

Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting
Held Monday 13th May 2024 at The Playing Fields Pavilion, Fishtoft**

**PLEASE NOTE THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AS A TRUE AND
ACCURATE RECORD**

PRESENT: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Helen Crawford residing as Chairperson
7 members of the public
The Clerk Fishtoft Parish Council, Mrs Sarah Knowles, was also in attendance to take notes of the meeting.

The meeting was opened at: 6:06pm

- 1. Notes from the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023:** *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 2024 meeting resolved to accept the notes of 15th May 2023, as a correct record of the meeting and gave permission for the Chairperson to sign them.

- 2. Chairmans report:** *To receive a review for the past year and future plans*

The Chairperson welcomed all those attending
See Appendix A

- 3. Financial report:** *To receive the council's financial report for April 2023 to March 2024*

All those attending received a copy of the report
See Appendix B

- 4. Short overview of the past year and future plans from outside bodies:**

Police: No report or representation

Wooded Area by Fishtoft Pumping Station Included in Chairperson's report

Hawthorn Tree School: No report or representation

St. Leonards Hospital Trust: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Armstrong gave a report

See Appendix C

Fishtoft400 Fishtoft Parish Councillor Armstrong gave a report

See Appendix D

Fishtoft Community Hub

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Armstrong gave a report

See Appendix E

Rochford Tower Hall: No report or representation

St Guthlac's Parochial Church Council: No report or representation

Fishtoft Academy: No report or representation

Fishtoft Playing Field and Pavilion Trust: The Trust sent a report
See Appendix F

Lincolnshire County Councillor Paul Skinner: LCC Cllr Skinner relayed his recent County Councillor report
See Appendix G

Boston Borough Councillor Helen Staples
See Appendix H

Boston Borough Councillor David Scoot
See Appendix I

5. Short comments and statements from Residents:

There were no residents in attendance to make any comments or statements at the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.47pm

Appendix A

Chairman's Report

I would like to welcome you all to Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting gives me the opportunity to provide residents of Fishtoft with some details of what your Parish Council has done for you during the past 12 months and to let you know some of the plans that we have for the next year. It also allows representatives of various organisations within the Parish to update us all on their activities.

Residents contact the Parish Council about a wide range of concerns but at the top of the list are always traffic matters and waste bins. I shall start with waste bins.

Rubbish bins – last year I reported that the Parish Council was investigating placing bins in

Blackthorn Lane, Woodthorpe Avenue and Alcorn Green. While the Parish Council pays for new waste bins, we rely on Boston Borough Council to put them in place and to empty them. We must therefore liaise with Boston Borough Council over this matter. I am able to report that they have agreed to placing a new bin on Woodthorpe Avenue but unfortunately, at this time we have not been able to get their agreement for bins in the other two locations. We have also successfully replaced the dog bin by the footpath on Rochford Tower Lane. There had been one there previously but it had mysteriously disappeared.

Fogarty Lay By on Fishtoft Road – last year I also reported that we were investigating what steps could be taken to prevent lorries from parking up in the layby on Fishtoft Road overnight. We were receiving complaints from residents about being disturbed by engines starting up in the early hours of the morning and it is clear the grassy area is being churned up. We were prepared to take ownership of the area and erect signs banning overnight parking but Lincolnshire County Council and Highways have determined that there are some amenity services under the tarmac and therefore they are taking ownership of the land and will themselves be reviewing the use of it by heavy lorries.

Speed Limits – through County Councillor Paul Skinner we continue to push for a reduction of speed limit outside the hospital, north up Sibsey Road to Sibsey, and on the north end of Wainfleet Road. We had also requested a pedestrian crossing point on Wainfleet Road near Burton House. I am afraid to report that highways have recently conducted a survey with regard to the requested crossing area on Wainfleet Road and have reported that the number of persons seeking to cross the road at this point does not meet the criteria for placing a crossing there. The Parish Council has not yet had the opportunity to discuss this but I am sure that the residents who requested this will be disappointed in this report.

