

Hibaldstow Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of Hibaldstow Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 20th March 2025 at the Village Hall, Station Road.

Present: Cllrs Brooks (Chairman), Hunt, Stirling, Stothard, Masterman, Mawdsley, North, Riley, Pickering & Talliss.

Also present: 3 residents, Ward Cllr Foster, Clerk to the Council – Deb Hotson.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Whitaker.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 21st March 2024.

Resolved - The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a true and correct record.

3. To receive the Chairman's report

Cllr Brooks read out his report as detailed:

Following the co-option of Sally Masterman at the November meeting the Council are once again at full complement with eleven Councillors. However, the result of the Community Governance review concluded that the 2027 Parish elections will reduce us to NINE Councillors.

The Council continues to be represented on (ERNLLCA) - EAST Riding & North Lincolnshire Local Council Associations - North Lincs District and Executive Committees, North Lincs Town and Parish Liaison and Neighbourhood Action Teams.

The 2024/25 Precept of £29k, has been utilised for Governance, Administration and Maintenance together with grants to the Village Hall and Village Voice with one pending on this month's agenda for the newly formed WI Hibaldstow Hurricanes.

Statutory tree surveys have been carried in the Park. Progress of the Village Hall Extension project and the tennis courts will follow later.

The Council supported the planning application for Additional facilities at the RAF WW2 Memorial Centre, listed building consent to carry out repairs due to Fire damage and associated works on Hibaldstow Bridge and the replacement/renewal of existing batching plant at Techrete. Objections and comments for a Concrete Batching Plant and extension to Hibaldstow Quarry were submitted supporting residents' concerns.

The Traffic Regulation Order for Church Street improvement works was completed in November. You will all have your own opinions as to the effect of this work.

You will be pleased to note that road repairs covering Beck Side, Glanford Crescent, Greenfield Drive, Robinson`s Grove, Nookings, Dallison`s Road, Cox`s Court, Proctor`s Way, Ings Lane cul-de-sac and Maysfield Court. The work is programmed Monday 31st March - Monday 14th April

The parish continues to be affected with the usual issues of Fly-tipping, Potholes, Dog fouling and littering. The Council have requested addition bins throughout the village, but NLC have refused to provide. Thanks to those residents who carryout litter picking and a reminder of the National Great British Spring Clean 21st March - 6th April.

Thanks to residents who regularly report incidents direct to NLC via the portal.

Details are in the Village Voice and NLC News Direct paper

self.achieveservice.com/module/home or Tel. 01724 297000.

All Council Agendas and Minutes are on the PC Website and village Notice Boards

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Finally, thanks to Deb our Clerk/RFO for keeping the Finances, Governance, and Councillors in order with the continuing introduction of new and amended legislation which we must comply, regardless of personal opinions.

4. To receive the draft Parish Council Accounts 2024/25.

The Clerk summarised the unaudited accounts for 2024/25. Once audited by the Internal Auditor will be signed off by the Council and published at their next meeting.

5. To receive the Cemetery / closed Churchyard report.

The tree surveys have been carried out in the closed churchyard along with the statutory memorial checks to be carried out in due course. Tree work quotes to be obtained.

6. To receive a report on the Village Hall Extension.

Cllr North stated that a joint meeting had been set up with members from both the Parish Council and VHC.

The following is a report on the extension:

Status Code Legend

- On Track: Project is on schedule
- High Risk: At risk, with a high risk of going off track
- At Risk: Milestones missed but date intact
- Off Track: Date will be missed if action not taken

Identifying a need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feedback from users and Football and Cricket clubs ● Village voice feedback confirming village residents would want improved VH facilities
Review sources for funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UKSPF - £15000 ● SSE SDF £15000 ● Techrete funding 100,000 Euros / £85,000 (advised has expiry date 2024 + needed planning) ● S106 monies - £50,000 ● own funding - £10,000 <p>Majority of funding covered in above.</p>
Establish budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Due to funding time constraint it was agreed to reuse former approved plans for the extension ● 5 Local builders invited to tender the works via the Government Procurement Portal (to former plans) ● Returns reviewed to consolidate the budget £187,000 – advised to NLC
Progress plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Due to funding time constraint it was agreed to reuse former approved plans for the extension ● 2 planning consultants invited to tender the works. ● Returns reviewed – Mark Symonds selected to act on our behalf for planning. ● Consult with users on planning approved scheme ahead of BR application for minor amendments. ● Review advice following consultation and advise Architect on appropriate updates ahead of work
Planning Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application submitted 25-7-2024 ● Biodiversity requirements addressed with additional tree planting ● Sports England comments addressed with modified plans and confirmation on pitch location ● Planning permission granted 31-1-2025 (Techrete advised 2024 deadline but are still on board)

