

HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Friday 29th May, 2015 at The Foreman Carter Centre, Westwoodside.

Present: Cllrs Allcock, Carlile, Cooke, Foreman, Knowles, Morris, Smedley & Whitehead, Cllr David Rose and 4 residents.

Chairman: Cllr Knowles presided.

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Booth, Lange, Lindley, Harris & Orton.

2. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th May, 2014.**

It was resolved that the minutes from the Parish Meeting on 7th May, 2014 were approved as a true and correct record with the agreed addition to the apologies for absence.

Proposed by Cllr Allcock, seconded by Cllr Foreman. 12 for with 1 abstention.

3. **To receive any matters arising from the last meeting**

No further matters raised.

4. **To receive details of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015.**

The Clerk informed the meeting of the Receipts and Payments, Bank Reconciliation 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 May 2014 to April 2015.

This report is available on the website and notice boards.

No further issues were raised on the Chairman's Report.

6. **To receive a report from Humberside Police.**

Once the report is received a copy will be placed onto the website and the notice boards.

7. **To receive an update report on the Foreman Carter Centre**

Richard Carter, Chairman of the Westwoodside Playing Field Association Management group provided a report for the meeting.

2014 was yet another major step forward in the development of the playing field and the newly named Foreman-Carter Centre:

- The extensions to the main function room and committee room were completed and many thanks to Cllrs Carlile, Cooke and Foreman for overseeing the works! The extensions have made both rooms much easier to hire out as the increase in room size has meant they can be used for many more types of meetings, classes and other events.
- Also, the security of the building was dramatically improved by the additions of CCTV cameras, a building alarm system, much improved lighting and the gate and fence in front of the main door.
- The car park and lane were re-surfaced and streetlights added down the main drive, all improving access to what used to be a very dark and potentially dangerous site.
- A new Caretaker was found and a Handyman appointed which means the building is now kept clean and well-maintained (more thanks to Trev for the jobs he has done in between times)

So, the new building was formally opened on 26 August by our local MP, Andrew Percy.

These improvements could not have happened without a lot of commitment from all of the Committee members and my thanks go out to all who were involved.

As I said earlier, this has enabled us to secure some major bookings in 2014/15:

- The Pride of the Isle held their charity ball here for the first time in January and, not only was it a great success for them, (with Sheridan Smith in attendance) but it also improved the visibility of the field and the FC Centre and I believe it is planned to hold next year's event here again.
- Our single best customer by far has been Nichola's ENA Dance Class, sometimes with as many as 5 sessions a week, so hopefully she will continue with us over the coming years.
- On the football front, there have been 5 different junior and senior teams using the MUGA during the winter months and the Cosmic 5-a-side tournament is running all year round, plus there have been a number of private bookings. We have also had four 11-a-side football teams based here last season, including one girls' team, so the pitches have also been well used again this year.

Financial Position

Due mainly to the increase in rental income, the finances remain in good shape and at the end of the financial year; we had a credit balance of £4,604. This will allow us to continue to maintain and develop the site and have

the MUGA serviced twice a year (at an annual cost of £900! but this is essential due to the amount of usage it is now getting).

The major running cost continues to be the grass cutting but thanks to the Parish Council, the cost of cutting and litter clearance has continued to fall and has kept the site mainly in good order.

Only one real complaint received this year but unfortunately from a number of the local residents and it is regarding the bad language from the footballers and the smoking of illegal substances. The managers of the teams and the Cosmic league have all been requested to try to control this and the Police have been advised about the illegal smoking and have promised to be more visible at the site so that hopefully, this can be reduced, if not, eradicated.

Overall though, another very successful year that has again increased the number of people of all ages using the field and we have made some more drastic improvements to the facilities.

So, thanks again to Deb – Parish Clerk, Cllr David Knowles and everyone on the Committee for their efforts and thank you also to Ashley Haigh for keeping the website up to date as we are now receiving approaches to use the facilities via the website which can be found at: westwoodsidepfa.co.uk

8. To receive an introduction to the Volunteers Award Scheme

National Awards

Town and Parish Freemen

Individuals may enjoy special status in their local area in a variety of different ways. Such status can be by appointment, by conferment or by admission. Before the municipal reforms of 1835 there was a class of persons known as “freemen” in old corporate boroughs, enjoying special rights in the corporate property. The right to be admitted a freeman rested upon the custom of the borough, varied by the terms of its charter and, in certain cases, by local statutory provision.

Honorary titles (honorary freemen and freewomen)

After local government reorganisation in 1974, a number of local authorities were given the power to admit honorary aldermen and freemen. However, that power was not extended to parish councils in England or community councils in Wales. On 12 January 2010, the 2009 Act amended the provisions of the 1972 Act to enable all local councils to confer honorary titles. All local councils may exercise powers to confer the title of “honorary freeman” or “honorary freewoman” to persons of distinction and those who, in the council’s opinion, have rendered eminent services to the council’s area. Section 249(8) of the 1972 Act as amended provides that the admission of an honorary freeman or honorary freewoman must be by resolution made at a meeting of the full council specially convened for such purpose and passed by no less than two-thirds of the members of the council. Section 249 (9) of the 1972 Act as amended provides that a local council may spend a reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person on whom it has conferred the title of honorary freeman or honorary freewoman.