Parking - I am aware of residents' concerns about parking of vehicles that restrict access to properties or severely limit visibility on a road junction or corner. Sometimes these events are one offs but other times they are of a more permanent nature and can be due to residents themselves having limited access to off road parking. When the Parish Council are asked for its' views on new housing or business developments, we stress the need for adequate off-road parking. Once a development has been completed there is little that your Parish Council

can do about this apart from have a 'quiet word' either with the developer or the resident concerned.

Potholes – Last year Lincolnshire County Council received in the region of 50,000 reports either via FixMyStreet or their Customer Service Centre. 43% related to highway matters. As I said last year, FixMyStreet is the place online to report any concerns you have about the state of the roads, pavements, street lighting, fly tipping etc. If we don't tell them something is wrong, they aren't going to know about it.

Parish Council noticeboards - the Parish Council has 4 noticeboards – one in the village, one outside Rochford Tower Hall, one on Eastwood Road and one on the corner of Pilleys Lane and Sibsey Road. The one outside Rochford Tower Hall was in such a poor state that we have replaced it with a new one. The remaining 3 boards have been beautifully refurbished by Cllr Williams and should be able to offer good service for several years. We thank Cllr Williams for his work on this project. The purpose of the noticeboards is to provide not only details of Parish Council activities but also of other activities of interest to residents. If you would like to publicise an event of interest to residents, please contact our Parish Clerk about the possibility of putting a flyer on our noticeboards.

Hobhole Wooded Area – last year Cllr Ordway gave a short talk about this wooded area close by the Hobhole Pumping Station and spoke about our liaison work with North Sea Camp to maintain it. The Camp had hoped to be able to service the area on a regular basis but as we know the rain put paid to many outdoor activities last year and they didn't access the area as often as they, and we, would have liked. However, we have been in contact with them again and they plan to conduct a visit at the end of this month.

Matters Continuing From Last Year – last year I said that the Parish Council would continue to push to have Scalp Road from Haven House to the Memorial car park properly repaired so it is safe to drive down. Unfortunately, both Lincolnshire County Council and Boston Borough Council deny any responsibility for this. We shall keep pushing on this.

Street lighting – I also reported that we had determined to undertake work to replace all the old-style bulbs on the street lights that we are responsible for with LEDs and to install part-night controls. The initial outlay for this would be quite high but we have funds available for this and the long-term benefits both financially and environmentally justify the expenditure. Our 3 Boston Borough Councillors kindly conducted a full survey of our street lights and determined that 10 of the bulbs are already LEDs but that 5 of the lights are not working and 2 do not exist. We are charged by Boston Borough Council for the use of electricity for the street lights and will be confirming that we are not being charged for the non-existent ones. We are also dependent on the administrative section of Boston Borough Council to contract out the work required to upgrade the streetlights. For one reason or another this has not yet commenced. The Parish Council finds this a very frustrating situation but I hope we are able to give some better news on this next year.

Fishtoft400 Buoy – I don't wish to steal any thunder from Cllr Armstrong who will be giving a report on the Fishtoft400 Buoy but I do want to say that I appreciate the forbearance of the residents of Fishtoft, particularly those living on Church Green Road over from the Playing Fields, concerning the buoy that they have had to look at for 2 years now. I appreciate that it has not been the most attractive sight for you but we are nearing completion of its decoration and I hope that you are now finding it a more pleasant outlook. I would also like to thank Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Lenton for their continuing hard work on this community project.

Liaison Work – I have mentioned our work with North Sea Camp but during the past year we have also held meetings with Boston Borough Councillors and Lincolnshire Police and a representative from Witham Fourth recently addressed the Council on the after effect of Storm Babet and planned work around Hobhole Pumping Station.

Personnel - I am sorry to report that during this past year Cllr Roly Ashley has resigned from the Parish Council. Cllr Ashley is a 'can do' person and during his tenure he produced some good work not least with the buoy, noticeboards and our bus shelter. He will be missed.

But I am pleased to say that we 3 new Parish Councillors – namely Geoff Day, Lucy Webb and Chris Moore. They are welcome additions to our team.