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Building regulations application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning pack plans for the extension issued out to potential Architects ● 7 Architects invited to tender the works and 3 met in person. ● Returns reviewed to consolidate budget – Martin Flynn selected to act on our behalf for BR. ● Drawings being drafted currently in readiness for submission
BR Current matters	<p>Current progress includes Architect putting together Building Regulations application drawing pack.</p> <p>Actions awaited:</p> <p>Drainage survey – attendance of VHC (with knowledge of drainage)</p> <p>Visit to Builders Merchant to develop specification of sanitaryware. (Attendance of VHC)</p> <p>Review draft drawings and confirm small power and data / TV points requirements</p> <p>Confirm heating / energy strategy – (electric boiler and further PV or air source heat pump & no PV)</p>
Funding Current matters	<p>Actions awaited</p> <p>Obtain feedback from Techrete for Funding release. Techrete have been approached and are being kept up to speed on progress with the BR application.</p> <p>Continuing dialogue with Julie Reed regarding the NLC grant application and next steps</p>
Next steps	<p>Once the BR application is granted approval the drawing pack may be issued to the 5 contractors who returned budget costs for fixed prices among others on the Government Procurement Portal. This process allows the selection of a Builder and also to reapply for the relevant grants.</p>

7. To receive the Village Hall Committee report.

Cllr Mawdsley read out the following report:

Trustee Report 2024

Committee

The Village Hall Committee continued largely unchanged from that which took over the management of the hall in late 2021, however 2024 saw outgoing chairman Alan Smith step down from the committee and be replaced as chairman by Nigel Whitaker. Alan is thanked for his significant contributions over the years.

We also welcome Keith Hunt to our group and thank him for throwing himself into the role. The committee membership stands at 10, plus our Parish Council nominee, David Stothard. As always there remains space for more, for anyone who wants to get involved.

Hall Usage

The hall and playing fields continue to grow in usage with a second Zumba session, sequence dancing classes, country and western dancing group and a third football team making our field their home base, in addition to our other groups using the hall and facilities on a regular basis.

The hall has been used for several ‘one-off’ events like Quickline community events and children’s parties, and we were obviously overjoyed to welcome the pantomime to the hall in 2023 and look forward the third annual production, Little Red Riding Hood, arriving shortly. We continue to encourage new groups to come and use the facility although booking slots are filling up.

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Events

Over the last year the Committee has organised several social events including a Christmas fayre, a regular film club and the committee also organised the summer gala in June and are already well on with planning this year. We will continue to organise events with the main objective of creating social events where the people of Hibaldstow can come together, however it is important that they at least break even and are not a financial burden the hall.

Increasing public use of the hall in 2024 has reduced the frequency and need for the hall to put on events, it is worth repeating that our primary purpose is to provide a quality venue for people in the village to use. We are getting to the point where time in the hall is at a premium as more groups come in. Nevertheless, if people want some sort of club or society or event then the hall committee will help and assist in any way it can, but they will always need a champion from the community to take the lead whom we can support.

Developments

Over the last year we have seen several improvements to the hall, some have been funded by grants, some by the 200 Club, some in partnership with hall users, some in co-operation with the Parish Council and some from our own funds. In 2024 These included:

- A new public address music system with help from Merlin Renewables.
- A grant for installation of new additional solar battery capacity to reduce our energy bills courtesy of Northern Powergrid.
- A new storage container for toddler and panto groups with support from North Lincs Council.
- We have purchased additional heating for the hall.
- Replacement goals for the main pitch with support from the PC and 200 club.

Future Developments

We continue to work with the Parish Council and Local Authority to develop plans for improving the changing rooms and sports facilities which are currently not fit for purpose. This is a significant investment and will not happen overnight, so please be patient. The village hall has made a contribution to fund the planning application for extended changing rooms which is now being progressed by the Parish Council and working with the Parish Council, we are also closing in on refurbishing the derelict tennis court in 2025.

Finances

Financially the hall has posted an operating loss of £2000 for 2024 but this includes the one-off contribution to planning for the new building and a disputed energy charge. Also, we have now fixed energy costs at a low rate until 2027. The committee agreed that the hire rates as they currently stand are covering operating costs and following last year's increase, no further increase is necessary in 2025, noting that we will insist on a minimum 3 hour hire for parties.

Constitution

At the January 2024 AGM we passed agreement to adopt a new constitution. The current one is very old, has some restrictions that are no longer necessary, leaves trustees with some personal liability and actually discourages people to join the committee (as it states that committee members have to be charity trustees). We are looking to finalise moving to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) during the coming year. This is the recommended method for setting up charities like ours following changes in charity law a few years ago. It divorces the role of Charity Trustee from the day-to-day operation of the

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charity and will give us more flexibility in operation. This has been delayed for a number of reasons in 2024 but will be finalised in 2025.

Future Events

We are always keen to hear from anyone with ideas and enthusiasm for new activities in the hall or on the playing fields. For example, we have been asked to consider reinstating the Flower & Vegetable Show which the gardening club ran successfully in years gone by. However, this needs the support of some willing volunteers, so if this is something you can help with, or have any other exciting ideas, please be sure to come forward and let us know!

