

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 Finance Committee recommended that the precept for 2024/25 should again remain at £40,000. The Full Parish Council has adopted the Finance Committee's recommendations of no increase in the precept for the 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 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 of the Council now have executive powers, with complete terms of reference & meets on a monthly basis, and on the whole the system has worked very well. 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, some inconsistency in the granting of some planning applications still remain. 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 is used with limited success.

Since the election on 4 May & the resignation of Coun Layton earlier in the year, the Council have 6 new members, a big change of personnel, they have settled in to their roles with relative ease, perhaps some with more ease than others.

The Parish Council again wishes to thank Richard Carter, and his 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.

The Council continues its involvement with the Principal Authority and the community to improve traffic and parking problems in the Parish. & unfortunately several persist & remain unresolved, A161 speeding, accidents at the A161/Akeferry Rd junction, Church St/High St/Low St parking.

A public meeting was called by HPC regarding the parking problems, with a NLC highways officer, which was well attended & produced a frank exchange of views & ideas. We await the report from NLC which will hopefully give us a resolution to the problem, if necessary another public meeting will be called. NLC continue to monitor the A161/Graizelound Cross roads problems and again we wait for further responses from NLC highways.

After the demolition of the bus shelter outside the CO-OP, by, ironically a bus, it was taken away by NLC & we are still awaiting a resolution to the replacement by the insurance company, which should happen in the next few weeks.

Good news at last regarding the power supply to the Greenhill, after several meetings with various NLC officers & others, NLC are to supply a power source later in the year, after installation this will be taken over by the Parish Council. Maybe there will be a Christmas tree and or lighting at last on the Greenhill, it's only take about 8 years to happen!

Work to renovate the Dr Dyson Memorial garden continues with tender notices and expressions of interest to undertake the work are with interested parties at the moment.

The problems with surface drainage water & the potential polluting of Westwoodside pond continue. A meeting with relevant NLC officer was undertaken, and again we wait for a report to be forthcoming as to the way forward. Meanwhile, several samples of the silt around the pond have been taken & sent away for analysis, to ascertain the level of pollution that may be occurring in the pond, the result of the analysis will probably determine how and if silt can be removed from the pond.

Support of the Haxey Parish Allotment Association has continued, and the site is fully utilised and operating normally.

The Military Memorial Working Group has completed it's work and the Halifax Memorial has been erected in the Haxey Pinfold along with the information board. A very successful dedication & opening ceremony was held on the 22 September, attended by relatives of the aircrews involved & many members of the uniformed services. This was a very well attended event that had considerable media coverage, via newspapers, radio & TV, many thanks to all the members of the group involved.

There is a Council, 80th anniversary celebration of D Day working group, along with external partners, interested organisations & individuals, that has been meeting to enable co-ordinated celebrations for the Parish, which is now at an advanced stage & details of events and a timetable will be published shortly.

The Parish Paths Working Group supported by the Clerk to the Council, continued the successful management of its Paths and Bridleways maintenance. The Parish Council continues to support the NLC scheme to devolve and manage increasing elements of further grass cutting in the Parish. The Council has also continued with the additional NLC "pilot" grass cutting initiative and is responsible for the management of local contractors to carry out the work. The Council also continues to manage the contract for neighbouring Town and Parish Council's grass cutting, which is ably & very efficiently administered by our Clerk.

Sadly our long serving Parish Handyman Graham Backhouse has retired, he served many selfless years working around the Parish, often carrying out duties beyond his remit, our sincere thanks for all his work & dedication. Despite advertising the post, as yet it remains unfilled and we are re advertising, hopefully we will be able to appoint to sooner rather than later as it is now coming up to the busiest time of the year.

We have financially supported Haxey Parish Culture & History Group, Haxey & Westwoodside Bowls Club, the 2024 Over 70's Party & the Haxey Parish Walkers & we continue to support the annual Armistice Remembrance Parades along with St Nicholas Church, military veterans organisation & uniformed groups & schools, which continues to be very well supported at all age levels.

Great success was achieved in the CPRE Best Kept Village Competition with Westwoodside placed 1<sup>st</sup> & Haxey 2nd in the Large Village group, & East Lound and Low Burnham joint 1<sup>st</sup> in the Small Village group, with Westwoodside and Low Burnham also receiving Best Community Planting award. This was due to the sterling work from the Council's Planting Group & the Parish Handyman.

A grant of just under £5000 from the Police & Crime commissioner has been received to go towards mobile cctv for the Parish, this will be connected to the monitoring centre in Scunthorpe & will be able to be moved several times a year, it is hoped that this will contribute to considerably reducing anti social behaviour in the Parish.

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 keep us legal & on the straight & narrow.