

Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting Held Monday 9th May 2022 at The Playing Fields Pavilion, Fishtoft

PRESENT: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Helen Crawford residing as Chairperson
12 members of the public (2 arriving during the meeting)
The Clerk Fishtoft Parish Council, Mrs Victoria Clark, was also in attendance to take notes of the meeting.

The meeting was opened at: 6:00pm

- 1. Notes from the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 13 May 2019:** *To resolve as a correct record by those that attended the meeting and for the Chairman of the meeting to sign the official minutes.*
All those attending the 2019 meeting resolved to accept the notes of 13 May 2019, as a correct record of the meeting and gave permission for the Chairperson to sign them.
- 2. Notes from the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 5 May 2021:** *To resolve as a correct record by those that attended the meeting and for the Chairman of the meeting to sign the official minutes*
All those attending the 2019 meeting resolved to accept the notes of 5 May 2021, as a correct record of the meeting and gave permission for the Chairperson to sign them
- 3. Chairmans report:** *To receive a review for the past year and future plans*
The Chairperson welcomed all those attending
See Appendix A
- 4. Financial report:** *To receive the council's financial report for April 2021 to March 2022*
All those attending received a copy of the report
See Appendix B
- 5. Short overview of the past year and future plans from outside bodies:**
Police: No report or representation
Fishtoft Parochial Church Council: Apologies were received, a report will be sent to the council after their AGM
Hawthorn Tree School: A representative from the Board of Governors gave a report
See Appendix C
Fishtoft Academy: Apologies were sent from the representative
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fun Day: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Armstrong gave a report
See Appendix D

Signed _____

Date _____

Fishtoft Emergency Plan: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Williams gave a report

If any resident would like to know more about how they can be involved please contact the council fishtoftpc1@outlook.com
See Appendix E

St. Leonards Trust: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Armstrong gave a report
See Appendix F

Fishtoft Playing Fields Trust: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Lenton gave a report
See Appendix G

Rochford Tower Hall: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Ashley
Fishtoft Parish Councillor Ashley has not been to a Hall Committee meeting as yet, and will report to the council when he has. The Hall Committee sent a report
See Appendix H

Fishtoft wooded Area (Near the pumping station), maintenance Project: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Ordway gave a report
See Appendix I

Fishtoft Buoy and Mosaics: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Armstrong gave a report
See Appendix J

6. Short comments and statements from Residents:

Representatives from the Football club spoke about their vision for the play area and asked for the Parish Councils help

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:17pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Appendix A

Chairman's Report

When Victoria told me I had to make a speech this evening I asked her what should be included. She said 'anything you like'. I asked how long it should last and she said 'as long as you like'. So here goes. Good evening everyone and welcome to the 2022 Fishtoft Annual Parish meeting. I have been a Parish Councillor for over 2 years but this is the first opportunity I have had to attend an Annual Parish Meeting face-to-face and to actually Chair the event is particularly exciting.

The past 12 months have shown a lifting of general Coronavirus restrictions on our lives and a decrease in both the number of persons infected with Covid and the number of those hospitalised because of this terrible illness. Since July 2021 the Parish Council has once again been able to meet face-to-face rather than via Zoom. It was hoped that Parliament would enact legislation to enable Councillors to continue to attend meetings online if necessary but this has not yet occurred.

Why have a PC? We have Councillors who represent the Parish at Borough and County level and an MP who represents us in Parliament. Well, apart from representing our views they must also take into account the rest of the Borough, County and country. The PC main function is to listen to the concerns of residents of the Parish and to support local projects. How do we know what Fishtoft residents want? Our Parish Clerk is the Front Desk as it were of the Council and generally she is the one who is emailed, phoned, written to with complaints, requests and suggestions about the Parish. We know from what she has been told that our residents are mainly concerned about speeding, litter and the state of the roads and pavements. To address these concerns we have purchased several speed reminder signs which Cllr Paul Skinner has kindly placed at various strategic points. We have purchased a litter bin and placed it in a lay by on Fishtoft Road. And we actively encourage the reporting of problems with roads and pavements through the FixMyStreet website. We also respond to requests from local organisations seeking financial assistance and during the past 12 months we have given grants to the Fishtoft Playing Fields Trust to help with the cost of keeping the fields neat and tidy; to the Church to maintain the churchyard and we paid to maintain the War Memorial area. We are also responsible for maintaining several grassy areas within the Parish and have a contract with a landscaper for this.

