

HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2010 in the Memorial Hall, Haxey.

Present: Cllrs Allcock, Booth, Bloomfield, Carlile, Cooke, J Eckhardt, Foreman, Lange, C Lindley, W H Lindley, Smedley, Whitehead, Richard Wheatstone – Evening Telegraph and 52 residents.
Chairman: Cllr Smedley presided.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Knowles and Maw.

2. To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 5th May 2009

It was resolved that the minutes from the Parish Meeting on 5th May 2009 were approved as a correct record.

Proposed by Mr P Lindley, seconded by Mr C Ridley.

3. To receive any matters arising from the last meeting

No matters arising.

4. To receive details of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31st March 2010

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.

Mr Ridley raised the question on the amount of funds allocated to s137 / donations and grants. The Clerk explained the process of applying for grants to Mr Ridley and that government allocated a set amount per electorate each year which the Parish Council can and do issue to local organisations.

The accounts were approved. Proposed by Cllr Whitehead, seconded by Cllr C Lindley.

5. To receive the Parish Councils Chairman's Report

The report covered the period from 26th May 2009 until 27th April 2010.

This report is available on the website and notice boards.

Cllr Lange commented on the achievement of Cllr W Lindley on attaining 60 years as a member of the Parish Council.

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

Cllr Smedley stated that the Parish had done quite well again in the Best Kept Village Competition 2009 but were marked down in a few areas including litter and untidiness. Cllr Boor is organising a Litter Picking Day at the end of May where all are invited and this will hopefully put the Parish in good stead for the Best Kept Village Competition 2010.

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

Cllr Allcock provided a detailed report on the Strategy to date. A copy of this is also on the website.

In 2008 the Environment Agency produced a River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan. This plan placed the Isle of Axholme in Policy Option 2 which proposed to reduce existing flood risk management actions with areas of currently drained farmland becoming seasonally wet and much of the Isle area reverting back to marsh and fen.

Environment Agency would curtail maintenance and pumping operations would be reduced at Keadby and Owston Ferry and drains would not be maintained and banks would not be raised.

There was local outcry against this Policy with the Parish Council(s), the local Drainage Board and NLC all objecting to this Policy Option. Haxey Parish Council were consulted in January 2008 and were adamant that Policy 4 which states "Take further action to sustain the current Flood Risk Strategy into the future" (responding to the potential increase in risk from urban development, land use change and climate change), should apply to our area.

The response to the Environment Agency was so strong that the Agency was placed in a position that it had to reconsider the proposal which appeared to have been decided by a desk top study rather than looking at the actual position on the ground.

As a result of these concerns in 2009 an Isle Advisory Group was set up consisting of all the major agencies involved and led by the Environment Agency. This group was given the task of developing the Isle of Axholme Flood Risk Management Strategy. The Strategy to look at long term options for the Isle of Axholme. £1m was put up by Government to carry out the assessment. This group has spent the past 12 months consulting with Parish Councils, NLC, Drainage Boards, NFU and Local Communities to build up a picture of assets which would be affected by flooding and options to give a solution for the long term.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment has now been produced and this was recently presented at a local event in Belton. Work so far shows that the write off value of identified assets is in excess of £4.5 billion if action is not taken. For instance, in the area the following could be flooded:-

M180, The main line railway, Keadby Power Station, The Electricity Grid System, Gas & fuel Pipelines & Water & Sewage utilities. Some of the best grade farm land, Robin Hood Airport Drainage, Hatfield Moors, Epworth & Haxey SSSI's, 27,770 households, ancient monuments such as Market Cross – Haxey, Mowbray Stone and so on.

This Strategy went out for consultation ending April 23rd. The reply the Parish Council sent on the Strategy was that we support the collection of further information for the Strategy with the objective of delivering a fully funded appropriate level of sustainable flood risk management for the Isle of Axholme. We understand, NLC and the Isle of Axholme Drainage Board also replied in the same way.

The Parish Council pointed out that it appears from the data collected already that our previous submission on the Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan that the Policy option should be Policy 4 is well founded.

Mr Linnegar asked what the difference was between Policy 3 and 4 to which Mr Allcock replied that 3 was low to moderate risk of flooding and 4 was low, moderate and high risk of flooding.

