

10 May 18

HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FUTURE PLANS

The aim of this report is to provide a summary of the work carried out by the Parish Council over the past financial year and highlight any plans for the coming year.

First, acknowledgements: this year has seen the retirement from the Council of Stan Boor and Don Lange. Both were presented with mementos marking their work for the Council over the many years they both served. Cllr Jerry Henwood was co-opted to the Parish Council in Oct 17 and the remaining vacant position will be filled by co-option by the end of July. Following on from last year's report, memorials have been established in the Parish for William Eckhardt, Carole Moyle and Marilyn Henwood. The Community will be aware that the Vice-Chair, Cllr David Harris, was taken seriously ill last year. Whilst he is still undergoing treatment, he remains a Member of the Council receiving periodic updates on local activity. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to his return in due course

Moving on to Council business. Reflecting the current national situation following the global financial upheavals of some 10 years ago, the Parish Council this year (2018/19) resolved to increase the annual precept to £42,000, an increase of £2000, which should ensure that the current Reserves can be maintained. Also, this year, the Principal Authority increased the Community Charge by 2% as authorised by National Government, again to be spent predominantly on community welfare and social issues.

The Parish Council's workload has continued to increase over the past year. Planning matters, including enforcement reporting, Parish Land Management, general Parish maintenance management and issues raised by Parishioners continue to be dealt with on a day to day basis by the Parish Council Clerk in consultation with the Chairman, and the various Committees and Working Groups set up by the Council; moreover, there continues to be significant Councillor representation at local and County organisations such as the Local Police Forums, Haxey Combined Charities and Endowed School Estates, the Governing Bodies of local Primary Schools and village amenities, the East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils Association (ERNLLCA), Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the North East Bassetlaw Community Liaison Group, CPRE, Walkers are Welcome and in the governance as Sole Trustee of Westwoodside Playing Fields Association (WPFA).

Day to day communication with all elements of North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) has been maintained and in some areas increased and the benefit of one of our Ward Councillors also serving as a Parish Councillor has continued the improvement in relationships between NLC and the Parish and the

reaction time to emerging issues. Major consultations have included commenting where applicable on local area environmental and mineral plans and projects, Doncaster/Sheffield Airport plans out to 2037, the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Consultation and NLC Licensing policy, the North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management initiative and local Drainage Board activities. The Council has continued its involvement in potential Hydro Carbon activity in the Parish with the standing agenda item to ensure we are kept up to date on events. Activity has recently increased in the Misson area and Cllr Fiddler continues to represent the Council on its' Community Liaison Group. Information on this issue is recorded in the minutes of the monthly Parish Council meetings and Information Updates section, which are published on the Parish Council website. In addition, Friends of the Earth have submitted 2 Freedom of Information requests on any dealings the Council may have had with "Fracking" associated companies. A response has been provided.

The Parish Council has maintained a generally good working relationship with NLC Planning Members and Officers. Disappointingly, there have been limited conclusions to the potentially troublesome planning issues discussed at monthly meetings as standing agenda items. These include the Low Burnham garage, Clampit Creek, recently renamed Willow Fields, and Walkabout Farm, various issues at Haxey Carr, caravans at Tindale Bank, East Lound and Langholme Lane and the continued major concern of the establishment of so-called "Children's homes" from out of area organisations at residential accommodation in Haxey and Low Burnham. Both of these "homes" have continued to operate while the various administrative processes and "legal" planning avenues have continued to try and gain licences or change of use for the buildings. This year, we have again seen a large volume of planning applications. During 2017/18 (May to April), the Parish Council considered a total of 65 Planning Applications of which 35 were passed with or without comment and the Council objected to 30. The Principal Authority agreed with the Parish Council's objection on 10 applications, overruled the Parish Council in 4 cases and to date, 16 have yet to be decided. Last year 8 applications went to appeal, resulting in 3 being dismissed and 1 appeal so far being allowed. Of particular note this year has been the recent application to demolish the Duke William Public House in Haxey and build houses on the site, which was subsequently withdrawn. This plan caused considerable concern from elements of the Community and resulted in a Public Meeting attended by over 200 Residents and representatives from Local Government. An amended Planning Application for the site is believed to be imminent. The Parish Council has registered the Duke William with NLC as an Asset of Community Value and is in the process of registering both the Carpenter's Arms and Kings Arms. We have continued the practice of dedicating a period before each monthly Council Meeting for the public to raise matters with the Parish Council. Subjects this last year have included specific Planning Applications, predominantly the Children's homes, Low Burham Garage the establishment of the Community Youth Hub in Haxey and the Duke William development. Dog fouling came up again and

local parking, policing and traffic issues including, specifically, Haxey Carr, Newbigg and Haxey Primary School. Parishioners are encouraged to continue to use these opportunities to express their views to the Council.

The Foreman Carter Centre and Parish Council Headquarters continues to function satisfactorily as a sports and cultural facility. This year, with the help of a grant from NLC, the main Function Room has been upgraded with a wooden floor and the Meeting Room carpet has been replaced. The heating system has been upgraded with a remote control function, the security surveillance system has also been upgraded and to ultimately save money, plans are in hand to replace the lighting in the building and the Multi-Use Games Area with LED systems. The Parish Council again wishes to thank Richard Carter, his Management Committee and the Parish Clerk for their continued hard work and stewardship of the Westwoodside Playing Fields Association on their behalf as Sole Trustees.