Similarly, with the gala, we need more to get involved, so please let us know if you can help out with the planning, or on the day itself. Members are welcome to join the committee permanently or for specific events, whichever you prefer.

Finally, as we progress with the improved facilities for sports, our venue has the potential to develop still further as one of the leading facilities in the area. For example, tennis, basketball, croquet, table tennis, walking football, walking netball are all on the radar as potential new activities for local groups, so don't be shy in coming forward with ideas to support these, or any other activities. If it crosses your mind, make sure it crosses ours as well and we look forward to hearing from you!

Appointment of Trustees

The following were appointed for 2025:

Chair - Nigel Whitaker

Treasurer - Richard Riley

Secretary - Colin Mawdsley

Bookings Secretary - Mags Reeson

Trustees: Nigel Whitaker, Richard Riley, Colin Mawdsley, Alan Smith & Julie Mawdsley.

8. To receive a report on the Tennis Court/MUGA refurbishment.

There was not report received from Cllr Whitaker other than mixed information received to the Clerk & VHC that works will commence in May or August. Cllr Mawdsley & Cllr Riley to follow this up as the grant must be spent by 31/07 and it was doubtful that NLC would amend the grant application again!

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

Cllr Mawdsley read out the following report:

Hibaldstow Village Voice continues to be produced bimonthly and delivered to 1200 homes in the Hibaldstow and Gainsthorpe villages. It continues to be a focal point for village events and information and is well received by the community and has moved to a full colour publication using online printing as a cost saving over local printers.

Cost of a 40-page colour issue £656 compared to £720 black and white.

Finances

The magazine continues to be sponsored by the following organisations:

- Lions
- St Hybalds
- Skydive Hibaldstow
- AM Borrill
- Hibaldstow Parish Council

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- Techrete
- Merlin Renewables
- Top Hat

This sponsorship coupled with advertising revenue has provided secure finances for the balance of 2025. It is worth noting however we are seeing some advertisers moving away from the annual payment to a pay as you go arrangement for adverts. If this trend continues it could tighten finances going forward.

People

Following the departure of Sylvia Wattam as treasurer in 2023, this year, regrettably Peter and Valerie Moore have had to step down from distribution due to ill health. We still have an army of local distributors, but Peter and Valerie did an excellent job of keeping new volunteers in the pipeline and their help and contribution will be greatly missed.

The magazine is currently managed in its entirety by Alan Smith and Colin Mawdsley until a permanent solution to distribution is found.

Going Forward

We are open to suggestions as to how to go forward with the magazine. It would be easy (and probably a cheaper exercise) to go to an online publication like we did during lockdown, but we still believe there is a section of the village who rely on the printed publication over social media for local news. We are not sure advertisers and sponsors would come with us down this route and the magazine would lose its integrity and value as a result. The current publication is consulted as much for a plumber as a panto.

10. To receive a report from Ward Councillors.

Cllr Foster reported on the following issues:

In response to the Government removing the winter fuel allowance, NLC are provided low energy devices to the over 80's and over 65 claiming benefits. Ward Members have delivered the air fryers to the over 80's. In 2/3 weeks, the delivery for Hibaldstow will be received and this will be stored at the village hall.

NLC pay for the books for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for 0-5 years.

Council tax is the lowest in the country and provides the highest rated children and adult services in the country.

May 1st will see the election for the Greater Lincolnshire mayor.

It has been a bad year for potholes, but NLC are working through these. There is approximately £150m outstanding highway works but only £10m received from Government. Cllr Brooks added that he had met with a Highway Officers regarding the works programmed for Hibaldstow.

Cllr Riley asked who was responsible for the collection of rubbish at the side of the road to which Cllr Foster stated that there was no funding to do this.

11. Open Forum for Public Participation

Cllr Foster stated that at the last NLC Planning Committee meeting attitude of the owner of Welton Quarry had been appalling. They basically called the witnesses liars, but the witnesses had evidence of dust clouds and HGV not using the haul road.

Residents of Mill Lane are the most affected.

There have been 4 attempts to get this through planning, 2 site visits with the quarry owners agreeing certain issues and then going back on these.

Cllr Foster will keep a track of this.

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A resident stated that she was grateful for Cllr Fosters support and wanted to strengthen the case prior to NLC decision going to appeal.

She stated that her and neighbouring residents' health issues may have been caused by the dust.

There was a planning condition on the original application stating that the dust levels had to be monitored but this has since been removed on the proviso that Welton's monitor this themselves. This is not being checked as on numerous occasions plumes of dust can be seen from the site with HGV movements.

Redbourne Parish Council have been asking NLC for dust monitoring equipment.

Cllr Brooks asked the resident to write into the Council what exactly they require from the council, and this will be added to the next agenda.

Cllr North suggested that they obtain a copy of the reports they will need to provide to NLC to remove the wastewater from the site which will have to be tested.

Cllr Foster suggested that the residents should keep logs of all activities.

The meeting closed at 8pm.