Once again, I would like to thank all of my fellow Parish Councillors for their continuing support during the past 12 months. All of our decisions are taken as a group – no-one has a greater say than any other. And although we don't always agree with each other we all support the final decision. We get no financial remuneration for our work and little thanks. If I have sold this job to any of you, we have 2 vacancies on the Council and are interested in co-opting suitable candidates. If you think that might be you, please have a word with Sarah.

Finally, this is your Parish Council. If you have an idea for a project beneficial to the Parish, please let us know. If we can't take it on board ourselves, we may be in a position to give advice on the best way forward both in practical and financial terms.

Thank you

Helen Crawford
Chair
Fishtoft Parish Council
13 May 2024

Appendix B

Financial Report

Fishtoft Parish Council

Accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to March 2024

Financial Report from Responsible Financial Officer

INCOME

Balance brought forward from 2022/2023	62276.09
Precept	40094.00
Grants	1995.88
Allotment Rent	2667.63
VAT Rebate	4482.90
Bank Interest	643.91
Other	902.04
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	113062.45

EXPENDITURE

Footway Lighting Costs	5158.84
Staff Costs inc. HMRC	5011.24
PC Dispersements inc. Room Hire for meetings	1569.61
Insurance, Audit and Subscriptions	1774.04
Ground Maintenance inc. War Memorial & Drainage Fees	14537.50
Noticeboards Refurbishments	529.62
Donations/Grants	1700.00
Fishtoft 400 - Buoy	145.91
Fishtoft 400 - Community Group	2004.45
Coronation	837.03
Wooded Area	16.90
Other (S147 and Election Fees)	117.56
New Litter Bins	666.23
30MPH CSW Passive Signs	300.00
	34368.93

Balance to carry forward to 2023/2024

78693.52

Appendix C

St Leonards Hospital Trust

St Leonards Hospital Trust is a registered charity. It was formed over 820 years ago. It is the 5th oldest charity in England.

Founded originally by a group of monks as a hospital care for pilgrims it ultimately became a hospital for the sick and needy and then a home for “twelve poor needy folks within Skirbeck”.

It is not known where the original hospital was situated but the St Leonards Trust Administration (or Bede Houses) are now located along Willoughby Road alongside the Maud Foster near to the Hospital Bridge.

The Trust owns and maintains 10 alms-house properties which were built around 1870 and are all grade 2 listed. They are now commemorated with a Blue Plaque.

It provides accommodation for single male residents of the Borough of Boston (Skirbeck, Quarter preferably), who are in need, who are aged 60 or over or who are disabled. They try to ensure that at least one resident has a seafaring background. The matter of “equality” with regards to allowing women has been raised by one of the Trustees this year but for several reasons it was thought no appropriate.

The Board of Trustees meets three times a year with one meeting held in July actually at the Alms-houses. This provides an opportunity for both the Trustees and the Tenants to meet and discuss any issues. This meeting is also the time when the Trustees do an annual inspection of the properties, although having discovered the various state of two-vacant properties it has been agreed to carry out more inspections annually. Every five years a professional external inspection is carried out to ensure the properties remain in good repair.

The past year has presented several challenges for the Trust. Unfortunately, one resident was discovered deceased unbeknown to the other residents. Another resident caused problems for the other residents and was asked to leave. Both their properties were left in very poor condition which necessitated a professional hygienic clean and redecoration before new tenants were to be found.

Ultimately the properties were advertised and so far, one tenant found which leaves one still vacant.

Elizabeth Armstrong
Trustee

Appendix D

Fishtoft400 – Buoy

In 2019 there was a national programme of projects that were being done around the country in commemorative of the 400 years since the Pilgrim Fathers departure for the New World. Fishtoft Parish Council decided to do something for the Parish in view of the history attached to Scotia Creek which is within the Parish of Fishtoft. And because the nation was celebrating 400, we called it Fishtoft 400.