Notable infrastructure events this last year were the completion of the improvement to the car parking at Haxey School, although traffic issue solutions are still to be finalised. The Council continues to be involved in investigations into solutions to the reduction of traffic/parking problems at Newbigg in Westwoodside and also continues the dialogue with NLC for the replacement of all the Parish Village and Hamlet signs which has unfortunately been delayed. The Westwoodside Pond has had a risk assessment carried out on it and been provided with a lifebelt for use in any emergency and the Council has provided more dog bins following requests from Residents. Through the Principal Authority, the flooding at Burrells Corner has hopefully been rectified and there has been road resurfacing work on Cove Rd, Brethergate and Haxey Main Street, plus considerable activity on the repairing of potholes. Finally, the Council has had meetings with Humberside Police and NLC Departments covering several Parish related issues and we aim to maintain this forum for the coming year.

Liaison with the Haxey Parish Allotment Association has continued over the last year. Cllr Rose and his Wife judged the Association's annual "best kept plot" competitions and despite a break-in to the Allotment container and the loss some of their equipment, the Association remains in good heart and last Sep organised an inaugural annual BBQ. In the St Nicholas Closed Churchyard, the tree and memorial surveys remain up to date and the Council is organising the refurbishment of the Lych-gate. Negotiations are underway with the Parochial Church Council on the potential provision of extra burial plots following the demolition of the Scout Hut and the move of the Scouts to the Youth Hub in Haxey. The Parish Cemetery on Church Lane has continued to be maintained and the commissioning of the cemetery and raising of the necessary administrative paperwork will be completed when required. The Parish Council Beacon Project has been successfully completed with the erection of the refurbished beacon and shield to the East of the Water Tower. Preparations are in hand for the first formal use of the beacon during the coming November Remembrance activities. The Parish

Council wishes to thank Jones Engineering for their work and support in completing this project. This year the Council has re-let one of its parcels of land to a local Resident on a Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) contract and following the mandated processes, Parish land rent has been increased by 5%.

This last year has seen the Parish Council involved in the Tour of Britain Cycle Race, which resulted in Haxey being awarded the Best Decorated Village Trophy by NLC and to mark the event, the Council has arranged for the fixing of 2 of the painted bikes to the Public Convenience building in Haxey.

The Parish Council has continued to be actively involved in the nationally supported Isle of Axholme, Hatfield Chase Project, which aims to preserve the local heritage and natural assets of our area. We currently have several local schemes in the Project which is now funded. We have made progress on the publication of the Parish Archive, the general East Lound Pinfold refurbishment has been completed and in the coming financial year our attention will turn to upgrading the floor of the Lound Pinfold and the refurbishment of the Pinfold in Haxey. FP 100 has finally been repaired and the War Memorial at Burrells Corner has now been designated Grade 2 listed. The project for the refurbishment/cleaning of this and the War Memorial in the Churchyard is being progressed. Other projects will be taken forward in due course. The Parish Paths Working Group under the Chairmanship of Cllr Smedley and supported by the Clerk to the Council has successfully managed its' second season's Paths and Bridleways maintenance and the Council has recently let the contract for the coming season's grass cutting. NLC has advised us that Haxey Parish Paths were the best maintained in North Lincolnshire. The Parish Council has recently joined a NLC pilot scheme to manage elements of further grass cutting tasks in the Parish and we have again recently awarded the contract to a local firm. The Council Planting Group has continued its good work with its aim of improving the year round look of the Parish. Through the NLC "In Bloom" initiative, we have received a grant for the purchase of equipment for the display of plants and work continues to develop and maintain the displays. The Council wishes to acknowledge the hard work of Mr Steve Coggan who has taken on the setting up and maintenance of the Parish planting project displays.

The Parish Council Web site continues to develop satisfactorily and we have registered with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) for their Local Councils Awards Scheme and we will be undergoing an assessment for Foundation Status in the near future. On the training front, the Council resolved to carry out relevant training packages locally rather than travelling for the whole Council and we continue to work to put this decision into action. Last year the Clerk and some Councillors received training in Councillors Financial Responsibilities, Code of Conduct and attended the Local Council Association's Annual Conference. The Parish Council has continued to support the CPRE's Best Kept Village Competitions and although we again failed to win the last

competition, we do appear to be making progress following the efforts of the Planting Group.

During the last year, the Parish Council has provided financial support to the Royal British Legion, CPRE, Isle of Axholme Physically Handicapped Society, Westwoodside and Haxey Playing Fields, Haxey Tennis Club, Westwoodside Village Hall, East Lound Christmas Lights Committee, South Axholme Academy Music Department, St Nicholas Church, the Community Specialist Nursing Team and the Over 70s Party; moreover, the Parish Council paid NLC and various local contractors for work carried out on its behalf as well as to its internal and external auditors, Insurers, SLCC and ERNLLCA. Other administrative tasks completed included the adoption of a Council Reserves Policy and preparation for the General Data Protection Regulations, which will come into law on 25 May. The Council has once again fully supported the annual Over 70's party, which continues to be ably organised by Jennie Ekhardt, to whom the Council once again passes on their sincere thanks. The Council again marked the annual Remembrance Day commemoration with a well attended "parade", including both schools at the Haxey Memorial on 10th of the 11th 2017 and attendance at the Church Service on the following Sunday. Both events were supported for the seventh year by a local Bugler. Finally, the Council resolved not to run the Annual Photographic Competition for the current year. The Parish Council will carry on the work with plans in progress, particularly with the Isle of Axholme, Hatfield Chase project, the management of the Parish Paths and Bridleways initiative and the NLC pilot grass cutting project. We will continue with direct involvement with Residents and the Principal Authority on any planning applications and parking and traffic initiatives that emerge to remedy issues at several sites in the Parish. Moreover, we will continue to develop our relationships with the Principal Authority on all fronts and also keep abreast of any developments in national legislation aimed at greater devolution.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

QUESTIONS