Where do we get our funds from? The PC raises money mainly through the precept, an additional annual charge that appears on the Council Tax demand that we all received a few weeks ago. In the financial year 2021/22 I personally paid just under £22 to Fishtoft Parish Council which was almost £1 less than the previous year. This decrease in the precept was due to the careful management of funds by the PC. This careful management continued to the current financial year where again I see a decrease in my portion of the precept by £1.50. I appreciate that not everyone considers a reduction in the precept prudent financial planning but given the current climate of increased cost of energy and food prices we need to do our best not to add to residents' financial burdens.

A couple of disappointments – firstly, despite much remedial work having been undertaken at the Pilgrim Fathers Memorial site, the Scalp Road access is in a poor state and no-one seems to want to take responsibility for it. Not much encouragement to increase tourist traffic down there. While we are on the Memorial site, recently there have been problems with persons thinking it great fun to race their off road vehicles there. The PC has worked

together with BBC and the police in identifying these individuals and in restricting their entry to the area.

Unfortunately this year Cllr Linda Taylor resigned from the PC. This was regrettable as she had great enthusiasm for the village and a desire to make improvements. However, as one of my neighbours said – the PC has much responsibility and no power – and I think the speed at which we can work and what we are able to achieve must have been very frustrating for her. As a statutory body we respond to nearly all public consultations that affect the residents of Fishtoft including planning applications and budget proposals etc. This work is often time consuming and is done by Councillors in their own time and to a high standard.

Not everyone appreciates our input but it is vital that we continue to contribute as we are the first port of call when it comes to local concerns. We give our time voluntarily and for little or no reward or thanks. We may not always get it right but we try our best and anyone who would like to help in our task I would encourage them to contact our Parish Clerk for more information on how to become a Parish Councillor.

For the forthcoming year, we need to actively pursue our request, jointly with Sibsey PC, to reduce the speed on the A16 between our two Parishes. This has now been with Highways for over 2 years but to date no formal response has been received. We also need to find ways to better engage with the community. Most people only turn to the PC when a problem occurs and generally they have little idea of what we do. We have tried to make our notice boards more interesting and informative but we could do with examining other ways of getting our message across such as social media. I think the notice boards could themselves do with a little TLC.

On a personal level, I would like to thank Victoria for her help in this my first year as Chair. She has been very patient with me as I have been learning the ropes. She is studying to obtain the Certificate in Local Council Administration and as a Council we can only benefit from the knowledge and confidence she is gaining through this.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give formal thanks to Cllr Armstrong for all her hard work for the Fun Day which is now less than 4 weeks away. She has been working on this for 3 years. And I'm sure the weather is going to be lovely this time. Plus both she and Cllr Lenton have also been very generous in giving up their time, their home and their dining table for the mosaic workshops. And that could be the next big PC event – the grand unveiling of the buoy!!

I'm sure there's lots more I could say but you will have had enough of me rambling on so just to finish by saying thank you all for being wonderful Councillor colleagues and here's to next year.

Cheers Helen Crawford - 9 May 2022

Appendix B

Finance Report from the Responsible Finance Officer – 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

INCOME

Balance brought forward from 2020-2021	59,974.57
Precept minus footway maintenance of £4,454.89	28,284.11
Allotment rent	1,075.47
Other	1,173.34

Total **90,507.49**

Funds Held

Fishtoft Queens Jubilee Fun Day	429.47
Fishtoft 400 (Pilgrim Fathers), Mosiacs & Buoy	
Herriage Lottery Funding	1,376.03
Wooded area near the pumping station - Maintenance Project	
Community Grant from Boston Borough Council	1,000.00

Total **2,805.50**

EXPENDITURE

Unpresented in 2020-2021	1,099.51
Membership, Insurance & Audit costs	1,863.63
Staff costs	4,512.84
War memorial, Grass Maintenance & Witham Forth	11,329.17
Phone, stationery, broadband & laptop costs, Video conferencing, Hall Hire	1,200.52
VAT	2,691.48
Queens Jubilee Fun Day	784.04
Fishtoft 400	7,156.30
Grants	1,650.00

Total **32,287.49**

Appendix C

Hawthorn Tree School

Report for Hawthorn Tree Primary School on their progress and plans for 2022

Over the last year, we have welcomed a new headteacher, Mrs Michelle Palmer. She is doing an extremely good job, bringing in new ideas and systems. The children have all returned to face to face teaching and although there are some anxieties, most children have coped very well with the restrictions of Covid.

