

## **HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at The Foreman Carter Centre, Westwoodside.

Present: Cllrs Bond, Carlile, Farmer, Harris, Holgate, Knowles, Lindley, Parkin, Steers, Skelton, Ward  
Cllr Rose, Sgt W Harrison, PC A Ellis & 6 residents.

Chairman: Cllr Holgate presided.

**1. To Receive Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Kennedy & Michael Fenlon – WPF A.

**2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.**

It was resolved that the minutes from the Parish Meeting were approved as a true and correct record.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.**

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.

**5. To receive the Parish Councils Chairman's Report**

The report covered the period from May 2025 to April 2026.

The Parish Council's workload has been maintained, fulfilling legislative requirements & planning matters, including enforcement reporting and monitoring, Parish Land Management, general Parish maintenance management. 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 (WPF A).

The Planning Committee meets on a monthly basis, 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.

**Grants**

The Council have financially supported Haxey Scout Group, the 2026 Over 70's Party Axholme Camera Club, Haxey Memorial Hall, WPF A, Haxey & WWS Bowls Club, FPCA football @ Haxey PF, WWS Pond Lights Committee, Lives, Haxey Walkers, Bawtry Air Cadets, WWS Primary School PTA, WLH-H Christmas Lights Switch on, the 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.

**Bus Shelters/Jubilee Wood/Footpaths**

Although the bus shelter outside the CO-OP was replaced, after the altercation with a bus, it was

replaced with a smaller one, we still wait for it to be replaced with larger one. The shelter on Doncaster Road is in NLC schedule for replacement.

Jubilee Wood is due for some tidying & maintenance, the council sent a long list of footpaths that needed attention to NLC, who said they were undertaking a footpaths survey & we await the outcome.

### **Westwoodside Pond**

The pond continues to be a thorny subject, the Environment Agency have advised the Council re the proposed dredging & disposal of waste, which is planned to take place in the Autumn, drainage & aeration issues in the Summer remain under constant review. The dredging will be a very costly undertaking which the Council have budgeted for.

### **Westwoodside PFAMC**

The Parish Council again wishes to thank Chair Michael Fenlon 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

### **Grass cutting/Verge & PROW Weed Control**

The Council has continued with the NLC devolved grass cutting initiative and is responsible for the management of local contractors to carry out the work. This has now been extended to include weed control & spraying. We will continue to manage the contract for neighbouring Epworth Town Council, which is ably & very efficiently administered by our Clerk.

### **Emergency Plan**

Thanks go to Coun Steers who in consultation with NLC Emergency planning officer has furnished us with an up-to-date plan, which has been in abeyance for quite a while.

### **Handyman**

Our handy man, Graham Backhouse continues with his excellent work throughout the Parish & the Council are very grateful to him for not retiring.

### **Dr Dyson's Garden**

Work has 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, & the Christmas Lights

### **Parking**

There was no resolution to the parking problems in Haxey, NLC decided the best plan was to leave things as they are, it remains to be seen if doing nothing is the best course of action.

### **CPRE Best Kept Village**

The Parish featured heavily in the results of this year's competition, large village Westwoodside 2<sup>nd</sup>, Haxey jt 3<sup>rd</sup>, Low Burnham 1<sup>st</sup> in the Small Village & Eastlound 3<sup>rd</sup>, Low Burnham also triumphed in the Best Planting categories. Haxey were mentioned in the Best Kept War memorial, also in the Best Kept Churchyard, Best Kept Cemetery & Best Kept Playground. This was due in large to the sterling work from the Council's Planting Group & the resident's pride in the place where they live. We continue to enter & hope to improve on this year's excellent results.

### **Vermuyden 400 Landscape Project**

As part of the Vermuyden 400 project the Parish Council is to have an Archaeology & History Weekend on the 11 & 12 July, parishioners will be encouraged to dig a one-meter square pit in their gardens & record any finds etc, this is being co-ordinated by Coun Steers, more detail nearer the event.

### **NLC Governance Review**

After the poorly organised NLC local Government review, at next year's election the Council will be reduced to 13 councillors and the Parish will be warded, Westwoodside, Haxey & the Villages,

Westwoodside 6, Haxey 5 & Villages 2. This means that despite the Parish expanding by development & population, by about 40%, we will have less democratic representation.

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. Special mention must go to our Clerk, who incidentally we were without for 6 weeks during the Summer, due to here being extensively rebuilt, I thank her for her first-class work & knowledge & not inconsiderable efforts to still keep us legal & on the straight & narrow.

**6. To receive a report from Humberside Police.**

Sgt Will Harrison provided the following report from 21/04/25-10/04/26.

**Theft**

Haxey - 8

Westwoodside - 6

Graizelound - 3

**Burglary -Business**

Westwoodside - 3

**Burglary - Residential**

Westwoodside - 7

Haxey - 1

**Harassment**

Westwoodside - 7

Haxey - 3

Graizelound - 2

Eastlound - 2

**Assault**

Westwoodside - 8

Haxey - 11

Graizelound - 3

**Public Order**

Haxey - 4

Westwoodside - 6

**Criminal Damage**

Haxey - 7

Westwoodside - 5

**Vehicle Crime**

Haxey - 1

Westwoodside - 1

Sgt Harrison stated that for the size of the parish the figures are not too bad.

