

SOUTH HYKEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Carolyn Wilkinson

<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/SouthHykeham>

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of South Hykeham Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 6.30 pm. in South Hykeham Village Hall.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Mrs P Whittaker (Chairman), P Driffill, D Rowson, Mrs L Graham, Mrs D Locker, S Roe and M Main. Clerk: Carolyn Wilkinson. District Councillor Mrs Sue Howe NKDC. There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs P Woodman, MBE, NKDC and Police Beat Team, Cllr Phillips LCC.

2. Clerk's notes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2015 to be adopted as the minutes of that meeting. Proposed Cllr Driffill seconded by Cllr Mrs Graham that the Clerk's notes should be adopted as the minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2015. Cllr Mrs Whittaker signed the Minutes.

3. Police Report

In the absence of the Police Beat Team the Clerk gave the report. There were 68 reported occurrences for 2015/16 and 81 for 2014/15 so reported crime in Hykeham Rural is down this year compared to last.

Crimes are made up of :-

Theft from Motor Vehicles (mostly from insecure vehicles), theft of plant machinery, criminal damage to Motor Vehicles with one incident reported at South Hykeham Primary School. Burglaries have been mainly commercial burglaries, however, one was a private dwelling. Dog on dog attack.

4. Reports

a) Chairman of South Hykeham Parish Council Cllr Mrs P Whittaker At the May meeting last year I was again elected as Chairman of South Hykeham Parish Council, with Councillor Debbie Locker elected Vice Chair. During the year the Council co-opted Cllr Stephen Roe and Cllr Mike Main to bring the council up to its full capacity of seven councillors.

Sadly our long serving Clerk Sue Hill left the Council after giving many years of exemplary service and the Council is very grateful to her for her sterling efforts during that time. She has been replaced by Carolyn Wilkinson who has been a Parish Clerk for 12 years serving with other neighbouring Parish Councils during that time.

Our two District Councillors have between them continued to attend our monthly meetings to give their reports. I and my fellow councillors appreciate their attendance as we are aware that they have many other parishes to cover, some meeting on the same evening as ourselves. We wish to pass on our sincere thanks for their continued commitment and assistance to our Parish Council.

Our County Councillor endeavours to attend our meetings when he is able and has allocated £300 of his Big Society Fund allocation to South Hykeham Parish Council towards the replacement noticeboards that have been made and installed by Hill Holt Wood Ltd. The Parish Council is very grateful for his contribution towards this project.

Unfortunately the bus shelter at Long Lane was demolished as the result of a road traffic accident. The Parish Council received an insurance settlement to cover the cost of rebuilding a shelter at this location but as the service is so infrequent the Council has held back from replacing the shelter as it

would like to look into other projects that may benefit a wider number of parishioners instead. The Neighbourhood Plan for Hykeham is progressing steadily and we hope will be ready for submission later this year. Councillor Driffill and myself continue to regularly attend the Neighbourhood Plan meetings and report back to this council.

The Parish Council has engaged litter picking services from North Hykeham Town Council from midway through the financial year as it had not been possible to engage our own litter picker following the retirement of the previous litterpicker.

Flytipping continues to be an ongoing problem and is reported to North Kesteven District Council as and when it happens. Unfortunately Lincolnshire County Council has closed the household waste recycling centres at Leadenham and Whisby and residents from our area will now have to visit Great Northern Terrace in Lincoln instead. It is hoped that this will not result in an increase in reports of fly tipping.

Our information/roundup of what is happening in the Parish continues to be incorporated in the Witham Herald and also on our website. Once again I would like to thank everyone who is involved in delivering the magazine to all the households in South Hykeham on our behalf. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Some of our councillors and the Clerk have attended various training courses throughout the year and several of us also attended the LALC AGM.

The Council has agreed to purchase another litter bin to be installed at Meadow Lane and will regularly review the provision of litter and dog waste bins with a view to installing more at known problem areas. There is a cost to the Parish Council for emptying dog waste bins but the Council feels it is money well spent in order to work towards trying to keep our Parish dog faeces free. It is hoped that everyone will be a responsible dog owner and will continue to dispose of their dog waste in the bins provided. It is also permissible for dog waste to be bagged and disposed of in litterbins which are dual purpose.

The Parish Council has recently adopted a revised Emergency Plan and attended training at Lincs Fire and Rescue in connection with the further review of the adopted Emergency Plan.

