

Chairman Report 2025

The aim of this report is to provide a summary of the work carried out by Haxey Parish Council over the past financial year.

The Parish Council's workload has been maintained with fulfilling legislative requirements, planning matters, including enforcement reporting and monitoring, Parish Land Management, general Parish maintenance management and where appropriate, retention of local services. 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, which are all described on the Parish Council website. The Council has not increased the precept again & remains at just under £40,000.

The Council continues its significant presence & membership of Local Police Forums, Haxey Combined and Endowed School Estates charities, the Governing bodies of local Primary Schools and village amenities, the East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils Association (ERNLLCA), Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Haxey Parish Community Support Group, CPRE and as the Sole Trustee of Westwoodside Playing Fields Association (WPFA).

The Planning Committee meets on a monthly basis, the Parish Council has maintained its' good working relationship with NLC Planning Members and Officers, however, the problems with enforcement action continue and in the Council's view, inconsistencies still remain in the granting of some planning applications. We continue to receive many more planning applications than a lot of Parishes in North Lincs.

We have continued the practice of dedicating a period of 15 minutes before each monthly Parish Council Meeting for the public to raise matters with the Council, in general this seems to work quite successfully.

The Council have financially supported the 2025 Over 70's Party & Haxey & Westwoodside Bowls Club, Haxey Tennis Club, WWS Pond Lights, the Crafty Ladies & we continue to support the annual Armistice Remembrance Parades

along with St Nicholas Church, military veterans organisations & uniformed groups & schools, which continues to be very well supported at all age levels.

Greenhill

After many years of trying, the Greenhill was finally lit up for Christmas & I think even the naysayers of the Parish must admit how splendid it looked.

Power supply in parts of the Parish unfortunately remain inconsistent since January, representations have been made to Powergen & our local MP who is well on the case, Powergen say they are investing £1m in strengthening the supply in trying to limit future power cuts.

Stagecoach v Bus Shelter

After months, the Bus shelter outside the CO-OP has been replaced, unfortunately it is smaller than the previous one & we have asked NLC to provide one of the same size.

Westwoodside Pond

A meeting was held on 17th February with attendance by NLC Lead Officer Highway Operations, Mick Johnson, NLC Leader Rob Waltham, Cllrs Steers, Parkin & Holgate and Ward Cllr Kennedy. The Highway Officer stated that there is a proposed scheme to alter the drainage system to stop any water and contamination going into the pond. The pollution isn't serious or putting any wildlife or people at risk.

Vacancy

Unfortunately Coun Rowbotham resigned at the end of last year & no election was called & so the council has asked for submissions, from Parishioners interested in becoming a Councillor, to be lodged with the Clerk by the 30 April, to be considered for co-option at the May meeting.

WWPFMC

The Parish Council again wishes to thank Michael Fenlon under the tutelage of former chair, Richard Carter, and the Management Committee along with the Parish Council Clerk for their continued hard work and stewardship of the Foreman Carter Centre and the WPFA on the Council's behalf as Sole Trustees. Mr Carter will retire at the next WWPFMC AGM after 19 years in post, & a huge vote of thanks must go to him, for his dedicated service throughout that time.

Grasscutting

The Council has continued with the NLC “pilot” grass cutting initiative and is responsible for the management of local contractors to carry out the work. We also continue to manage the contract for neighbouring Epworth & West Butterwick Council’s grass cutting, which is ably & very efficiently administered by our Clerk.

Turbary Road

After several meetings & consultations with residents & NLC, an agreement was reached to improve the road surface at the Turbary, for the time at least we have some kind of resolution. Thanks to the negotiating skills of Coun David Harris, a very good wayleave agreement was reached with broadband providers Quickline, to enable the installation of their infrastructure to supply the residents with broadband, which I understand is in the process of being enabled.

VE Day 8 May 2025

There will be a parade and a beacon will once again be lit to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of hostilities in 1945,

Handyman

Last year the Council’s handyman Grahame Backhouse had retired, I am very glad to inform you that he changed his mind & now continues his very extensive & much appreciated work throughout the Parish.

Dr Dyson’s Garden

Work has substantially been completed on the renovation of the Dr Dyson Memorial Garden, after it had declined into a rather sorry state and now looks in first class condition again. Thanks go to the working party, contractors, Haxey & Westwoodside WI & Coneygarth Nursery for some of the seasonal decorations.

Parking

The Council continues its involvement with the Principal Authority and the community to improve traffic and parking in the Parish, unfortunately the problems in Church St/High St/Low St parking remain unresolved, we have been unable to arrange an evening meeting to progress the scheme put forward

by NLC, due to the lack of availability of a suitable officer, to answer questions about the scheme. We will be arranging a suitable meeting for late afternoon, later in the year.

Phone Box

After reaching an agreement with BT Telecom, the disused phone box in Low Street now has a defibrillator installed, there are now several distributed throughout the Parish.

CPRE Best Kept Village

Excellent results!

Small Village - 1st Low Burnham & 3rd Eastlound

Large Village - 1st Westwoodside, 3rd Haxey

Best Community Planting

Small Village - Low Burnham

Large Village - Westwoodside

This was due to the sterling work from the Council's Planting Group & the residents pride in the place where they live. We continue to enter & hope to improve on this year's excellent results.

NLC Governance Review

NLC were required by government to undertake a Local Governance review of Parish Councils, which quite frankly, was a dog's breakfast of a review, poorly administered, with abysmal consultation & a nonsensical outcome for Haxey Parish. The Council has always had 15 members, now with the population & housing increase over the past decades of probably about 40%, NLC in their wisdom decided we should reduce to 11. After representation from us & local members, they arrived at 13, & out of the blue, decided we should be warded, at no point during the exercise was this ever mentioned. So we end up with 13 councillors, 6 from Westwoodside, 5 from Haxey & 2 from Burnham, Eastlound & Graizelound. The status quo was never considered, which in my opinion should have been the logical outcome.

Members of the Council & the Clerk continue to attend various training events, mainly supplied by ERNLLCA, to improve & enhance their roles, ensuring the Council has the latest information & best current practice, to ensure the Council can function as effectively as possible, in what is inevitably becoming, a more

complicated local government environment.

At the last count the Council had representatives on 15 outside bodies, 13 committee's, working groups or working parties, & had 21 policies & procedures in place, all of which must be under constant review.

I would personally like to acknowledge the hard work & dedication of all Parish Councillors and to thank the Vice Chair, Ward Councillors, who regularly attend our meetings, for all their support, and a special mention must go to our Clerk for her first class work & knowledge & not inconsiderable efforts to still keep us legal & on the straight & narrow.