

BURTON UPON STATHER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 16 April 2007 in the Village Hall, Burton upon Stather.

PRESENT Councillors G.E.Anderson, G.M.Aykroyd, P.F.Bell, Mrs A.Bradley, Mrs J.A.Cooper, Mrs P.J.Cooper, C.Curtis, Mrs C.A.Middleton, M.Peace, S.Sowerby.
North Lincolnshire Councillors B.P.Regan, H.Rowson and A.Smith.

Mrs P.Denby – Parish Clerk
Approximately 15 members of the public.

**Councillor R.W.Harris, Chairman of Burton upon Stather Parish Council,
in the Chair.**

APOLOGIES for Absence were accepted from Councillors Mrs B.Clark-Vessey, G.A.Mackay, Mrs M.A.Richardson and N.F.Thornes. Mr M.Bee.

1. Minutes as circulated of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 April 2006 were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

2. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council 2006-7

Councillor R.W.Harris reported that the year 2006-7 had been another busy year and had seen the completion of the Parish Plan. The Plan would help the new Council to plan for the next 8-10 years and fulfil needs identified in the questionnaire responses. The Council was hoping to open up the new cemetery as soon as possible, once internal infrastructure was in place, but did not want to burden the Parish with large increases to the precept.

The Council had become increasingly concerned about incidents of vandalism and burglary and had urged Humberside Police to provide a more proactive approach. The Council realised that it was a small minority of young people involved in anti social behaviour and praised the majority, particularly the Lifestyle groups and young fund raisers who were improving the quality of life for all within the Parish.

He confirmed that the Parish Council Had asked North Lincolnshire Council for help in producing a long term maintenance plan to improve Burton Hills.

Dog fouling, fly tipping and parking on grass verges were an on-going concern but North Lincolnshire Council had formed "Streetwise" to try to tackle these problems and the Parish Council would continue to give our regular information and contacts in the quarterly newsletter.

Cllr Harris reminded those present about the 15 minutes which were available to residents before any Council meeting, to enable them to raise any issues of concern.

**Annual Parish Meeting
16.04.2007**

Signed:

He expressed his confidence in the future of the Parish, praising all those volunteers who ran committees and organisations in the Parish. He was particularly pleased that new leaders had come forward to run the Brownies.

He praised the work of the Burton Primary School and thanked them for the help they gave at the Christmas carol singing on Glebe Paddock. He particularly enjoyed representing the Parish at the annual carol concert in St Andrew's Church.

In conclusion, he thanked all of his fellow councillors and the Clerk for their support and hard work throughout the year.

Cllr Harris asked if there were any questions and residents raised the following concerns and suggestions:

- Complaints about parking on grass verges
- A number of complaints about anti social behaviour and criticism of police response
- A request for a mobile cctv unit to monitor anti social behaviour and crime in High Street and at the playing fields
- A suggestion to move the Norfolk Avenue seat and/or the telephone box
- A suggestion that the North Lincolnshire sports bus should be encouraged to visit Burton
- Complaints about litter and dog fouling.

Cllr Harris stated that these issues had been noted and would be discussed by the Council over the coming weeks.

3. Report from the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Mrs P.Denby referred to a draft end of year financial report, which had yet to be audited, together with a detailed breakdown of all income and expenditure received during the financial year 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007.

She explained that the bulk of the Council's income came from the precept, which was £37,000 for the financial year ending 31 March 2007, which had risen to cover costs and capital expenditure involved in the new cemetery. Bank interest had doubled as the Parish Council had borrowed £20,000 from the Public Works Loan Board over 10 years at a set interest rate of 4.85% to part fund the new car park at the playing field. Reserves of over £52,000 had been carried forward to the new financial year, but £35,000 was earmarked to pay for the new car park in the very near future.

North Lincolnshire Council had provided £5,000 in grant aid and secured another £5000 from the Heritage Lottery. The cost of the car park to the Parish was therefore £30,000 instead of the £40,000 plus which had been forecast.

The other income consisted of Parish map sales, a payment for filing the end of year PAYE and NI online, reimbursements, a Best Kept Village prize and an insurance claim.

