

Hibaldstow Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of Hibaldstow Annual Parish Meeting held at 6pm on Thursday 15th April, 2021 at the Village Hall, Hibaldstow.

Present: Cllr Allaby, Cllr Brooks (Chair), Cllr Borrill, Cllr Charlton, Cllr Done, Cllr Elletson, Cllr Maycock, Cllr Pickering, Cllr Stothard, Cllr Talliss & Cllr Whitaker.

Also Present: Representative from the Village Voice & Clerk to the Council – Deb Hotson

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Ward Cllr Poole sent his apologies.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 12th March, 2020.

Resolved - The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a true and correct record with the agreed matter to change. Cllr Elletson wasn't present and submitted his apologies and Cllr Allaby was present. Clerk to amend.

3. To receive the Chairman's report

Cllr Brooks read out his report.

It is with great sadness that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh died last week and I know that those in our Parish would join me in extending their condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family.

Due to Covid 19 Regulations, as with this meeting, all council meetings have been successfully held virtually this year, with thanks to the Parish Clerk for managing the process.

The Parish Council concluded the year with a full complement of eleven councillors, with the co-option of Graham Maycock, Andy Done and Neil Pickering.

The council opted to continue to manage the grass cutting of the Verges and PROWs (footpaths) on behalf of NLC during 2020 and continued to provide flower beds and hanging baskets, both summer and winter throughout the village. Thanks to the many residents who add colour to the village with their flower gardens which certainly attracts compliments from the BKV judges.

The village continues to receive contentious planning proposals. The Ings Lane application for 20 dwellings was refused for the second time, which has subsequently been appealed, we await the decision from the Inspector. An appeal has also been made to the Secretary of State against failure of the NLC to give notice of its decision within the appropriate period for the application for 100 dwellings off Hunt`s Lane. The 5-plot site on Brigg Road has been approved and the 9 dwellings site on Redbourne Road is pending. Permission to create a digestate storage lagoon for the AD plant at the Biomass Facility on the Airfield was subsequently withdrawn.

A request has been made for a survey to be undertaken on Gainsthorpe Road with a view to reduce the current speed limit from 40 to 30 due to the amount of HGV using the roads, parked cars, residential area, street lighting and number of businesses that access and egress the road.

The PC continue their search for allotments and was unsuccessful with a bid for the land at the Point.

Precept @ £ 15,000, £250 donation to the VHC to fund the internet requirements to run the CCTV.

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The parish continues to be affected with the usual issues of Fly-tipping, potholes, dog fouling, littering, etc, which when placed on social media gives bad publicity, it would be beneficial if residents would report all incidents direct to NLC via the portal.

<https://northlincs-self.achieveservice.com/module/home> or Tel. 01724 297000.

Cemetery & Closed Churchyard

The remedial works to the trees has finally been completed.

Cllr Allaby stated that he resists responding to comments with regard to dog fouling. He was advised to point residents in the direction of the NLC Portal and contact telephone details.

Cllr Brooks added that due to the ending of the current Government law to be able to hold virtual Council meetings and the fact that Parish Council have to be held in a covid secure building the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the May meeting will be brought forward to May 6th as a virtual meeting.

4. To receive the draft Parish Council Accounts 2020/21.

The Clerk summarised the unaudited accounts for 2020/21. Once audited by the Internal Auditor will be signed off by the Council and published at their next meeting. Copies of the accounts were made available to members of the public.

5. To receive the Village Hall Committee report.

Interim Trustee Report 2020 (Ref 1083271)

The Village hall charity has objectives to:

1. Promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Hibaldstow and the Neighbourhood together defined by the parish boundary (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, and race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together.
 2. The said inhabitants and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in common effort to advance education and provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for the recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants;
 3. Establish, or secure the establishment of, a community centre (hereafter called "the centre") and to maintain and manage the same (whether alone or in co-operation with any local authority or person or body) in furtherance of these objectives;
 4. Promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined.
- At start of 2020 there was a positive mood for the community and Hibaldstow Village hall. There were expectations of forthcoming events to be planned and things to look forward to.

The VHC had an events committee who were industrious in planning events for the coming year. It was the year of VE day celebrations and other exciting things.

Covid came onto the horizon and all of the usual participants were locked away on March 23rd. We could not open the hall so in no particular order, scouts, indoor bowls, curling, bridge and yoga were cancelled. During the summer cricket was postponed and football took a back seat until the tail end of the year.

However, we still had bills to pay and the utilities, insurance, waste management, grass cutting, cleaning and caretaking still had to happen. It was not a good year.

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There were highlights.

We were given a grant by North Lincolnshire Council which was greatly appreciated and a substantial sum was received from the National Lottery. The Parish Council helped us with grants toward the Station Road fencing and camera access.