We successfully applied for funding from the National Lottery and with the money we created a walking map around the Scotia Creek area and along the River Haven. We arranged for a local artist to create a plaque depicting the Pilgrim Fathers leaving Scotia Creek and the Boston & South Holland Woodcarvers group set the plaque in a beautifully carved oak mount and the whole thing was attached to a stand and placed in the car park by the Pilgrim Fathers Memorial at the end of Scalp Road.

One of the decommissioned buoys taken out of the Haven was offered for free by the Port Authority of Boston via Boston Borough Council which the Parish Council thought would make a good base for a mosaic portraying various scenes and landmarks in the parish of Fishtoft.

The mosaics were stuck onto a fibreglass backing and 13 panels were created which are now on the buoy for everyone to see. Now I don't think we can claim it's a professional job but it has been lovingly put together by the many wonderful people who live in Fishtoft who came along every Tuesday for a whole year. We had a lot of fun and laughter at our various attempts at trying to make our efforts look like something people would recognise. We involved the Guthlac's Church and basically anyone who wanted to just come along and make something to stick on the panels.

It is still a work in progress. It has taken a few years to come to fruition due to various circumstances mainly weather and Covid. Hopefully it will be completed with the next few days weather dependent.

And just a little footnote, Because a few people who came along regularly to the mosaic Tuesday group were a little disappointed that we had completed the panels and there would be no more fun and laughter, Fishtoft Parish Council decided to continue the Fishtoft 400 as a Community Group, which still meets on a Tuesday morning at Rochford Tower Hall – where even more people have come to join us to have fun and laughter!

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Elizabeth Armstrong
Fishtoft400

Appendix E

Fishtoft400 Community Group

This is held every Tuesday morning from 9.30am – 1pm at Rochford Tower Hall. It is open to anyone living in the Fishtoft Parish and their friends. We provide tea, coffee and cakes. We also provide are and craft materials and people share their skills and knowledge so that everyone can have a go at making something. I'm sure most of us are now familiar with the post box toppers which brighten the place up. A group of our members make these and are always coming up with new ideas. Of course, you can just sit and chat and put the world to rights. All of this is provided free of charge.

We are now in our second year and numbers are still increasing as word spreads that we are a jolly crowd. There is a real buzz in the room on Tuesday mornings so much so one can hardly hear oneself speak. The highest number of members attending in one day was 55.

We have been successful with our fundraising with support from Asda. The Eleemosynary Charity and Warm Spaces (National Grid) and the Co-op. Plus some member raise money for the Group themselves.

With the money raised or donated we have been able to take members on a coach trip with another planned this summer. We arranged for the Red Cow to provide a buffet for the Kings Coronation and for Easter and hired Pat Cambell to provide music & singing. We had a lovely Christmas dinner at the Red Cow. We also celebrated St George's Day. We have purchased a speaker system so that the hard of hearing are now able to hear announcements.

We have had some business cards printed with contact numbers on the reverse and these are given out to members so that in the event of need they can call one of the numbers and know someone will come to their aid. This has proved very useful already for some members who live alone with not family to hand.

Our fame seems to be spreading as we have had visits from members of the Open University and The University of Ghent as part of their research into rural isolation and the elderly.

We are looking to provide some form of exercise suitable for the elderly in conjunction with the YMCA Community Leader.

Our biggest problem is storage. We have so much equipment now, especially as people have been so generous in donating various items. The lack of storage entails members of the committee having to transport stuff back and forth in their cars each week. We are currently looking at what we can do to solve this problem.

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Elizabeth Armstrong
Fishtoft400 Community Group

Appendix F

Fishtoft Playing Field and Pavilion Trust

FISHTOFT PLAYING FIELD AND PAVILION TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 521784

Chair – Ben Parkinson

Treasurer – Glenn Hislop Secretary – Andrea Hislop
Tivoli, Fishtoft Road, Fishtoft, Boston, PE21 0QR

Status Report as at 10th May 2024

A new committee team was formed in October 2023 after the resignation of the former committee members.

