



NORTH LEVERTON WITH HABLESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: SARA STILLIARD

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD MONDAY 5th June 2017

Present: Cllrs A Conn (in the Chair), G White, S Ferguson; C Erridge, P Dadd, C Overend
S Stilliard (Clerk), DCllr Hugh Burton
One member of the public.

17.01 Apologies for absence.

Malcolm Ferguson; PCSO Dave Airey

17.02 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th June 2016

The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record

17.03. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

17.04. Chairman of the Parish Council's Report.

The Chairman gave the following Annual Report (read out by the Vice Chair), which was accepted unanimously by all present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2017

Since my report for 2016 the Parish Council has suffered the sad and untimely passing of our colleague and friend Jill McGarry. Jill left us earlier this year after a short illness. She was a much-loved member of our team and indeed the village community as a whole – she has been and continues to be greatly missed by us all. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

The last twelve months have also see Ian Hobbs step down from his council duties. In the short time Ian was with us he proved to be an enthusiastic and pro-active member of the team, in fact he still takes an active part in our Speedwatch operations. We thank him for his valuable and much appreciated contribution and wish him well for the future. On a happier note our new Clerk Sara Stilliard has settled in well to her role and has provided a seamless transition of duties from retired Clerk David Langmead. I think I can confidently say that the Parish Council is in good hands with Sara at the helm!

Speeding traffic within the village has been a long-term issue and the last twelve months have been no exception. As usual our Speedwatch team continues to monitor traffic through the village - their efforts being greatly appreciated by the Parish Council. Similarly, the newly formed Association of Trent Side Parish Councils has been hard at work engaging with local authorities and other action groups in an attempt to find other standardised initiatives to help combat the blight of speeding vehicles in our area. In addition to these ongoing initiatives the Council itself has been actively looking for ways to combat this problem. I feel sure that many of you will have noticed the re-location of the 30 mph speed restrictions signs at the entrance to the village

coming from Retford. It is our hope that this will help reduce vehicle speeds well before they enter the built-up area. Sadly, initial evidence gathered from our Speedwatch team together with results from a recent survey undertaken by NCC Highways, indicates that drivers continue to enter the village from Retford too fast – the average speed being over 36 mph! It may not sound much but remember that this is an average figure some vehicles have been recorded at well over 50 mph. We shall continue to monitor this situation but, in the meantime, we are already in discussions with the Highways department about the possibility of erecting another interactive speed sign in this area. However, in the short term we would politely ask local drivers to observe the speed limits within all villages in our area – they are there for a reason. Consider how you would feel if one of your own relatives or friends was run over and injured, or worse killed, by a speeding motorist – it doesn't always happen to someone else!

With the increase in the number of cars owned by residents and the apparent unwillingness of drivers to consider pedestrians the parking of vehicles on pavements is becoming an increasing issue. Again, can we politely ask drivers to consider not parking their vehicles on footpaths – even if it means walking an extra few yards! Pavements are, after all, intended for the use of pedestrians some of who use prams, buggies, walking aids etc who shouldn't have to walk into the road to get around a vehicle.

The constant nuisance of irresponsible dog owners failing to pick up their pet's mess and dispose of it in a proper manner is still ever present – this despite new and additional notices, visits from the BDC dog warden and the spraying of messages on footpaths! We earnestly urge dog walkers do the right thing and pick up their dog's mess please. Similarly, we would ask anyone who is able to forward details of names, time and locations of anyone not doing so to report it to us so that we can forward the information to the proper authorities.

The Blacksmith's playing field continues to be well used. As a consequence of our ongoing maintenance of this facility we have acquired 2 new benches which have recently been erected around the play equipment and we are shortly to embark on a painting programme to refurbish the shelter and the small metal climbing frame. We are also looking for local groups and/or organisations to "adopt" a flower bed in the memorial garden. In doing so you could tend the existing plants and supplement them by adding your own. If anyone is interested please speak to any Parish Councillor.

We have recently completed a thorough refurbishment of the village library (AKA the old telephone box) which is still as popular as ever. It now stands resplendent in its new red coating and has new shelving within – we've even managed to repair the light so that it can be used in the dark. Our thanks go to Cllr Gordon White and John Taylor who were instrumental in breathing new life into this facility. We must also thank Mr & Mrs Wilkinson for their good neighbourliness in providing copious amounts of tea and biscuits during the work!

The quarterly village newsletter continues to be well received and our thanks go to all those involved in both its production and distribution. In particular the bigger "bumper" edition which now includes a children's section has proved very popular. We will of course continue in our efforts to review and improve this publication. To this end may I take this opportunity to remind parishioners that we would be more than happy to receive articles for consideration to be included in future editions. Please feel free to contribute, whilst the newsletter is a PC initiative it is there for all.

I feel I must mention our new Village Lengthsman Jack Foster. Jack has settled in well to his role and can regularly be seen travelling about the village in his blue tractor quietly going about his chores. Whilst his efforts tend to go unnoticed by many both his dedication and his resultant achievements are very much appreciated by the Council.

Looking ahead I would like to take this opportunity to re-affirm that the Council has fixed its budget for the 2017/2018 financial year and can confirm that we are able to provide the same level of service at no additional cost to households - this despite cost increases and wage rises. We consider that, for less than £5 per month, we offer exceptional value for money when servicing the local needs of our community.

Finally, I would like to mention my fellow Parish Councillors, District Councillor Hugh Burton, County Councillor John Ogle and PCSO David Airey who have all helped and aided me over the last year. I would also like to make mention of John Taylor for his continued and greatly appreciated work as village handy person.

Thank you all for support you have given to me over the last 12 months – I look forward to continuing our rewarding working relationship over the year ahead.

17.05. Police Report

The Clerk reported on behalf of PCSO Dave Airey for the last year as follows:- “Last year, up to 31/03/2016, reported crime figures across the beat area were very low – indeed the figures for that year were as low as reported crime on the area has been in the ten years, or so, that I have been in my role. In the case of a couple of months in that year, no crimes at all were reported across the beat area”. The remainder of Dave’s monthly report has been included in the minutes of the June Meeting of the Parish Council.

17.06. Public Forum.

No issues were raised

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25 pm

Signed.....

Date.....