**Annual Parish Meeting
16.04.2007**

Signed:

The detailed breakdown of expenditure showed that the administration budget covered salary, insurances costing nearly £5000, general office and property repair costs plus grants to various organisations.

The Clerk was the only employee of the Council, contracted to work approximately 16 hours per week, following a national revue of pay and conditions in 2005. The Clerk's salary rose in line with National Association of Local Councils rates negotiated at national level, the same as the pension increases. Office costs included lighting, heating, stationery, photocopier maintenance and copies, computer supplies, hall hire etc and also a training budget for councillors and the clerk.

Mrs Denby thanked Councillor Gerry Mackay for acting as the Parish Council check on her work as Responsible Finance Officer throughout the year. The official internal audit was to be undertaken by Tony Porter, then his work was verified by the external auditor - the Audit Commission. So far, the Parish finances had always received a clean bill of health.

The Parish Council was responsible for the grounds maintenance of Burton Hills, Glebe Paddock and the new cemetery behind the bowling green. The Council paid for grass cutting at the Burton and Thealby Playing Fields and also reimbursed grounds maintenance costs at St Andrew's Churchyard under a formal agreement made back in 1976.

Grants were made to village organisations, which were deemed to be in need of financial assistance.

The Parish Council had various powers to allow it to spend money legally, such as under the many sections of the Local Government Act 1972.

Mrs Denby explained that the Parish Precept for 2007/8 was £40,000, which amounted to approximately £33.33 per household, based on 1200 properties. Budgeted expenditure amounted to a maximum of £48,000, drawing on reserves. £8000 had been allocated towards internal paths and landscaping plans for the new cemetery, which was due to open within a couple of years.

Answering a question on the apparently large cost of the car, Mrs Denby stated that the Parish Council had obtained 3 quotations from local firms in 2005, but the North Lincolnshire Highways Alliance was at least £3000 cheaper in 2006 and easily met Best Value criteria.

4. Report from the Village Hall Management Committee

David Faulks, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, reported on the continued steady use of the hall by new and regular users. The Village Hall remained at the centre of village activity, providing a diverse range of activities from music workshops to video horse racing.

The Village Hall Committee had had to review and monitor rental charges in line with similar venues in the area and with rising heating costs and had managed to roughly balance income and expenditure, as there were no unscheduled repair expenses or new projects started.

**Annual Parish Meeting
16.04.2007**

Signed:

The Hall had recently hosted two live drama productions by the Little Theatre Club and Group 62, which had added to rental income.

Mr Faulks paid tribute to the work of Mick Richardson, the cleaner/caretaker, who not only kept the Hall spick and span, but had also acted as a general handyman. He was about to retire but would continue to serve on the Committee.

The Village Hall Committee members were sad to lose the services of Gerry Mackay as General Secretary. From now on he would serve as an ordinary Committee member, offering his valuable expertise to the remaining committee.

He regretted the fact that deposit levels for private party functions had had to be raised following damage and misbehaviour by a group of unsupervised teenagers. The Village Hall had since been granted an alcohol licence for a future function without objection from the police, despite the fact that they had been called out three times to the teenage party.

The Village Hall had to comply with ever changing regulations, for example the cleanliness and structural condition of the kitchen, and he thanked the members for ensuring that the Village Hall continued to be so successful.

A report prepared by the treasurer, Malcolm Bee, was circulated showing a surplus of £1534.48 for the year ending 31 December 2006.

5. Report from the Burton upon Stather Playing Fields Association

Cllr Mrs A. Bradley read a report from the Chairman of the PFA, Noel Thornes.

He thanked his fellow committee members for ensuring that the playing field facilities continued to be used by parishioners of all ages, particularly thanking Gill Thornes, the secretary, for her help and support through the year. Mrs Ann Bradley continued to apply for grants, but this year without success.

The committee had raised over £200 with a stall at the Burton in Bloom weekend, but a planned Fun Day had had to be cancelled because of lack of volunteers to supervise events.

