

HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd May 2012 in the Memorial Hall, Haxey.

Present: Cllrs Allcock, Boor, Booth, Carlile, Cooke, Foreman, Harris, Knowles, Morris, Orton, Smedley & Whitehead and 8 residents.

Chairman: Cllr Knowles presided.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Lange, Lindley & Maw.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2011.

Mr Garner asked who approved the minutes from the 2010 Annual Meeting.

The 2010 minutes were proposed by Cllr Allcock and seconded by Cllr C Lindley.

It was resolved that the minutes from the Parish Meeting on 9th May 2011 were approved as a correct record.

Proposed by Cllr Allcock, seconded by Cllr Boor.

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 2012.

The Clerk informed the meeting of the Receipts and Payments, Bank Reconciliation and the Statement of Accounts in the Annual Return to the Parishioners who had been tabled copies prior to the meeting starting.

5. To receive the Parish Councils Chairman's Report

The report covered the period from 10th May 2011 to 22nd May 2012.

This report is available on the website and notice boards.

Cllr Allcock stated that there has been new 50mph signs placed on Doncaster Road near to Park drain along with speed cameras. The new speed signs to be publicized in the Arrow.

Cllr Allcock also informed the meeting that the Isle of Axholme Flood Risk Strategy has been completed by the Environment Agency and the Policy 4 has been allocated to the Isle along with a 1 in 100 Standard Protection policy on all water sources. The West Stockwith and Keadby pumping stations are also to remain open.

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

Cllr Smedley stated that the Parish Council are keen to continue entering the competition and have done well of the past few years.

Three years ago the parish won the competition, in 2010 the Best Kept War Memorial was won and last year the Best Kept Playing Fields was won by Westwoodside.

Cllr Smedley informed the meeting of the different categories and the comments that had been stated in each category - a copy of which is on the website. There will only be one judging this year which will be at the end of July. Article to be placed into the Arrow asking that residents help by keeping their properties and surrounding area tidy.

7. To receive a report from Humberside Police

Humberside Police were unable to attend. The Clerk read out a report received from Sgt Garlick which has also been placed onto the website.

2011 – 2012 has seen interesting times for the police force both nationally and locally.

There is much publicity about the savings which have to be made and the impact on both police forces, and police officers.

Within Humberside we have seen a reduction in our budget of 20%. With 90% of all outgoings going on people, it is inevitable that there will be a reduction in staff for the force and officer numbers have already reduced. Fortunately at this time and for the foreseeable future there is no planned reduction of staff within the neighbourhood team for the Isle of Axholme, and we retain 3 constables, 4 PCSO's and a sergeant. We have however seen a change in the management of North Lincolnshire with ourselves and Grimsby becoming the South Bank division. For Bobbies on the beat this makes little difference, however higher up the chain it means that we have just one Chief Superintendant (Dave Hilditch) for the whole of the South Bank, and shared responsibilities across the area for other senior officers, thus reducing the number of senior managers and providing savings.

In November 2012, PC Godley will retire from his role as neighbourhood beat officer for the North of the Isle, and a recruitment procedure is already underway to find his successor. Whoever is selected will certainly have a tough act to follow, as Graham's knowledge of the Isle is second to none.

Over the past year the team have dealt with a variety of incidents and events. Metal theft remains prevalent throughout the country and locally residents have suffered from the loss of phone lines and broadband connection.

The police have been working with partners and politicians to address the loopholes in the scrap industry and to abolish the outlets where criminals are able to sell the stolen metal.

The neighbourhood team have executed several drugs warrants across the Isle over the past year, recovering drugs, cash and equipment used in the production of cannabis. We have also engaged with the community and via the Neighbourhood action teams, tackled problems which are affecting local residents the most. An example of this is the work completed in Wroot around Christmas 2011, where many of the community became victims of thefts and burglaries of both their houses and outbuildings. Initially police resources were increased in the area, and then partners from Safer Neighbourhoods assisted with setting up a Neighbourhood watch group, which is now running successfully.

PC Starbuck remains proactive in engaging with young people through the schools and has also assisted in the introduction of the 'flying high project' where young people are introduced to pigeon racing. She successfully runs a local pub watch scheme as well as being the local officer involved in Country watch.

The coming year will continue to present challenges as the police service adapts to major changes brought about by Winsor, Hutton and Neyroud reviews, however locally we will continue to remain visible and accessible within the community we police.

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 stated that it was a pity they have not attended the meeting for the past 3 years as they need to know what the community are saying.

The Police Panel meetings have now been disbanded which looked at broader policing policies whereas the NATs just deal with local issues.

Cllr Booth pointed out that due to the lack of public response in attending this meeting it may be worth just inviting the police to attend a normal Parish Council meeting once a year and / or a combined Isle meeting.