Cllr Parkin asked what is to be done about the damage to the Hood Stone, an historic monument in the parish. Sgt Harrison asked for the crime number, and he will look into this. The Clerk has received the first quote for repair which was over £1800.

Cllr Parkin also asked about the damaged to the fence at Haxey Playing Field which had be done by a vehicle out of control. Several CCTV footages was available, and the police had been informed. Sgt Harrison to look into.

A resident from East Lound raised concerns over speeding in the parish. Sgt Harrison was aware of

this, and the pro-laser would be used by PC Ellis once she was trained but in the meantime to other officers which were training would be attending the site.

Sgt Harrison mentioned the Community Speed Watch and the Clerk will add this information to the next Arrow and Facebook for any further interest. For the Speed Watch volunteers, they would be covered under the Police insurance as volunteers.

Sgt Harrison also sits on a joint committee with NLC who discuss highway issues and the speeding has been raised and will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Police are carrying out regularly Patch walks and suggested that residents if not already join the Community Alerts Programme which provides information straight to resident's emails or phones.

There is also a means of report via the Humberside Forces website.

Clerk to add both items to the next Arrow and Facebook page.

Cllr Steers asked what the ratio of domestic and non-domestic abuse is and Sgt Harrison stated that he could get a breakdown of these figures but there wasn't brawling in the street.

The Police have a support network on domestic abuse and a vulnerability hub too.

Cllr Holgate thanked the Police for their attendance to this and Parish Council meetings and stated that Sg Harrison was the best user-friendly Sgt the parish has had to work with.

## **7. To receive an update report on the Foreman Carter Centre Chairman's Report - April 2026**

The Clerk read out the following report received from Michael Fenlon.

Firstly, I wanted to say it's been a great honour to have completed my first year as the new chairman of the WPGA. A lot of credit for the smooth transition must go to our previous chairmen Richard Carter who left us in a healthy position. Secondly, I'd like to thank the rest of the committee for their continued support and hard work as ever as we continue to keep the playing field in a healthy position. Long may it continue.

I feel it's been a smooth transition with a hands-on approach maintaining the site with the other committee members. We have been in attendance each month to complete the checks for the fortnightly fire, emergency and housekeeping, Legionella and basic maintenance, plus opening and locking up after booked events.

There was however, one tricky period before Christmas when we experienced vandalism from motorbikes ruining large parts of the playing field. But with lots of hard work from myself and fellow committee member Jon Lowe and hours of hard labour utilising donations from Westwoodside FC, the local community and local clubs we were able to rejuvenate the damage done at no cost to the WPGA. The incident was reported to the authorities, and no further damages have occurred since and the field is now in a healthy condition.

### **Finances**

The finances remain in a healthy balance with income and thanks to a maintenance grant from the Parish Council. The grant has been put to very good use thank you. We had a huge issue with a rabbit infestation ruining the football pitches and field with rabbit holes. They were coming from a large mound which has since been removed at a large cost but has massively helped the issue. We have also carried out much needed repairs to the MUGA which brings in income from Westwoodside FC and Cosmic Football League with very regular bookings. There is still ongoing works needed to replace the floodlights bulbs, but a local contractor is in place for this and should be completed soon. We have regular bookings from Locomotion dance group for the indoor hall space and have continued great links with the local guides group who hire the facilities in the summer. We have also had an increase of party bookings for the hall too. With these regular bookings it keeps us in a healthy financial balance.

### **Maintenance of the Site**

Members of the playing field Committee have again been active in maintaining the Centre, particularly Jon Lowe, Trevor Foreman and myself. As a trio we have followed ROSPA health and safety guidelines and have been maintaining the site to a high standard. Repairs have been made to the MUGA, Skateboard Ramp, Zip Wire and Football pitch just to name a few jobs completed.

The centre employed a new cleaner, Jenny Lowe who has received several compliments for her high standard of cleanliness. The centre smells and seems so much cleaner and I feel this has led to more party bookings.

Vice Chairmen David Knowles is in constant contact with our energy suppliers. And the solar panels installed are still being utilised well.

Overall, we are in a good place after a hands-on year.

**8. To receive any other items of business from Parishioners**

A resident asked if the community could help pay for the repairs of the Hood Stone to which it was agreed that the Hood Committee would be approached.

Cllr Carlile asked if the police could assist with the parking issues on Low Street. When exiting Lowcroft on to Low Street visibility is impaired due to cars parking up to the junction.

There were also concerns about cars parking on bends. PC Ellis stated that if this is seen while on duty action is taken.

Cllr Steers also raised concerns when cars exit the junction from Haxey Lane adjacent to the Kings Arms on to Low Street. Again, there is no visibility and with the cars parking on the street you have to pull right into the line of any oncoming traffic.

The Parish Council have tried numerous times to engage the local authority to no avail. Sgt Harrison stated that he would raise this with NLC and a full survey will be carried out of Low Street.

Cllr Bond suggested that the pub users should be parking in the pub carpark to which Sgt Harrison stated this is something he could look at too.

Sgt Harrison stated that the Pub Watch project is a work in progress.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

DRAFT