28th May.

Following on from last year and considering the current economic climate the Parish Council has frozen the Precept for the fourth consecutive year.

The Parish Council's workload has continued to increase over the past year as the effects of "localism" play their part on the 1<sup>st</sup> tier of local democracy. Planning matters, Parish Land Management, general Parish maintenance management and issues raised by Parishioners are dealt with on a day to day basis by the Parish Council Clerk in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the various Committees and Working Groups set up by the Council; moreover, there is significant Councillor's representation at local and County organisations such as the Haxey Combined Charities, Governing Body of Haxey Primary School, Haxey Endowed School Estates, local Police forums, Isle of Axholme Physically Handicapped Society, the East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils Association and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

There is virtually constant communication with all elements of our Principal Authority, North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) and we continue to have the benefit of one of our Ward Councillors also serving as a Parish Councillor, which has continued to provide considerable improvement in the communication between NLC and the Parish. Major

consultations have included commenting on local area environmental and drainage projects and the local development framework plans for neighbouring authorities. Details of results of these consultations are recorded in the minutes of the monthly Parish Council meetings which are published on the Parish Council website and Village Notice Boards.

The Parish Council has seen an increase in planning activity over the last year and we continue to develop our good relationship with NLC Planners and last year we agreed and adopted a new reporting procedure with NLC for planning applications. This has improved and clarified Parish Council recommendations. The Parish Council considered a total of 73 Planning Applications of which 35 were passed without comment and 38 were commented on. The Council objected to 21. The Principal Authority agreed with the Parish Council on 7 applications, overruled the Parish Council recommendation in 7 cases; 2 applications were withdrawn, 2 are being considered by the NLC Planning Committee and 3 have yet to be decided. We have carried on the practice of dedicating a period before each monthly Council Meeting for the public to raise matters with the Parish Council. Parishioners are encouraged to continue to use these opportunities to express their views.

This last year has also seen the continued use of Open Meetings for particularly important issues that affect the Parish. The potential plans for Hallcroft Close were the subject of one such meeting when North Lincolnshire Homes, NLC and local residents discussed the issues and made their feelings known and whilst there is little evidence of any major change in view from the Housing Association, lines of communication have been established with the Parish Council and local community action groups.

The Parish Council is currently assessing the use of Westwoodside Playing Fields Pavilion Meeting Room for its monthly meetings and will continue to take action to come up with potential cost-effective solutions to enable it to keep pace with the Council's increased administrative demands.

Over the last year, issues the Council has dealt with have included major involvement in the Parish's successful Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, work on the Allotment Site to improve drainage and the taking on of responsibility for the judging of the Allotment Associations annual competition; maintenance work on St Nicholas Closed Churchyard; continued commissioning work on the Parish Cemetery with the letting of the contract for the building of the Memorial Wall and the completion of the Parish Community Emergency Plan, which has been submitted to NLC. The Council is in the process of carrying out its periodic valuation of Parish land and has recently entered into consultations with Village Townsfolk with the aim of providing them with any administrative support they may require for the formal upkeep and public liability for the meres and pinfolds.

Following a request for assistance from the Westwoodside Playing Fields Association Management Committee and after a protracted period of advice seeking and due diligence, the Parish Council is in the final stages of taking on the Trusteeship of the Association. The Council's current plan is to seek funding to update and rejuvenate the domestic facilities supporting the Playing Fields and also increase the use of the facilities by the local community. The Parish Council has also been approached by the Westwoodside Reading Room/Billiard Room to provide representation on their Management Committee, which has been approved, but will not be implemented at this time. Unfortunately, once again, our Parish Handyman has had to resign due to poor health; however, we have managed to identify a Contractor who will take on his duties for an initial period until we either employ a new handyman or enter into a longer standing contractual arrangement.

The Council has consulted with NLC and supported the reduction of the speed limits on Doncaster Rd and the A161; moreover, following another spate of accidents on Doncaster Rd, further consultation has taken place with NLC with the result that there will now be a re-design of the crossroads at the Park Drain in this financial year. The Parish Council has also consulted with NLC on the location of Bus Stops in the Parish.

This last year has seen the introduction and implementation of a new Code of Conduct for Councillors which has required a training session and training has also been provided to Councillors in Localism, Neighbourhood Planning, and Advanced Chairmanship. The Council has also been represented at the Local Council's Association Conferences to take advantage of the updating of topical and important issues. The Council has produced an updated Parish Directory, which is available on the Council website and in hard copy in public places around the Parish. The Parish Council has continued to support the CPRE Best Kept Village Competitions and lessons identified from last year's assessment have resulted in a Contractor being employed this year to provide and maintain the floral displays around the Villages. A resident has also volunteered to redesign and renovate Dr Dyson's garden in High Street, Haxey.

