

HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at The Foreman Carter Centre, Westwoodside.

Present: Cllrs Booth, Bond, Carlile, Cunningham, Farmer, Harris, Holgate, Lindley, Parkin, Steers, Skelton, Thorpe, Sgt W Harrison & 6 residents.

Chairman: Cllr Holgate presided.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Knowles, Richard Carter & Michael Fenlon – WPFA.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2024.

It was resolved that the minutes from the Parish Meeting were approved as a true and correct record. A resident stated that last year's minutes stated the start time would be 7pm and not 6.30pm.

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

No issues raised.

4. To receive a copy of the draft Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025.

The Clerk informed the meeting of the Receipts and Payments and Bank Reconciliation, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting starting. These will also be placed on to the website once approved at a future Parish Council meeting.

It was suggested by a resident that the Over 70's information could be reflected in the Grants section.

5. To receive the Parish Councils Chairman's Report

The report covered the period from May 2024 to April 2025.

Cllr Cunningham joined the meeting at 6.40pm.

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 monthly, 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, Cllr 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.

Westwoodside Playing Field Association

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 WPFA AGM after 19 years in post, & a huge vote of thanks must go to him, for his dedicated service throughout that time.

Grass cutting

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 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 & joint 3rd Eastlound

Large Village - 1st Westwoodside, joint 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.

A resident asked if the Council had been in contact with Northern Power Grid regarding the power cuts. Cllr Holgate stated that this was on the councils next agenda for discussion.

He has written personally to the electricity company, and he read out the response he had received.

6. To receive a report from Humberside Police.

Sgt Will Harrison stated that he had been in post for the past 18 months for all the Isle. He provided the following report.

ASB 1/4/2024 – 1/4/2025

April, May June 2024 – 7 Logs ASB Nuisance.

July, August, Sept 2024- 4 Logs ASB Nuisance.

Oct, Nov, Dec 2024 – 3 logs ASB Nuisance.

Jan, Feb, March 2025 – 1 Log Vehicle Nuisance.

Crime 1/4/2024-1/4/2025

VEHICLE OFFENCES – 7

HARASSMENT – 11

MAL COMMS – 1

THEFT – 21

ROBBERY – 1

CRIM DAM – 10

BURGLARY DWELLING – 7

PUBLIC ORDER – 11

COMMON ASSAULT – 7

DRUGS - 0

FRAUD – 0

ASSAULT/GBH – 44

ANIMAL OFFENCES – 0

SEXUAL OFFENCES – 0

Cllr Booth asked in the figures reflected the calls received as she had received information from residents about vehicle ASB which had been reported and to date no feedback had been received. This is the reason why residents do not report criminal activities.

Sgt Harrison stated that he would look into this and Cllr Booth to provide the crime reference number.

Sgt Harrison explained the call log process and also went on to say that residents do seem to report crimes and the police are working closely with the parish.

A resident asked for information on parking near to junctions and explained that there was an issue at the junction near to the Kings Arms. Sgt Harrison will pass this on to the Traffic Police and he will also speak with NLC Highways Department.

Parking on the Nooking was also raised and this also will be looked into.

Cllr Farmer asked who graded the calls into 101 & 999 and Sgt Harrison went through this process.

Cllr Carlile thanks the Sgt for attending the meeting as there is not usually any police presence only a report. Sgt Harrison stated that he had come in on his own time and this was very much appreciated.

Cllr Skelton asked for an update on Operation Snap to which Sgt Harrison stated he would provide an update to the Clerk.

Cllr Harris thanked Sgt Harrison for the good presentation. He also asked for an update on the Community Speed Watch programme which was provided.

Sgt Harrison left the meeting at 7.35pm.

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

Chairman's Report - April 2025

The Clerk read out the following report received from Richard Carter.

In the 55th year of the PFAs existence, a new Chair, Michael Fenlon was elected when Richard Carter decided not to stand after 20 years' service. David Knowles was elected as Vice Chair and two new members, Jon Lowe and Liam Bellamy co-opted onto the Committee.

Again, there is not a lot to report this year, which is a sign that the actual running of the playing field is well under control and generally, only needs the regular maintenance of a public-use facility. However, that still means that a number of the Committee members have to be in attendance each month to complete the checks for the fortnightly fire, emergency and housekeeping, Legionella and basic maintenance, plus opening up and locking up after booked events.

In September 2023, to help with the cost of electricity, we had new Solar panels fitted to the roof, funded by North Lincs Council. Thanks to a lot of complicated dialogue and communication with the electricity supplier, EDF, David Knowles has finally been able to arrange for payment to the PFA for electricity being fed back into the grid, including 2 retrospective payments for the previous period.

Other major work done in 2023 was to upgrade the CCTV system from a grant from the Office Of The Police & Crime Commissioner and, fingers crossed, this has seen a dramatic reduction in unsocial behaviour at the site.

Finances

The finances remain in a healthy condition with income meeting expenditure generally and once again, the PFA have not needed to apply for a maintenance grant but the PFA offers its thanks to the Parish Council for its continued support. Unfortunately, we lost the bookings from the yoga teacher last year but this was replaced by a new dance class that has proved a good source of income.

This, combined with a number of private parties and meetings, the Parish Council's continued usage plus the regular use of the sports court and football pitch by Michael and his football team have provided regular sources of income.

There was also a Junior Football Camp hosted on the field during the Summer holidays for the first time last year by Chris Priestley, a local football coach, which was well attended.

Maintenance of the Site

Members of the playing field Committee have again been active in maintaining the Centre, particularly Michael and Jon Lowe, who has been an invaluable asset since he joined the PFA Committee.

The centre was painted inside in November as it was decided it was needed after a few years since it was last done.

In July, Andrea Brocklebank attended a play equipment inspection training workshop to allow her to take over the monthly checks

The annual Fire and emergency check revealed that 2 smoke and carbon monoxide detectors needed to be purchase and fitted in the kitchen and meeting room which Richard organised.

As upcoming chairmen I'd like to dedicate a huge thank you to Richard Carter for all his effort, dedication and custodianship of the WPFA. If it wasn't for Richard the high standards of everything associated with the playing field wouldn't be where it is today. He's demonstrated strong leadership with a hands-on approach and has been a fantastic mentor slowly passing on responsibilities to myself and others so that the WPFA can continue looking forward in the future. Michael Fenlon.

8. To receive any other items of business from Parishioners

A resident asked what can be done about the monies kept by the Combined Charity. This is not being spent appropriately in her opinion. She has written to them but hadn't received a satisfactory response. It was suggested that if she had concerns regarding the management of the charity she should contract the Charity Commission.

The Council will add to their agenda but was thought there was very little that they could do.

Meeting closed at 8pm.