He praised the Burton Music Fest, which had been organised and run by locals on the playing field, providing music for all age groups. He wished them every success for a similar event in 2007.

He thanked Claire and Paul Cowling for organising and supervising a Children's Activity Club for the summer months with the help of other parents.

He reported that the playing field was used extensively during the football season for teams of male and female players of various ages. He thanked Rob Belton and the football team managers for their maintenance of the pitches and thanked Graham Beech, who had now stepped down from this role, for all his hard work in previous seasons.

David Wenban had obtained planning permission for floodlighting to enable practice to take place during the winter months. The floodlighting would be part funded by the PFA using 200 Club funds, but installed by the football managers.

Annual Parish Meeting

16.04.2007

Signed:

The Bowls Club continued to run their own section with about 40 members, running two teams in the Scunthorpe League and teams in the Men's and Humberside Triples. They were keen to attract new members, emphasizing that the sport was open to all ages.

Cllr Thornes praised the new car park, funded by the Parish Council and other grants, noting that an improved specification for the car park meant that they were able to accept plastic recycling banks for the convenience of residents. He asked residents to refrain from leaving bags of recycling materials by the side of full banks, as the contents blew all over the car park and had to be cleared up by committee members.

The erection of a barrier to prevent unauthorised vehicles from entering the car had caused concern to some residents. The Parish Council was still discussing the design of the barrier to ensure that it could be locked to prevent groups taking up residency there, but could be safely opened by recycling operatives.

He was disappointed to report vandalism and theft during the summer months had resulted in a bill for over £1000. Teenage parties with drink and drugs had left the football field littered with broken glass, causing more work for committee members. He hoped that the police would pay greater attention to this anti social behaviour this coming summer.

He reported that the PFA desperately needed to attract new younger members to run the facilities, particularly a new secretary and treasurer.

Over the past two years, he and Gill Thornes had worked tirelessly to attract grants and funding for a new social and recreational facility to replace the existing pavilion. They had secured pledged funding of £125,000 with a further potential £170,000 available from Land Fill Tax Credits and from the Football Foundation, but, unfortunately, their application to the Community Lottery had been rejected. All plans had had to be put on hold until another funding source could be identified for the outstanding £250,000.

He thanked Barry Jackson and Pat McKay for continuing to run the 200 Club Lottery, the balance of which stood at £6105.00.

He thanked David Wenban for his hard work as committee member and treasurer. The PFA funds stood at £4097.35, including a sum of £2202.36 for the new pavilion.

In conclusion, he thanked the Parish Council, the Clerk and particularly his wife, Gill Thornes, for all their help and support during the year.

Following a question on the amount raised by recycling at the playing field, Mrs Denby confirmed that she would seek this information from North Lincolnshire Council and check to see if residents should be encouraged to leave paper, cans and glass at the playing field or recycle the material in the kerb side collections.

6. Report from Thealby Play Area Committee.

There was no report but a balance sheet showed they had funds amounting to £405.85, with no expenditure over the past year.

**Annual Parish Meeting
16.04.2007**

Signed:

7. Any Other Business

Cllr Harris invited those present to raise any issues of concern:

i. Burton Hills

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council was still waiting for Colin Horton to produce a maintenance plan for the Hills to restore the views over the river.

Public Rights of Way was hoping to provide a dog litter bin at the Ashwood Close entrance to the Hills, if North Lincolnshire Council Neighbourhood Services would agree to empty it in their designated collection vehicle.

She explained that the Parish Council did employ a litter collector and ditch inspector, but he was not expected to pick up dog faeces, because of health and Safety concerns.

ii. Kingsferry Wharf

Cllr B.P.Regan reported that a bulk fertilizer firm was about to move into the wharf premises. The firm had not needed planning permission as the existing planning consent covered all their activities and the traffic route.

He urged residents to report any environmental concerns which might arise to the Hull and Goole Port Authority, North Lincolnshire Council, Humberside Police or to the Parish Council.

Councillor Regan thanked the Parish Council for the professional way in which it conducted its affairs.

**Annual Parish Meeting
16.04.2007**

Signed: