

Haxey Parish Council Newsletter – June 2018

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HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

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, including 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. 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. 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

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 improved and to ultimately save money, the lighting in the building has been replaced 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. 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 an 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. 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 many and varied organisations. 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 Eckhardt, 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. 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.

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.

Haxey Annual Parish Meeting Minutes 21st May, 2018

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Carter, Cllrs Booth, Harris, Foreman, Lindley & Smedley.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May, 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes from the Parish Meeting on 22nd May, 2017 were approved as a true and correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Allcock, seconded: Cllr Whitehead. All in favour.**

3. To receive any matters arising from the last meeting

No issues raised.

4. To receive details of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018.

The Clerk informed the meeting of the Receipts and Payments and Bank Reconciliation, copies of which had been tabled prior to the meeting starting.

Cllr Knowles stated the only issue raised this year on the finance was the rules for claiming back VAT for car mileage. On obtaining information from ERNLLCA, the HMRC website and the Internal Auditor it was agreed not to claim the VAT which only equates to approximately £30-£40pa.

5. To receive the Parish Councils Chairman's Report

The report is detailed above.

6. To receive a report from Humberside Police.

It was hoped that there would be police attendance to the meeting but a report had been received from PCSO Dye as follows.

Stats figures were provided by PCSCO Dye and are detailed below.

Crimes	May 16-April 17	May 17-April 18	% +/-
All offences	227	253	+11.5
Burglary	61	60	-1.6
Criminal damage	27	29	-7.4
Drug offences	3	1	-66.7
Shop theft	5	5	0
Sexual offences	14	14	+250
Theft from motor vehicle	18	21	+16.7
Theft of motor vehicle	4	8	100
Theft including vehicle and shop theft	40	29	-27.5
Violence against the person	55	47	-14.5
Anti-social behaviour	33	39	+18.2

Several comments were made with regard to the police not attending again this year and it was agreed to write a formal letter expressing disappointment. Cllr Carlile stated that the nature of policing has changed and has moved to hot spots and not gathering local information which has been provided on local issues but no positive results.

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

Richard Carter, Chairman of the Westwoodside Playing Field Association Management group had provided a report for the meeting which Cllr Knowles read out:

This is the 47th year of Westwoodside Playing Field Association and my 13th report as Chairman. Once again, this year, the Playing Field Management Committee have been very active and have made further improvements to the facilities at the site.

- **Facilities**

- **Main Function Room & Committee Room** - ENA Dance group continue to be our biggest user inside the Centre with 3 sessions a week and we have now had a proper hard floor laid in the main function room which provides a better surface for the dance class and is easier to clean. Many thanks to Deb, the Parish Clerk for all her work in obtaining grants for the floor and other much needed improvements.

There have also been 14 private bookings in the 2 rooms which is a significant increase on last year. However, for the first time in my tenure, we have had to make a slight increase to facility hire rates as costs are now exceeding rental income.

- **Lighting and Heating** - To counteract recent and proposed energy price rises, the PFA has had all of the traditional and expensive strip lighting replaced with more economical LED lights throughout the building to help reduce our running costs, We have also recently had remote thermostats installed in both main rooms so that the heating can be controlled by mobile phone without having to be on site. This not only to makes the rooms more comfortable for current users, it is also hoped that it will encourage more groups to use the facility for e.g. Yoga, Pilates etc, who need the room to be warm before they start their sessions.
- **Sports Court & Football Pitches** - The MUGA facility continues to be used regularly by two teams for 5 a side football during the Winter months but we now only have 1 team currently using the football pitch at weekends.
- **Site Matters**
- **Track and Car Park** - The car park and lane have again been re-surfaced but, as with most roads, the lane did suffer from a number of potholes but we have filled these in again and we have also erected speed restriction signs and other signage at both entrances.
- **Security of the Site** - The Centre now has good external lighting; CCTV & the building is alarmed with mobile alerts for potential break-ins
- **Dogs & Litter** - We have had problems with people exercising their dogs on the field and new large signs have been erected banning this activity.
Litter is a problem everywhere in the country with new initiatives to reduce plastics and the site is no exception but the new bins and collections by NLC have definitely improved the situation.

- **Site Maintenance** - Maintenance of the site continues to be the largest expenditure item and many thanks to Haxey Parish Council for continuing to award the annual grant, without which it would be very difficult to meet our outgoings. Also, the playing field Committee have again been very active in maintaining the FC Centre & other site equipment to keep this bill to a minimum.

Finally, thanks again to all the Committee as the site continues to improve each year and is now used large numbers of people each year from the villages of Westwoodside and Haxey and is thought by many as one of the best in the area.

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

The main update to the projects was included in the Chairman's Report.

Cllr Knowles added that all the awards and books have been digitised and put onto a CD. The group was now working on getting this information more accessible to parishioners and available on the www.

The East Lound pinfold had undergone some major renovation and now into the new financial year the floor can be looked at again with the assistance of further grant funding. The other projects will be looked at too including disabled access to the parish paths and bridleways.

There is also a grant application bending to have the Soldier War Memorial and Sundial within the churchyard cleaned in time for the November celebrations.

9. To receive any other items of business from Parishioners

Mr Garner asked the following questions/made the following statements: -

- The minutes of May 4th 2010, 52 residents attended the APM. 2011 onwards there was a difference in the agenda and in attendance. The agenda changes were in the interests of clarity and efficiency and attendance is outside of the direct control of the APM.
- A copy of the Internal Audit was requested – the Clerk to provide one at the May meeting on 22nd May.
- The Chairman or whoever ticked box 7 on the Annual Governance & Accountability Return to be careful when selecting from the options.
Box 7 on the Annual Governance section 1 relates to 'respond to matters brought to its attention by internal and external auditor. The Clerk and Council ensure that any matters raising are investigated and rectified.
- Cllrs to be careful when resolving item 49 on the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council with regard to the following issue:
To resolve that this Council utilizes its powers under the Local Government Act 1972, section 101, to devolve to the Clerk the authority to make decisions on planning applications where:
 - a. The application falls between meetings and it is not possible to obtain from the Planning Authority an extension of time to consider the matter; and
 - b. The Chairman is unavailable to convene an extra-ordinary meeting or particular circumstances are such that the convening of an extra-ordinary meeting is impractical.
 In both circumstances the Clerk shall have authority to respond on the Council's behalf, taking into account the Local Plan; the content of any planning policies; community plan or Neighbourhood Plan adopted by the council; and precedent. Moreover, where it is practicable, the Clerk is to contact ALL Councillors to confirm they are content with the response to the specific Planning Application requiring this action.
This authority will not apply to applications where there are known objections by neighbours; multiple housing development; and new land allocations. These comments were noted.
- The minutes of the monthly meeting from 2014 are signed differently and the Internal Auditor should have picked this up. From 2014 after the Clerk attended training sessions the minutes of the meeting were signed on each page. Administrative and procedural changes occur to ensure that the Parish Council are working effectively.
- Is the telephone number ex-directory and can it be added to the Telephone Directory? This will be investigated with BT although the number is advertised on various websites, notice boards, local magazines.

Over 70's Party 2018

The oldest man and lady being presented gifts from Cllr Ron Allcock representing Haxey Parish Council.



Cllr Ron Allcock & Mrs Faith Pearson



Cllr Ron Allcock & Mr Stan Boor



Organiser Jennie Eckhardt on the left receiving a bouquet of flower from Cllr Ron Allcock on behalf of the Parish Council and also receiving a bouquet is Mrs Stephanie Green (Rev Greens wife)