Finally Cllr Mrs Whittaker thanked her fellow councillors for continuing to give their time and energy for the benefit of the Parish.

b) NKDC – Cllr Mrs S Howe

Cllr Mrs P Woodman, MBE had given her apologies for this evening as she is already attending another council meeting.

Cllr Mrs Howe gave her report. The District Council's housing stock over the last 5 years has seen an extra 150 new homes added to its portfolio, in addition to commencement of a 22 home affordable housing project at Heckington. All homes meet new standard of high energy efficiency and work continues on 17 more council homes at Kesteven Court, Nth Hykeham.

A £3.6m investment and year-long extensive refurbishment of the North Kesteven Sports Centre is nearing completion and will provide innovative new facilities for all its users.

The District is recognised for the second year running for being the safest place to live with low levels of recorded crime. This applauds the on-going success of the NK Community Safety Partnership. The District is also ranked in the top 50 of all 405 local authority areas to live - the highest of all the Lincolnshire authorities.

NKDC has invested £2m in the creation of 19 new leasehold business units at Teal Park, on favourable arrangements and of varying size.

An extensive refurbishment programme at Whisby Natural World has recently been completed and consists of a new indoor play area, re-profiling of the Little Darters outdoor play area and refurbishment of indoor exhibition space.

The District has contributed to a package of funding to expand opportunities for more trains stopping at Hykeham Station, seeing a dramatic rise in passenger numbers.

A new Arts Project has been instigated incorporating Nth Hykeham, Waddington, Welbourn and Sleaford to contribute towards a festival in 2016.

A 3-year vision, the NK Plan, has been drafted following consultation with 1,300 residents, businesses and stakeholders.

Claimants affected by changes to Universal Credit arrangements have been supported and the District has also supported around 500 people through Discretionary Housing payments.

A local Council Tax rate within the lowest quartile of all rates nationally has been maintained, and it has also promoted the benefits of collective energy switch to enable residents to save hundreds of £s. The Garden Waste Service is used by more than 30,000 subscribers - a take up of 56% - in addition to 50,000 household's recycling and residual waste bins being collected. It has also responded to 1,000 reports of fly tipping, carried out the necessary clearance, investigated the offence and prosecuted offenders.

Tourism is an important income generator to the District and has seen 2.23m visitors to the District yearly. This brings in around £115m to the economy and supports 2,000 jobs.

The District recognises, annually, through the NK Community Champions' Awards the contributions individuals, community groups and businesses make selflessly to improve the lives of less fortunate people than their own.

It has brought back into use 20 long term empty homes as assets for owners, communities and individuals wanting a secure home.

Health walks within the NK Social Strollers Programme have been expanded and the District is one of only four English councils to pioneer a pilot Health England project into best practice for tackling obesity.

At present, those community groups wanting to mark the Queen's 90th birthday later this month are being supported with advice and promotion initiatives, etc through the District.

Finally, more information can be obtained from the Council's new interactive and intuitive corporate web-site now available making it easier to identify high demand options, bin collection dates, paying fees and charges, and Planning Applications. www.n-kesteven.gov.co.uk

c) LCC – Cllr R Phillips

In the absence of Cllr Phillips who had given his apologies for this evening there was no report.

5. Hykeham Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr Drifill and Cllr Mrs Whittaker continue to attend the meetings at NHTC as representatives of the South Hykeham Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan is now nearing completion. Aecom Transport plan has now been returned for substantial additional work to provide the evidence required to support the policies for the Plan.

6. Presentation of a proposal for a joint North and South Hykeham Council North and South Hykeham are looking at the possibility of amalgamating the two councils to form one joint council. Discussions have been taking place and the next joint meeting of councils will incorporate a presentation from the Democratic Services Manager at NKDC.

7. Finance Report 2015/16

The Clerk has prepared a financial statement and balance sheet for the year ended 31st March 2016 which is available for viewing this evening. The Clerk has recently met with the internal auditor who has prepared an interim report for the Parish Council and reported to the Council that from his initial overview audit, the Council's financial matters appear to be managed properly. He is due to meet again with the Clerk for the end of year audit which will be carried out in more detail than the interim report. The external auditor Grant Thornton has set the due date of 10th June 2016 for submission of the Council's completed Annual Return for 2015/16.

8. Parishioner's Open Forum and Questions

There were no residents present at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.52pm.

There was now a short interval before the Parish Council monthly meeting took place.

Chairman

Date.....