

Aubourn and Haddington Annual Parish Meeting  
30 May 2024 at 19:00

Minute no.	Item
APM 01.05.24	<p><b>In attendance:</b> Cllr's Mosedale, Page, Plackett-Smith, Rock's and Snape. Cllr Mrs Overton (LCC), Councillor Mitch Elliot (NKDC). Kerrie Vickers (Parish Clerk), 1 member of the public. Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Overton (NKDC)</p>
APM 02.05.24	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 11 April 2023 and any matters arising –</u></b> <u>Agreed and signed as a true record</u></p>
APM 03.05.24	<p><b><u>Chairman's Report for the year</u></b> - Cllr Snape gave his report. <b>Appendix 1</b></p>
APM 04.05.24	<p><b><u>Public Time</u></b></p> <p>The member of the public present asked about the possibility of sourcing village welcome gates, similar to the ones in Bassingham and felt that as a cyclist, the village signs did make a difference to the first impressions of the villages and could work as a potential option to slowing down the traffic.</p> <p>Councillor Mosedale advised that the Parish Council had already discussed introducing village gates similar to the ones at Thorpe on the Hill and the Parish Clerk was asked to look into finding out some more details and possible options and cost implications which would be discussed at a Parish Council meeting in the future.</p> <p>The member of the public also voiced their concerns over the safety of people at the weir. As a dog walker, they visited the area regularly and often came across evidence of fires, barbecue's and litter of all kinds including needles and fears that something drastic will happen if something isn't done. People use the weir for swimming and all variety of uses all of which are prohibited.</p> <p>The issues began with the removal of the gate because it is a public right of way and the member of the public asked if there was anything the Parish Council could do to get the gate reinstated which could at least deter people from going in cars.</p> <p>Councillor Mosedale advised that this was unfortunately a long-standing issue which the Parish Council had attempted to address before. When the gate was removed, NKDC advised that if this caused any issues, particularly safety issues, they would look at the possibility of reinstating it.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk was asked to contact the landowner and Anglian Water to alert them about the issue.</p> <p>County Councillor Mrs Overton advised the member of the public to take photographs and keep a log and to continually complain to NKDC and stress the safety concerns. The Parish Clerk will also contact NKDC.</p> <p>Meting Concluded at 19:00</p>

## **Appendix A**

### **Chairman's Report.**

At the meeting of April 2023, after the Annual Parish Meeting, we were saddened with the news that Mrs Pat Woodman MBE would be resigning after what was an astounding number of years' dedicated service to local government. We thanked her enormously and are grateful for everything she had done, and it is only right that I echo this again in this year's report.

We did however welcome in May 2023 at the Annual Parish Council Meeting, Cllr Carrie Page who has been fantastic in providing the council with help and support over the past year.

This year we also welcome Cllr Lynne Rocks onto the parish council. Cllr Rocks has a background in education and brings experience of agriculture to the table which will be extremely useful. Cllr Rocks' co-option brings the council to full strength also. Precept

One of the biggest undertakings for a parish council each year is the precept. With the rise in energy prices, materials and such like, the parish council was cognisant to not increase the precept too much but also have enough to cover its expenditure and boost its reserves slightly.

We understood there would need to be an increase but simultaneously, we wanted to keep the precept as low as we could. It was agreed to raise the precept by £820 for the year from £18,580 in 2023 to £19,400 in 2024. This increase is 2.46% which is £3.54 on a Band D property. Solar Farm

Cllrs Snape, Mosedale and Plackett-Smith were in attendance at some of the first meetings with other parish councillors regarding the Fosse Green solar farm proposal. Since then a resident-led action group has been created to oppose the project.

I and Cllr Mosedale have along with other councillors from other parishes met Dr Caroline Johnson MP who is also against the proposal.

I set up the Fosse Green Solar Farm Information Group on Facebook to share information and debate the topic.

Residents are requested to take heed of the proposals and not to be fooled that it will generate cheap electricity for the communities surrounding it. The generated electricity is not destined for the local community.

### **Flooding**

Flooding has been atrocious over the past year and we have received a lot of correspondence from frustrated residents. Cllr Plackett-Smith spoke with her neighbours who were the worst affected and was at the forefront of tackling the issue.

Liaising with Mr Richard Fenwick from Highways, Cllr Marianne Overton MBE of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and Anglian Water, she was dogged in pushing for solutions and working with them to see what can be done.

It must be said that both Mr Fenwick and Cllr Overton MBE were a real help. Highways did flush out the drains however they noted damage to them which required more attention. Residents on Butts Lane, Bailey's Lane and Dovecote Lane noted that the drainage ditches were backing up rapidly with heavy rainfall. Ms Vickers also contacted the landowners to request they clear the ditches.

Cllr Plackett-Smith continued to inform the residents of correspondence from Highways and fed back their concerns, too. The work Highways undertook did alleviate the problem temporarily. As of the New Year, LCC were in the process of developing a draining improvement scheme.

There are no further updates regarding a date to start the works but it was noted that certain areas had been marked in preparation. The Witham Drainage Board were unaware of any issues but are now working with us to resolve the problem particularly in Haddington.

#### Policies and Procedures

From the previous internal audit it was highlighted that the parish council had some way to go to improve their policies and procedures.

Much work has been done to introduce and update these. Whilst this may seem more on the less attractive side of parish council life, they are important for accountability and transparency.

Our Clerk Ms Kerrie Vickers along with Cllr John Mosedale reviewed the asset register which is now in place. Ms Vickers and I discussed at length various policies and put pen to paper. As such the council is no longer deficient in a Social Media, Records Retention, Data Protection, Equality and Diversity, Grievance, Expenses, Complaints, Data Breach and Subject Access Request Policies. The council also brought in a Publication Scheme and a Risk Register/Management Scheme.