Here is a summary of the main actions completed this academic year so far:

- The School Plan priorities are on track to be completed. The main areas of development are the well-being of pupils and staff, the curriculum, progress for all children, continuing to close the gaps for vulnerable groups especially pupil premium children and ensuring that the percentage of GDS is at least in line with National or higher.
- The new EYFS curriculum is to be embedded this academic year with 75% targeted to be at a good level of development in the prime and specific areas.
- Target setting has been completed with targets across the Key Stages at least in line with National and FFT expectation. Progress meetings have ensured that these targets are on track. Coaching and intervention has been used strategically to improve pupil outcomes and plug gaps in learning.
- Pixl has been introduced to the school as an assessment tool which identifies the key gaps in learning and then plugs these gaps through quality first teaching and /or intervention. Two rounds of assessment data have been completed. Data shows that this is having a positive impact.
- Performance management reviews and objective setting sessions have been completed for all staff. Mid- year reviews for teaching staff have been completed.
- Extra- curricular provision is improving with more after school clubs now on offer than previously
- The current reward system has been enhanced with more rewards now for individual as well as collaborative achievement.
- The curriculum continues to provide opportunities to support pupils' mental and physical well-being.
- British values have been re-introduced to the children and linked more implicitly in the curriculum statement.
- Subject leaders are monitoring their subject 3x academic year to ensure impact and progression.
- My Concern -a new system for reporting safeguarding concerns is in place.
- Hawthorn is now part of the Kyra Collaboration for Schools.
- Hawthorn now has some networking links with other schools for moderation.
- The Lincolnshire Mental Health Team are working closely with the school to provide support for children, parents and staff.

Other information:

We are looking to increase our pupil numbers with the nearby building works.

We are currently waiting for the Highways Department to erect more railings along our footpaths to stop the children running out on to the road. This request started in 2016 and is still ongoing. It is very frustrating for the school to keep being told that this work will be done every next holiday, only for it to not be completed. Any help with moving this on would be appreciated.

We have recently been filmed by Look North, to highlight our 7 dogs, which attend the school for wellbeing purposes.

We currently have a vacancy for a co-opted governor, if anyone is interested, please come and see me later, or email myself or the school. Julie.walmsley@hawthorn-tree.lincs.sch.uk or enquiries@hawthorn-tree.lincs.sch.uk.

We are trying to create a wellbeing garden at the front of our school. This has been designed by our children and we are in the process of making these designs happen. We are trying to involve the community by holding a 'Groundforce day' on Saturday 18th June. We would welcome anyone wishing to volunteer, or knows of anyone with gardening skills or landscaping skills. We are asking the school and community for donations to help with this project. Obviously if the Parish Council are willing to help in any way, physical or financial, it would be a great help.

Appendix D

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fun Day

Originally money was given to Fishtoft to help raise awareness of the problems associated with living in rural communities.

Both Fishtoft and Old Leake (who shared the funding) carried out a survey to find out what people felt were some of the problems facing people who lived in rural communities. Mainly it was transport, not having a regular bus service that served the area all day and evening. People who lived alone were the most affected, especially if they didn't drive. The other important thing which most people remarked on was that there was no 'notice board' for them to find out what activities were on in the area that they could join.

With this in mind Fishtoft decided to gather as many organisations together in one place. We called it a 'fun day' to encourage people to come along and find out what is going on in the area and meet other people living around them.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the event previously due to weather and then to Covid. Now seems to be a good time to have another shot at it, not just because people are looking forward to getting out and about again but also we are celebrating the extraordinary event of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We hope the event will bring people together to share in having a really happy day.