Whilst recognising that a National award above is available to Haxey Parish Council, it is considered to be an infrequent award, so, in late 2014, Haxey Parish Council discussed the possibility of making another annual award to residents who have made a significant contribution to the Parish. In order to progress the idea, the Volunteer Award Working Group was set up with the aim of setting up and advising the Full Council on the initiative and the Group met for the first time on 16 December 2014 and subsequently on 24 February 2015. The following decisions/recommendations were made at the meetings:

- a. There would be 2 awards: Haxey Parishioner of the year and Haxey Parish Group of the year.
- b. It was recommended that the scheme should commence at the Annual Parish meeting in May of each year.
- c. Recipients of the awards would receive a shield/certificate marking the award and that a larger shield should be displayed in the Parish Council Meeting Room recording the recipients and the year of the award.
- d. Both Parish Primary schools would be invited to design a logo and certificate heading depicting an historical Parish event or activity.
- e. The basic criteria for the awards would be:
 - (1) Nominees could either live or work in the Parish.
 - (2) The activity nominees are involved in should benefit the Parish in some form.

- (3) Further guidance on criteria would be published in due course; however, it was considered that Residents should have the maximum freedom of nomination.
- f. Publication of the Award Scheme would be through the Arrow, the Parish Council Website and Parish Notice Boards, commencing from the Annual Parish Meeting in May with further reminder publications in August and October. Following the October publication, proforma for Residents to complete would be made available on the Parish Council Website, public locations and through the Arrow. Non-electronic completed proforma would be returned to the Awards Working Group via FREEPOST.
- g. Nominations will close by 31 December; the Award Working Group will select recipients for ratification by the Full Parish Council at their February meeting.
- h. The winner will be formally announced at the Annual Parish Meeting when the presentation will be made.
- i. The scheme would commence in May 15 and if proven successful be continued each subsequent year.

Haxey Parish Council hopes that residents will support the above scheme which will commence later this year and enable deserving Parishioners to be recognised for any community work they carry out. Any comments would be welcome and should be made through the Clerk. A non supportive comment on the proposed scheme was made from the floor of the meeting.

9. To receive a report on the Isle of Axholme Hatfield Chase Partnership projects

Cllr Carlile described the 6 projects that the Parish Council had submitted for funding to the Partnership. He outlined some of the challenges in terms of costing the project and the differing needs the projects have. The projects themselves are as follows:-

Haxey Parish Mere Common Land and Mere Letting

To identify, protect, conserve and enhance the Meres and to retain the heritage of the Mere Letting Procedure for future generations. Funding would be used to carry out a full inventory of mere land; maintenance of the land to preserve it as common land and required administration and insurance to modernise the concept without degrading the heritage aspects. Formal recording and publication of the letting process.

Haxey Parish Awards Books & Maps

To access, protect, conserve and enhance the Awards Books and Maps which contain a history of the area back to the medieval times and to ensure they are maintained in a condition that will make them readily available to future generations of local residents and visitors and the National and International public.

Whilst some conservation work has been carried out, the complete Books and maps need to be digitised.

To make sure the books and maps remain in good condition and to make them available to the public for research, involving schools and other organisations for historical projects as a learning tool.

A display cabinet has been made and a map box from its own resources. The project would aim to provide a display area for the public to access and digitise the books and maps and in longer term make them available on the internet.

Haxey Parish Footpaths, Bridleways & Heritage Trail

To maintain, protect, enhance and update the recording of the footpaths, bridleways and heritage trail complex in Haxey parish which has been developed over many years and provides residents and visitors with the means of taking in the heritage of the parish and region. Providing suitable signs and gated security of the system and to ensure its suitability for disabled and able bodied users. Updating of the maps with heritage information for distribution to residents and visitors.

Haxey Parish Greenhill Monument

To protect, conserve and enhance Haxey Parish Greenhill Monument and retain the heritage of the monument for future generations. Protect the land known as Greenhill situated in the centre of Haxey which is surrounded by busy thoroughfares and currently undermining the status of the land. Installation of electricity to enable the monument to be floodlight as a focal point.

Haxey Pinfolds

To protect, enhance and maintain the pinfolds within Haxey parish including replacement of brickwork, control of weeds and creating acceptable environment and signage.

The Pinfolds are located in Low Burnham, Haxey, Westwoodside, East Lound & Graizelound.

The Parish Council did try to obtain funding for the Hood but the Partnership is unable to fund the purchase of land.

Cllr Allcock stated that due to illness the project did slow down but NLC is now keen to get the project up and running again.

10. To receive any other items of business from Parishioners

Mrs Young stated that she takes an interest in the local charities and was concerned about the Combined and Endowed School public access to the accounts.

Mrs Young believes that these monies should be used to help with projects within the parish such as upgrading of footpaths.

Cllr Knowles stated that the Parish Council have no influence over the charities other than having representatives on the charities and he too saw no reason why the accounts could not be published and this was raised at the last meeting he had attended.

The Secretary had written to Mrs Young with regard to her concerns and she was to write back stating what she required and this would be presented to the Trustees for consideration.

Cllr Knowles stated that the Governance states that the capital could not be spent; only the interest, to which Mrs Young stated the Charity Commission, encourages charities to update Governance if so required. Cllr Knowles stated that this would have to be agreed by the majority of Trustees if changes were required.

Cllr Allcock add that NLC do their best with regard to the maintenance of footpaths and that he was on a Local Access Forum Group which upgraded some of the footpaths in Scunthorpe and he would look into this for the parish.

11. Judging Haxey Parish Council & Axholme Camera Club Photographic Competition 2015

Cllr Smedley thanked everyone for judging the competition and the Camera Club for assisting with the competition.

Cllr Smedley announced the winners.

Camera Club category - George Fiddler

Adult category - Arthur Franks

Youth category - Mitch Dunbar

Junior category - Charlie Thorpe

The presentation of the prizes and trophies will take place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23rd June, 2015 prior to the Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.