The officers are as follow:

Chairperson	Ben Parkinson
Trustee Representative	Chris Petitt
Secretary	Andrea Hislop
Treasurer	Glenn Hislop
Bookings Team and Social Media	Koran Darrigan and Simon Moses
Parish Council Representative	Richard Lenton
Other Committee Members	Sue Gosling
	Hazel Gosling
	Helen Simpson
	Dan Simpson
	Brenda Waterman

Finance

The transition of the financial management has yet to be completed so the Treasurer receives bank account statements from the former treasurer. The committee are expecting an update on the transfer of management of the finances from the Trustees for the next meeting on Tuesday 21st May 2024.

The committee have also asked the Trustees to share a legacy constitution if it exists.

Bookings

The committee agreed a standard £20 per hour booking fee. This was based on the utility's outgoings and maintenance costs.

Bookings can be made via the secretary andrea.hislop@btinternet.com or the Fishtoft Pavilion and Playing Field Trust Facebook page.

At this moment in time Fishtoft Football Club are the largest customer of the Football Field and Pavilion.

Insurance

The Pavilion and Playpark insurance has been renewed for another year. The committee are required to undertake regular checks of the playpark area and equipment and act promptly to resolve matters arising.

Alcohol License

An alcohol license application is in progress, it has been suggested and agreed that this license is to be used for committee organised events. This was suggested from lessons learned from previous bookings to minimise anti-social behaviour issues.

Glenn Hislop
Treasurer

Appendix G

Lincolnshire County Councillor Paul Skinner

Closing time for shops selling illegal products

Six shops in Boston, two in Spalding and one shop in Holbeach have been issued with three-month closure orders by Lincolnshire Trading Standards and Lincolnshire Police after they were found selling illegal cigarettes and vapes.

The closures are in direct response to concerns raised by members of the public, and continue our fight against business selling unsafe illegal products in the county. Our officers work closely with police colleagues to keep residents safe and protect legitimate, law-abiding businesses.

Safer roads and improved traffic flows

We've launched an in-depth review into our traffic management policies to make our roads safer, improve traffic flows, and increase accessibility across the network.

As part of the review, we are looking for feedback from residents and visitors on topics such as; speed-limits, speed cameras, school safety zones, blue badge parking and traffic calming measures.

The review is being conducted by a dedicated panel made up of county councillors, council officers, industry experts and community representatives. This panel will use the finding to make recommendations and propose updates for the benefit of Lincolnshire's communities.

Support to recover

The new Lincolnshire Recovery Partnership - bringing together Turning Point, Double Impact and Framework - has been launched for people in Lincolnshire who want support for issues related to their drug and alcohol use.

The free and confidential service will continue to be delivered from hubs in Lincoln, Boston, Grantham, Skegness, Spalding and Gainsborough, alongside a network of community satellite venues, mobile units, and online resources.

The new service supports our ambition to have a high-quality treatment system in Lincolnshire that will help people to achieve positive change and reduce drug and alcohol related harms.

Get ready for Lincoln's first Festival of History

From 4 to 6 May the first Lincoln Festival of History will be a feast for the senses as we highlight how Lincoln became the city it is today.

From the thundering footsteps of Roman warriors, to the elegant charm of Victorian England, visitors will be swept away on a whirlwind journey through the ages at Lincoln Castle, Lincoln Museum and the Museum of Lincolnshire Life.

There will be characters from across the ages bringing each of our attractions to life, and helping visitors understand the rich history of Lincoln.

County Views is on the buses

After a number of recent projects to support and encourage bus travel in Lincolnshire, for our latest County Views survey we're gathering residents' opinions to help us plan further improvements.

We want to know how often local people travel by bus, what would encourage people to use the bus more often, what they like and don't like about bus travel, and, if they don't travel by bus, what modes of transport they use instead.

We've been working with bus operators across the county to extend fare caps, upgrade routes and increase frequency as part of our commitment to improving bus services in Lincolnshire.

Visit Lincolnshire has something for everyone

The Visit Lincolnshire website is a real showcase for our beautiful county. With 1.2m visits to the website last year, we're working to inspire residents to explore what's on their doorstep, as well as attract a global audience to our area.