This year I am pleased to say that the parish council has received a record-breaking internal audit report and I thank everyone for their hard work in getting that result.

#### Clock Tower

Last year the Clock Tower required minor maintenance to clear the guttering and assess any damage to the roof. When trying to identify cost effective ways to assess the work, a kind parishioner came forward to use their drone.

This was of course gratefully accepted and demonstrates the kind of positive support the parish council receives from our community.

Additionally, the Clock Tower floor required extensive repairs. With the budget constraints in mind and quotes being costly, it chimed with the council that a grant was needed. As the flooring posed a health and safety hazard, sadly, NKDC were unprepared to use the Clock Tower as a Polling Station. Time was ticking for a decision on where we could hold our next meeting as we were also forced to find an alternate venue. Holding meetings in the parish was we felt really important and so Ms Vickers approached Aubourn Estate to enquire as to whether we could hold meetings in their offices.

A thank you to Aubourn Estate for agreeing and for saving us in our hour of need and a thank you for Ms Vickers for being proactive and finding a timely solution.

Cllr Mosedale and Ms Vickers subsequently met with the new conservation officer from NKDC at the Clock Tower to discuss the problems and were directed to liaise with representatives from Heritage Lincolnshire.

I, Cllr Mosedale and Ms Vickers met with a couple of representatives to obtain their expertise regarding the future of the Clock Tower and the grant opportunities available.

Ms Vickers worked around the clock to draft up the grant application and we are pleased to say that this was successful. Furthermore, I met with Mr Ben Atkins of Lost Village to investigate a potential for further funding and am happy to declare that Lost Village provided the parish council with an extra £2,000 for the flooring.

The work has now been completed and will hopefully enable us to meet back in the Clock Tower, re-instate it as a Polling Station and hold Heritage Days run by Mr and Mrs Woodman. On the face of it, this all appears to be a fantastic outcome.

#### Phone Box

The phone box in Haddington was given a make-over last year due to it being a little weather-worn. The aspiration is to have a defibrillator installed within it and this is a project that the council will look to revive over the next year. The parish council will pick up the phone to those who may be able to offer grants.

#### King's Coronation

Along with the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the rest of the world, we witnessed history as His Majesty King Charles III was crowned. We did apply to rename the bridge in honour of him but unfortunately, we are still awaiting the outcome from Royal Names Team in the Cabinet Office who will likely cross it when they come to it.

#### Meetings

It was agreed to change the meeting frequency to bi-monthly. This allowed the clerk to complete her duties and for the council to hold much more comprehensive meetings.

It also grants more time to the councillors who may be attending events, training or fulfilling work commitments and therefore to have more with which to report back in the parish council meetings themselves.

#### Street Lighting

A look into why three streetlights on Bridge Road seemed to have stopped working after roadworks took place on the junction of Bridge Road and South Hykeham Road resulted in much confusion. Cllr Mosedale approached Highways who agreed to dig into it.

Both Highways, EoN and NKDC couldn't understand what had happened and the sceptical concern was that the parish council would be expected to trace the fault and pay for the repair. The parish council felt powerless.

Highways advised Ms Vickers to approach an independent company to investigate and the quote amounted to £2,174.68. Again, as a council that aims to get value for money for its residents, Cllr Mosedale had a light-bulb moment and suggested perhaps it would be better to replace them with solar-powered ones. This was a viable option.

Cllr Plackett-Smith persuasively discussed the quote with Mr Fenwick and it was agreed that Highways would pay for the investigation – an electrifying result and a huge saving to the parish council.

When an unsuspecting streetlight was the victim of a careless driver at the bend at Chapel Lane and Royal Oak Lane, a new streetlight was required. This was a job for the driver's insurance company, and it was agreed that the £250 excess should be paid in exchange for a brand new streetlight that would have needed replacement at some point in the future.

Staying within our plans to upgrade old sodium lanterns with LED ones, seven faulty lights were also repaired on the A46 fly-over and a decades' old conundrum of who owned the lantern on Reynold's Paddock was solved. A new identical lamp put in and placed under the responsibility of the parish council – much to the delight of the residents.

#### Traffic

Traffic remains a real issue in the parish. It isn't just the volume of traffic and the state of the road surfaces but also the number of vehicles that continue to speed that all contribute to the problem.

Cllr Mosedale has placed Speed Indicator Devices around the parish at various points and the data shows that Harmston Road, Bridge Road and Chapel Lane see the highest speeds from drivers. The parish council has liaised with LCC regarding this, yet they don't seem as driven to tackle it.

It has to be said that the police have upped their presence at the bottom of Harmston Road and have acted as a deterrent to some extent.

Cllr Mosedale noticed that work vehicles in particular were going up the footpath and parking at the top of the village green in Aubourn. This was a real safety concern. Revved up, he contacted NKDC and now there are bollards in place at either end of the footpath.

Since the road closure on Camp Road in Witham St Hughs, there has been a significant increase of drivers using Dovecote Lane as a cut through – approximately 2,000 per week. Conversations with the police are in hand to have a presence there during peak times which would be just the ticket.

It is hoped that if the North Hykeham Relief Road comes to fruition over the coming years that the parish will see a lessening of traffic and safer roads as drivers bypass the villages.

Thank You's

Ms Kerrie Vickers

Our Parish Councillors

County Councillor Marianne Overton MBE

District Councillor Peter Overton

District Councillor Mitch Elliott

Mrs Pat Woodman MBE

Mr Richard Fenwick (Highways)

Aubourn Estate

All of the residents of Aubourn and Haddington.

Please note, these minutes are in draft form until authorised at the next Annual Parish Meeting