The financial position at the time of the lockdown showed an Income of £2424 but at the same time the expenditure was nearly £6000.

There was a very successful Pop- up Indian evening which accrued nearly £1000 for the income, the Christmas fayre raised £821 and a fashion show organised by the committee gained £350.

But then things were stalled and we were all put on hold.

The village hall has had plans passed to build an extension for the north of the hall to improve the changing rooms but due to the problems with receiving funding and extremely high build quotes this has been put on hold. We will have to see how the future unfolds to what can be done to improve that part of the hall.

With the issue of grants to the committee we have managed to put up new fencing adjacent to the car park (to protect cars from loose footballs), thoroughly modernize and improve the kitchen area and have added brand new comfy chairs to sit on – we just need customers to be able to use them.

At the tail end of the year with the hall still closed we were allowed to have the football re-light and that was good for the sportsman and spectators. Hopefully in the future we can improve the field facilities, update the changing rooms and have many sporting events through 2021.

At the end of November, some members of the committee retired and went on to other things.

I would like to personally thank all of the people involved in the committee, who have put many hours into the working of the facility and wish them all well. I would like to think that some past members may want to step forward and help form a new committee shortly I would also like to thank our part time caretaker, Allan, for always being available to assist with the running of the hall and field.

We have not been able to hold an Annual General Meeting yet due to the Covid problems. We did intend to try and hold a meeting earlier in the year but due to the fact it would have to be a virtual event we believed it would not be fair on members of the community who could not access a computer.

At the end of May, we should have access to the village hall and we will be sending out an invite to attend a full AGM at the village hall so that you can try out the new seats and see the kitchen upgrade. Now is the time for a viable committee to be formed and the Village hall to flourish

At the meeting there will be opportunities to take part and offer ourselves up for positions on the committee. We will be hoping to fill the places of Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Booking Secretary and Committee Member.

At the time of writing, we are still waiting for the annual accounts to be ratified but I can confirm that there is £13,464.51 held in the bank account.

Cllr Talliss added that the village hall has received covid government grant funding. The current running of the hall is at a loss and this needs to be added by the new committee.

Cllr Done thanked Cllr Talliss who has been under pressure and working on his own to get through various items. A committee is needed to run as soon as possible to take the village hall forward.

Cllr Whitaker stated he has an open mind on the Parish Council taking on the responsibility of the charity.

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Cllr Brooks stated that this now needed pushing on for a successful resolution.

6. To receive the Cemetery / closed Churchyard report.

As detailed in item 3.

7. To receive a report from the Village Voice Representative.

This last year has affected all our lives and this also includes the Village Voice distribution team. A decision was taken in lockdown last year to cancel one magazine. It wasn't considered safe or legal for the distributors to go round the village doing house-to-house deliveries. Most advertisers pay for a whole year in advance so the invoices in November 20 were done for five adverts, not six. This was obviously due to the cancelled edition. Less money invoiced for the magazine but this was offset by not having to pay the printing costs. Costs are down to an absolute minimum now and have been for some time. The biggest costs are for printing which normally runs at £517.00 per print run - six print runs per year. This varies slightly if the page count changes. We have looked at print costs in the past but all were more expensive and not as flexible as the printer we have at the moment. Other recurring costs are stamps and printer ink. Paper and envelopes are donated. The next couple of years will be a challenge with all the new housing being proposed and built. The magazine is free through every letterbox in the village but if the number of new houses increases, we will need to increase the print run also. The magazine is just about holding its own with current advertisers, sponsors and print run numbers. If this were to change, I think the magazine in its present form will not survive. We are already seeing Facebook taking over as an advertising platform with advertisers cancelling or reducing the size of their adverts to a 1/4 page. We have reduced copies made available to outlets outside the village, such as the Tourist Information office in Brigg and the post office in Scawby, so we can supply all the new houses in the village. We cannot increase the print run with the current budget available. To date, not all invoices have been paid, it's difficult to collect money when businesses haven't been able to open or cannot trade. Some advertisers have said they will come back on board when they are fully trading again. Finally, the feedback we get from the readership is overwhelmingly positive and continues to be a relied and trusted source of information, particularly for our elderly or non-tech savvy residents. Whilst we have done online editions during lockdown, we still invariably miss this demographic.

Alan Smith was thanked for the editorial and administration of the Village Voice. Colin Mawdsley was thanked, Sylvia Wattam and Peter & Valerie and the 20 deliver volunteers. Cllr Elletson also thanked Alan Smith for what has been done for the village.

8. Open Forum for Public Participation

- **What is the future management of the Village Hall?**
- **What are your ideas and aspirations for our village?**

Cllr Elletson asked if the Parish Council could take a look and provide natural wildlife havens for the village. This will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.