The website acts as a place to gather information about different areas; where to stay, where to eat and unique Lincolnshire experiences that can't be found anywhere else.

Visitor attractions can get themselves or their events featured on the website by completing a simple online form. Businesses can also find support with masterclasses, toolkits and other resources.

"Life is like a box of records. You never know what you're going to get!"

Are you responsible for sending records to offsite storage? If yes, it is important to recognise that the information added, when indexing records, to Restore Web, needs to reflect the contents of the box. Needles in haystacks can be avoided when the information you input accurately reflects the contents being sent to offsite storage. For further advice visit the IA Hub or contact records management at records.management@lincolnshire.gov.uk (source: Information Assurance)

Government support with the cost of childcare support is evolving!

If the bump is blossoming, your baby is bouncing, or your toddler is toddling – you need to know about the government support available for parents. For working parents or for families in receipt of certain government benefits or support, children can access up to 15 hours of funded childcare per week (over 38 weeks of the year) from the term after their 2nd birthday. For more details, including how to apply visit: Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More (source: Becky McKie, Early Years Entitlement Outreach Officer)

Are you Batman without Robin? French without Saunders? Improve your Copilot double act with clear prompts!

Use a clear GOAL with some CONTEXT, add your EXPECTATIONS and maybe a SOURCE to get the most from your Copilot sidekick. Not yet started using the artificial intelligence (AI) offered with Copilot? Join the party! See this week's Tip and Trick on Microsoft Learning Pathways (MLP) to find out more about Copilot and useful prompts. (source: LCC IT User Engagement Team)

#MakeEveryRideCount in May with the Lincolnshire Bike Month Challenge!

Join the movement to create safer, more bike-friendly streets with the Bike Month Challenge and #MakeEveryRideCount! Download the app, track your rides and provide feedback on your

cycling trips using the simple and fun 'Rate My Routes' feature. There are amazing prizes to be won and everyone is invited to take part - from regular riders to people who haven't been on a bike in years. Find out more at <https://www.lovetoride.net/lincolnshire>. (source: Sustainability Team)

Share your views on local childcare

Lincolnshire families are being asked to complete a survey to help gauge demand for and availability of childcare places in the county. The council is working to ensure there are sufficient places for working parents, parents studying/training, for children with special educational needs, and for children to access their funded entitlement. Find out more and complete the survey, which ends on 14 May, at www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/childcaresurvey2024. (source: Engagement Team)

County Views – what do you think about buses in Lincolnshire?

Help the council's transport services better understand the level of bus use in the county. Sign in with the staff login button to tell us what you think! www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/buses. The survey is open until 27 May 2024. Our County Views surveys help us get a snapshot of how we're doing and improve services for people across Lincolnshire. (source: Engagement Team)

Integrated Lifestyle service - have your say

LCC has launched an engagement to find out local views on what a future Integrated Lifestyle Service should look like. This service is commissioned by LCC and supports people to tackle leading risk factors impacting on our health and wellbeing, including smoking, obesity, physical inactivity and excessive alcohol. Take part and find out more at Integrated Lifestyle service - have your say | Let's Talk Lincolnshire. Surveys for specific stakeholders are also available. If you'd like to find out more, or if there are people you work with who you think would like to take part please contact Matthew Bell for hyperlinks and promotional material. (source: Matthew Bell, Senior Public Health Officer)

Fix my Street Please continue to report issues via the App. The response is by category.

Repair work continues. Several TRO schemes for parking and speed reduction are in progress across Boston Coastal.

Please contact me: email cllrp.skinner@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Mobile: 07941 604177

Appendix H

Boston Borough Councillor Helen Staples

Cllr Staples relayed that she been working for the residents of Fishtoft along with her follow ward members during the first year since the election. She also conveyed that from May 2025 during the next she is pleased to be representing the parish as Mayor to Boston Borough Council.

Appendix I

Boston Borough Councillor David Scoot

Cllr Scoot relayed that along with his fellow ward councillors he had been working with the residents of Fishtoft over the past year.