8. To receive a report on the Parish Awards Map

The Awards Maps and Book have been available for the Parishioners to view prior to the meeting.

Cllr Carlile gave a brief outline of the Working Party and informed the meeting that the Awards books dated from 1803 and it is the legal instrument for the enclosing of land in the Parish.

The Tithe Book 1847 shows the money collected for the land and brief description and the Maps of 1845 show the tithes as laid out in the Parish.

The books and maps are currently stored in a large safe in the Church; it is not known when they were placed there for safe keeping.

It is intended to have an expert check their condition and if necessary carry out any restoration and then it is hoped to make them more accessible for public display in a cabinet made which controls humidity and has UV protection. There is then a possibility that they can then be placed in local halls and churches for display subject to a security check.

Mr Eric Rowly asked if the Awards could be copied. Cllr Carlile informed the Parishioners that we had a copy of the Awards Map on CD which had been undertaken by Lincolnshire Archives.

Mr Cooper informed the meeting that the Awards had been in the Church since the 1940's. Prior to that they were located in the school.

9. To receive a report from Humberside Police

Humberside Police are unable to attend. The Clerk read out a report received from Sgt Garlick which will also be placed onto the website.

2009 to 2010 has on the whole been extremely successful for the neighbourhood policing team.

The team welcomed PCSO Wendy Frear to cover the North of the Isle, along with a change of Sergeant from Dave Jackson to Michelle Garlick. They joined PC Tina Starbuck and PCSO's Sue Fahy and Stewart Pearson who have covered the central and south side of the Isle of Axholme for some time. PC Graham Godley and PCSO Paul Fearon continue to cover the North of the Isle. We also welcomed Jenny Mordew as the new team support officer. Jenny has just retired as sergeant from Humberside Police after 30 years so has a wealth of knowledge and experience. Jenny assists the team by providing opening hours for the police station.

Over the past twelve months, the team have continued to work closely with the neighbourhood action team and other partners to address issues of anti social behaviour. We have also undertaken the task of visiting every victim of crime (should they wish to be visited)

The Policing Pledge has seen the introduction of a national framework which gives us the opportunity to create a service based on the local concerns of our community, which we aim to address. The policing pledge gives local people a stronger voice and the means to challenge Humberside Police if we are not giving the service which is expected.

Restorative Justice has also commenced in the North Lincolnshire District which is an alternative method of dealing with young persons who enter the criminal justice system for the first time. They are given one chance to undertake a 'respect seminar' which sees them sitting in the dock in a 'mock' court, and an input regarding the impact of crime on their victims. It has proved extremely successful. So far, none of the young persons who have undertaken the process have to come to the attention of the police again.

For the coming year Humberside Police have the challenge of achieving our goals and meeting demands whilst operating on a significantly reduced budget. The force is currently reviewing many areas in order to ensure that we continue to provide a first class service to the public.

I have just been informed that I have been successful in securing a third police constable to join the neighbourhood policing team. We are extremely fortunate that the senior management team for North Lincolnshire have agreed to the posting given the current financial climate and the demands being placed on the division. PC Sally Jameson will start with the team in the coming weeks. She will take over one of the wards from PC Tina Starbuck (who currently covers both South and Central) and details of which area she will be covering will be announced as soon as they are available.

The Neighbourhood team will continue to address local problems, with our partners. We now have access to the forces 'events bus' which we will be using to provide a contact point in the villages across the Isle of Axholme at periodic intervals. This will begin in July with time dates and locations being published in advance through the local media.

We are actively recruiting special constables who would like to work with the neighbourhood policing team on the Isle. It is the opportunity to make a difference and gain an understanding of policing.

The neighbourhood policing team, supported by colleagues from all areas of policing and our partners will continue to strive to meet the needs of our local community and look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming year.

Mr Malcolm Read asked how much the flashing speed signs were costing and felt that the money would be better spent on speed cameras. Cllr Carlile informed the Parishioners that the flashing signs also collected data which would be analysed and actions taken if deemed necessary.

Cllr Carlile stated that he was disappointed that there was no Police presence at the meeting and explained that he was the Parish Council Police representative at the Police Authority and NATs meetings. Cllr Carlile also stated that the Parish Council would like to see more police walking their beat but at present they only attend to 'hot spots'.