Cllr Booth also stated that she had used the new 101 number and was very pleased with the response received.

Cllr Allcock stated that he attends the NATs meeting along with Cllr Eckhardt and the police for this area have done well with regard to the recent cutbacks.

The NATs are trying to encourage local Neighbourhood Watch Groups to be active to which Cllr Knowles stated that this was part of the Parish Plan actions too.

Cllr Eckhardt explained that 10 years ago when he was on the Parish Council representatives from the police used to attend the Parish Council meetings but this was taking up a lot of valuable police time visiting all the parishes each month.

Cllr Carlile also pointed out that there was no press present either.

8. To receive an update report on the Parish Plan

Cllr Smedley and Cllr Knowles among others have been involved in the publication of the Parish Plan which was well received at NLC.

Neighbourhood Plans (NHP) have now been introduced from the new Localism Act which is larger than a Parish Plan and therefore would need more community input and involvement and would also be quite costly.

The Parish Plan deals with more minor type issues that the community can have an impact on and responsibilities have now passed to the Parish Council from the Parish Plan Action Group to continue with the outstanding actions of which ½ are completed.

Cllr Smedley will lead from the Parish Council and again residents will be invited to have their say and input. The first meeting will commence in September - a date is yet to be arranged. Information was placed into the last Arrow but unfortunately did not all print out so it will be in this month's Arrow again and hopefully some volunteers will come forward.

Mrs Linnegar asked if the Parish Council had considered NHP's and that if there was one within the village it would put the power back into the community.

This will be an agenda item for the June meeting.

Cllr Allcock stated that Chris Barwell of NLC would be willing to give a presentation to the Parish Council on NHP's.

Cllr Carlile stated that an excellent Plan had been produced and as the Government had now moved on then so should the parish.

The Parish Plan does not carry any weight within the local authority were as the NHP is to be a Statutory document which falls under the NLC Local Plan.

Cllr Booth stated that the general apathy in the parish is evident in the amount of parishioners attending the Annual Parish Meeting and to complete a NHP the community would have to drive the plan.

Cllr Knowles also commented that the majority of the work completed in the Parish Plan was done by non Parish

Council members.

9. To receive any other items of business from Parishioners

Mrs Linnegar introduced herself as a resident of Graizelound for the past 30 years and explained that as a resident she did not have access to gas and her home was run on oil. Along with many residents she had concerns about the growing cost of the oil and had started looking into Community Fuel Projects within the area.

There are small village co-operatives which bulk buy oil making savings. The co-operatives are run by parish volunteers who rings around to get the best price on deals for bulk amounts of oil - each resident states how much oil they require and then on delivery pay directly to the supplier.

Humber Wolds Rural Community Council (HWRCC) provide support to the co-operatives offering advice.

Some of the larger schemes (Community Links) charge a membership fee, for example their nearest one to Haxey is at Sleaford and the membership fee is £20 with the co-ordinator receiving free membership covering their costs for administration.

The savings are dependent on how many are in the co-operative, but could be in the region of £20-30 for each refill and there would also be a reduction in the amount of tankers coming into the parish.

Mrs Linnegar to write an article to be placed into the Arrow publicising the scheme and asking for anyone interested to contact Mrs Linnegar and then a meeting to be arranged to discuss in more detail.

Clerk to pass details of the Owston Ferry Parish Clerk to Mrs Linnegar.

Mrs Gould expressed concerns regarding the demolition of the homes at Hallcroft Close.

She stated that current residents had been offered decorating, new carpets and curtains and removal costs paid if they moved into alternative accommodation.

No one outside the complex had been informed and she believed that elderly residence within the parish was a requirement and why are they allowed to do this?

Cllr Knowles stated that the Parish Council and the local Ward Cllrs are aware of this and the item has been discussed at the last Parish Council meeting. Both Cllrs Allcock and Eckhardt had attended the Hallcroft Close meeting along with several Parish Cllrs.

Cllr Knowles stated that North Lincolnshire Homes who own the properties is a commercial business.

Cllr Eckhardt stated that the transfer of the housing stock took place in 2006 due to the policy of the last Government which encouraged Councils to do this as they did not have enough money to keep the properties up to standards required and also to reduce public borrowing.

Cllr Booth stated that a further survey will be carried out in the parish to determine what accommodation is required.

It was stated that planning permission has still got to be applied for.

Cllr Carlile asked if the Epworth Bells could be given information of both these items for publication.

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.

Cllr Smedley announced the winners.

Camera Club category - Mr George Fidler

Adult category - Mrs Janice Bullock

Youth category - Craig Neal

Junior category - no entries received.

The presentation of the prizes and trophies will take place at 6.45pm on Tuesday 26th June prior to the Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

.....Chairman