Appendix E Fishtoft Emergency Plan Poster



Fishtoft Parish Emergency Plan



Fishtoft Needs You

Want to be a part of the Parish Emergency Plan? If so, read on....

The Emergency Plan is for volunteer members of the Parish to provide a degree of self-assistance pending the deployment of recognised First Responders (Emergency Services, Council Services etc).

By its nature the Emergency cannot be defined until it occurs. Fishtoft Parish has never previously had an Emergency Plan; we are actively developing a viable one.

There are two key elements in a Parish level response:

- Firstly, to provide a sanctuary where parishioners lacking key life-sustaining needs such as shelter may congregate for support and prior to further processing. This is being addressed separately
- Secondly, which is where this appeal comes in, is to identify individuals and groups with the confidence and skills to assist with localised issues such as blocked access, residents in distress, properties at risk and the like

Parishioners will likely respond in any emergency; the Emergency Plan will introduce a degree of co-ordination to ensure all identified critical spots are covered without duplication of effort.

Can we add your contact details to the Emergency Plan?

As there is likely to be some disruption to the communications infrastructure these details would be in the form of mobile and fixed telephone contact numbers.

Once there is an established support framework, a training exercise will be undertaken to both test for weaknesses and provide visibility of all the activities involved.

Email fishtoftpc1@outlook.com to register your details for the Parish Emergency Plan

Appendix F

St. Leonards Trust

I was appointed as the Fishtoft Parish Council representative on the Board of Trustees for the St Leonards Trust in 2021. I had my first meeting on the 7th of July 2021, which also happened to be the Annual Inspection Day and 'meet & greet'. It was interesting being part of the Annual Inspection, and the 'meet & greet' gave me the opportunity to see for myself what the accommodation is like and to meet the residents.

I have since attended two more meetings and have met all the other Trustee members. I was invited to attend the interview for a new resident. This gave both the Trustees and the candidate the opportunity to decide whether the candidate, who had slight health issues, would find the accommodation suitable for his needs.

This year is the Quinquennial inspection which involves the thorough checking of the fabric of the buildings and assess the condition in order to plan for future maintenance needs.

The Alms houses have been awarded a Blue Plaque and there is to be an official ceremony on the 27th of June at the Alms houses. Matt Warman was asked to attend but he is otherwise engaged but will make an official visit on the 15th of July.

The next 'meet & greet' will take place on the 5th of July 2022.

Appendix G

Fishtoft Playing Fields Trust

Not a great deal to report as other than attending the AGM, no other meetings have been arranged.

The trust was established in the 1950's and is for the sole purpose of benefiting the residents of Fishtoft, as such it is therefore highly unlikely that the Playing Field will ever be taken over by developers for building residential housing.

Accounts were submitted for the Councils inspection at the time of the AGM and baring a recent bequest the Management Committee have found it increasingly difficult to raise sufficient funds to keep up with ever rising maintenance costs. With the spectre of an inflation rate of 10% on the horizon will, I guess, give the committee a decent bout of apoplexy.

Income is largely derived from letting off the fields to the local football club and for various functions at the Pavilion. One off events like our own Fund Day, Car Boot sales and birthday parties fill in the gaps.#

The popularity of the fields remains unabated and are now used virtually the whole year round with the kiddies play area being regularly used.

With this backdrop I was approached about a week ago by a committee member who would like to submit a proposal to the Parish Council concerning the future of the kiddies playing area. I understand that Ben Parkinson and Glen Hislop will be here tonight to present their case.

Councilor Richard Lenton

Appendix H

Rochford Tower Hall Committee

Annual report on behalf of Rochford Tower Hall from the management committee

The hall reopened again in June 2021 after the lifting of the covid lockdown restrictions, and is now slowly building itself up again.

Unfortunately a few of our regular groups decided to permanently close due to lack of support, these include the Fishtoft Forget Me Not Club a monthly meeting for the elderly, Rochford Ladies Group and the South Lincs Horticulture Society, these groups will be missed by many local residents.

We are up to date with all the necessary gas, electric and fire checks.

We received a further £8,000 from the government grant scheme that has helped during the difficult months of reduced income.

The hall is in good repair and still a popular venue, we hope to regroup the committee next month, new members always welcome, and to discuss what improvements can be made.