10. To receive a report on the progress of the Multi Use Games Area at Westwoodside Playing Field

Mr Richard Carter, Chair of Westwoodside Playing Field Association thanked the Parish Council for asking him to give an update on what has been happening at Westwoodside Playing Field.

The new play equipment is now all in place and it looks one of the best in the area and is constantly full of kids and parents enjoying now what is a very active but also very pleasant place to be. This is the result of 6 or 7 years of hard work by the current and the previous Committees. In 2005 when Mr Carter took over as Chairman, a survey had been done by Humberside Playing Field Association of the children at the village Primary School and the top 2 suggestions were a new play area and a Sports Court.

The play area was all completed in August 2008 and then the fund raising started for the Sports Court.

At that Parish Council meeting in 2008, a discussion was had around the suitability of the location and it was decided a better place for it would be to the west of the pavilion. This meant a complete re-application for Planning Permission and again WPFAs were grateful to the Council for supporting the application. In November last year permission was finally granted to move the location.

In between time the Association had also been applying to something like 10-15 different organisations for grant funding and thanked again the Parish Council & the Parish Clerk for their support with that process and by the end of 2009 £83,000 of the £93,000 required was in place.

So based on the majority of the grant money having to be spent before the end of February, WPFAs decided they had to go ahead minus the lighting.

In the worst weather conditions possible, the Contractors were delayed by one week only and at the end of February the construction was completed.

After some more work by the Association to get it exactly how they wanted it, Chairman Cllr Smedley officially opened the court Saturday 1st May and a 5-a-side football tournament was held.

The Skateboard Ramp is now being looked into again and this should be in situ shortly and a new ball wall has been erected.

Other things that need to be done over the next few months are the creation of a BMX track, resurface of the car park, security lighting to protect the building and Sports Court and a road signpost.

Fundraising Events have included Race Night which raised £500 and 5-a-side football Tournament which raised £100.

There is currently two junior football teams based at the field and another junior and a senior team have approached the Association to come and play their home games there next season.

There are a lot of things happening at the field, the Committee has been very active even though they only have 7 members and are always on the lookout for more people to help. The field is now the social centre for a lot of kids and parents.

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

Mrs Alyson Linnegar, Chair of the Steering Committee introduced herself and explained what a Parish Plan is.

It is a shared vision for the community for the next 5 to 10 years with actions to achieve the vision and covers social, economic and environmental issues. The Action plan sets out how local needs can be met providing information to help influence the decisions and actions of others and what they wish to see in the local area and prioritise resources. The Parish Council have 3 members that sit on the Steering Committee and North Lincolnshire Council is also involved.

The Steering Group was established in 2008 with a small grant to assist in the setting up process and then lottery funding was awarded which has paid for the consultation events, room hire and the production of the plan.

Consultation events with residents took place in February and March 2009 at Haxey, Westwoodside and Low Burnham giving ideas for the main issues. Questionnaires were also prepared for parents at the 2 primary schools, the pub, and mother and toddler groups. The main issues were:-

- Roads – Transport and Traffic
- Environmental

- Community Facilities
- Housing and Development
- Community Spirit

Every 1 in 10 households were invited to 2 focus groups held in September and October where the issues above were discussed. A further 2 focus groups were held at Epworth Youth Centre with young people from Haxey Parish. This led to the Action Plan that covers:-

- Speeding
- School Safety
- Litter and dog fouling
- State of Roads
- Flooding
- Parking
- Youth Facilities
- Public Transport
- Access to North Lincolnshire Council services
- Safer Cycling
- Parish Information
- Location and type of new housing
- Parish Environment

The Plan is now being prepared and will be published at the end of June when a launch will be held.

When the Plan is completed copies will be given to North Lincolnshire Council, the Parish Council and other agencies, copies at local links and libraries. It is hoped that copies will be delivered to Parish residents.

The next steps will be set up a Parish Plan Action Group who will oversee the implementation of the Action Plan.

Community volunteers will be sought for this group.

12. To report on the progress of the Allotment project

In the absence of Cllr Knowles the Clerk read out the report.

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 4th 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 and the Haxey Parish Allotment Holders Association was established.

Regular meetings of the Association have been held - the Parish Council has been kept informed of developments.