During the last year the Parish Council has provided financial support to the Isle of Axholme Physically Handicapped Society, Low Burnham Village Centre, Westwoodside Village Hall, Westwoodside and Haxey Playing Fields, South Axholme Academy, Haxey Cricket Club and the Axholme Raiders and Westwoodside Rangers football teams. Moreover, the Council has once again fully supported the annual Over 70's party, which continues to be ably organised by Jennie Eckhardt, to whom the Council passes on their thanks. The Council marked the annual Remembrance Day commemoration with a well-attended "parade" at the Haxey Memorial followed by the Church Service. Both events were supported for the second year by a Bugler from South Axholme Academy. Finally, the Council continues to support the Axholme Camera Club and the annual competition results will be announced during this meeting.

For the coming year the Parish Council will carry on the work on on-going projects, continue to develop its relationship with the Principal Authority and looking to the medium term future, the main aim of the Council will be on the development of a strategy for Localism in the Parish and ultimately for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan to complement the Parish Plan produced in 2010.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of all Parish Councillors and to thank Councillors, the Vice Chairman and the Parish Council Clerk for the first-rate support they have provided me with over the past year.

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## Naming of the Allotment Site



Cllr David Knowles, Chairman of Haxey Parish Council alongside Mrs Barbara Maw at the naming of the Allotment site on Cove Road in memory of Cllr John Maw.

Cllr John Maw, a long standing member of Haxey Parish Council, sadly passed away on 26 March 2013. John Maw has been an outstanding friend to many people in the Parish. As a Parish Councillor, John was exceptional. His knowledge of local land matters and the history of the Parish were noteworthy and his ability to weigh up issues in a balanced way and provide sound advice were an asset to the

decision making of the Council; moreover, once again, he could be relied upon to provide direct assistance and support to the many projects in the Parish he was involved with.

In particular, John's involvement in the setting up and subsequent support to the Haxey Parish Allotment Association are worthy of note. John's presence on the Parish Council will be very difficult to replace. John was a thoroughly conscientious individual, who took all his responsibilities extremely seriously, John Maw will be sorely missed. His amiable and outgoing personality and his hard work and commitment to the local community will be irreplaceable. A thoroughly "nice guy" he was a fine example to us all.

To mark the outstanding support John gave to the Parish and in particular recognising the work John did with the Allotment Association, a short dedication ceremony was held at the Cove Road Allotment Site on 28 May 2013 where Barbara Maw unveiled a sign naming the site "The John Edward Maw Site". The dedication was followed by a reception at the Carpenter's Arms Westwoodside.

## Westwoodside Community Grant success

Haxey Parish Council is in the final stages of taking over the responsibility for Westwoodside Playing Fields Association as Sole Trustee. One of the tasks taken on by the Council during this process was to look into potential funding streams to carry out essential improvements to the Playing Fields infrastructure.

The Parish Council approached North Lincolnshire Council with a plan for the essential improvements, which consisted of 5 elements:

- a. **Element 1** - The provision and siting of a storage container within the complex to enable the secure and safe storage of expensive sporting associated equipment which is currently having to be stored in the Pavilion and is detracting from the best use of the building.
- b. **Element 2** - The re-establishment and extension of a car park and access road to the sporting complex which will better enable the users of the facilities to enter the Playing Field area and provide a safe area away from the sporting activities and participants for vehicles.
- c. **Element 3** - The extension and modernisation of the current Function Room of the Pavilion in order to provide a more usefully sized space to meet the many various requirements and future developing uses of residents of the Parish and to promote the use of the facilities to the community.
- d. **Element 4** - The extension and modernisation of the current Meeting Room of the Pavilion in order to provide a more adequately sized space for the use as a Meeting Room and promote the use of the facilities to the community.
- e. **Element 5** - The improvement of the security lighting installations around the Playing fields complex in order to provide a safer and more secure environment.

Estimates of cost to carry out the works were obtained from local Companies and Haxey Parish Councillors were delighted to hear formally at their last meeting on 28 May that their request for a community grant for the essential improvements to the Westwoodside Playing Fields Infrastructure had been successful.

The Parish Council, on behalf of the Residents is extremely grateful to the Principal Authority for supporting this important community project and the planned work the Council intends to carry out should ensure that the improvement to the facilities will enable them to be used more extensively by local and neighbouring residents.