The Allotment Project was discussed at the March 2009 meeting of the Parish Council and the following decisions/directives were made:

- Authority to spend funds on the project agreed.
- The primary site for the 32 Allotments would be Cove Road, Westwoodside.
- The initial contractual period for the Allotment land would be 5 years.
- The preferred contractual vehicle for the Allotment Land would be with the Allotment Association.
- The projected costings in the Allotment Business Plan were accepted.

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 2009 the Cove Road site was chosen and the contractual arrangements and 5 year period with Haxey Parish Council was agreed.

In July 2009 a Contractor was chosen to carry out the initial work on the Cove Road site.

The Allotment Association continued the development of its Constitution and agreement paperwork for individual Allotment and the Cove Road site was handed over to the Association on 3rd December 2009.

Since handover, the work on the site has been completed by the Contractor and, following sterling work by the Association and the Parish Council Clerk, a grant in excess of £14,000 has been awarded to the Association by LAG (North Lincolnshire Rural Local Action Group) for the provision of topsoil, raised beds and the laying of sleepers along the edges of the site roadways. This work has now been completed.

The allotment site is currently fully tenanted and Allotment Tenants are now hard at work taking advantage of the weather to start their growing season.

Close liaison between the Allotment Association and the Parish Council continues.

Cllr Smedley thanked Cllr Knowles who has been the driving force behind this project and the Clerk and commented on the tremendous asset the Parish now has.

Mr Carter mentioned the concerns which have been raised over the parking of cars on the verges along Cove Road. This Cllr Smedley replied was due to the contractor still being on site and the equipment taking up the car parking spaces. The contractor has now finished and the car parking facilities are fully available. The Allotment Association have been informed by the Parish Council of these concerns raised and will monitor the situation.

13. Judging Haxey Parish Council & Axholme Camera Club Photographic Competition 2010

Cllr Smedley thanked everyone for judging the competition and Mr George Fiddler announced the winners.

Camera Club category – Parry Jenkins, Westwoodside Pond Lights.

Adult category - Arthur Franks, Winter Sunshine

Youth category - Craig Neal, Butterflies

Junior category - Aislinn Chamber – Hey, My Dog Ella

The presentation of the prizes and trophies will take place at 6.45pm on 25th May prior to the Parish Council meeting.

14. To receive any other items of business from Parishioners

Mrs Anne Everratt thanked the Parish Council for receiving the resident of Low Burnham at the Parish Council meeting on 27th April and at tonight's Parish Meeting, they felt well received and supported. The main concerns regarding the proposed Camping and Caravanning site at Low Burnham was the access onto the A161 and if toilet and shower facilities were provided this could overload the already poor sewage system.

Deborah Smith – Low Burnham Village Centre Secretary informed the meeting that the vast majority of Low Burnham residents had sent letters to the Camping and Caravanning Club and have received letters back stating that in view of no objections being received from North Lincolnshire Council they would be upholding their original decision to proceed with the application.

The Clerk informed the meeting that a letter had been sent to the Camping and Caravanning Club that day and that a copy of that letter would be sent to the relevant people within North Lincolnshire Council the following morning.

Mrs Cowburn raised concerns over the increased traffic due to a Camping and Caravan site located down Turbary Road in Haxey Carr. Cllr Smedley stated that this had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council one week ago and that the Parish Council are currently investigating this concern.

Mr Eric Rowly expressed concerns about the number of planning application that are submitted in retrospect had increased and he felt this was wrong. This would be an item for the next Parish Council agenda.

Cllr Booth informed the meeting that a few years ago the Parish Council were called in to meet with North Lincolnshire Council Planning Department due to the amount of applications that were being objected too. This meeting was to ensure that the Parish Council were rejecting them for valid reasons. The Parish Council informed NLC that they had all undertaken the relevant Planning seminars and were well aware of the planning conditions that the applications had to fall into.

Mr Roy Grainger stated that residents neighbouring the Low Burnham proposed site had not been notified regarding this proposal and therefore the Camping and Caravanning Club were violating their own rules.

Mr Graham Caswell stated that he thought the Parish Plan was a waste of time as it did not stop the development of a caravan site at Low Burnham. The Parish Plan was again explained to Mr Caswell as being a plan for the future covering social, economic and environmental matters, not Development Planning.

Several conversations took place regarding the Low Burnham site and Deborah Smith explained that feeling are running very high.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

.....Chairman