

Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting
Held Monday 12th May 2025 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
35 members of the public which included four Fishtoft Parish Councillors
The Clerk Fishtoft Parish Council, Ms Sarah Knowles, was also in attendance to take notes of the meeting.

The meeting was opened at: 6pm

- 1. Notes from the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024:** *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 2025 meeting resolved to accept the notes of 13th May 2024, 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 2024 to March 2025*

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 Fishtoft Parish Councillor Day gave a report

See Appendix C

Hawthorn Tree School: No report or representation

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

See Appendix D

Fishtoft Community Group 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: Fishtoft Parish Councillor Webb gave a report
See Appendix F

Fishtoft Playing Field and Pavilion Trust: The Secretary to the Trust Andrea Hislop gave a report
See Appendix G

Lincolnshire County Councillor Alistair Arundell: LCC Cllr Arundell was not in attendance and no report had been forwarded to be relayed at the meeting

Boston Borough Councillors

Apologies had been given by BBC Cllrs Scoot, Sharpe and Staples and forwarded a report that was read at the meeting
See Appendix H

5. Short comments and statements from Residents:

A representative for the parish thanked Fishtoft Parish Council for their support along with the Boston Borough Councillors in respect to the Gayfield Road Development.

Other members of the parish relayed their views and concerns in relation to the development

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.52pm

Appendix A

Chairman's Report

I would like to welcome you all to the 2025 Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Helen Crawford and I am the Chair of Fishtoft Parish Council. This lady is Sarah Knowles. She is the Parish Clerk. For the Annual Parish meeting, only Sarah and I will sit facing you. When this meeting is concluded, the Annual Parish Council meeting will start at which point my fellow Parish Counsellors will join us.

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 allows representatives of various organisations within the Parish to update us all on their activities. And it provides you with an opportunity to let us know what issues are of interest and concern to you so we can take them into account.

Roads

Through County Councillor Paul Skinner we have been successful in reducing the speed limit to 30mph both outside the hospital and on Toot Lane. We have not yet been successful in gaining a reduction in the speed limit on Wainfleet Road by Brewers Fayre and a request jointly with Sibsey Parish Council to reduce the speed limit on the A16 joining the 2 areas from 60 to 50 is still outstanding. We will be asking our new County Councillor to pursue this on our behalf.

Soon after Fishtoft Road was resurfaced, it was dug up again for gas and water works leaving it severely damaged and with blocked drains. Cllr Paul Skinner raised this with Highways and I am aware that a site visit was to be arranged. We haven't yet heard whether it has been agreed to rectify this situation but will follow up on this.

Parking Along Roads

For everyone's safety, we would encourage those who park their vehicles on the road to be aware of how they may impinge on other users' access to property and view along the road. Some examples of concerns raised about this are the junctions of Toot Lane with Hawthorn Close, and Toot Lane with Kenleigh Drive. And also, along Sibsey Road. Through our Borough Councillors, we have raised this with County and I hope that our new County Councillors can take this on. In the case of Sibsey Road, we have asked that the double yellow lines be extended all the way along the road in front of the residences. Of course, this may simply push the problem onto someone else's doorstep. What is needed is for the hospital to provide adequate parking not only for patients and visitors but also for their own staff.

Speeding

Speeding is a matter of concern for residents. The Parish Council have previously provided speed restriction signs as reminders for drivers but we have now decided to purchase interactive speed signs. The flashy ones which point out the driver's speed. They also download data about traffic speed which can be useful to persuade traffic officers to come out with their speed guns! Initially we plan to purchase 2 of these but in future years we shall add to them. These signs are powered by batteries and can be moved around to prevent drivers becoming complacent about them. The Parish Councillors have identified some areas where these signs could be beneficial and we would encourage residents to also make suggestions

on where they could be used. We will also be looking for volunteers to help us maintain and move these signs.

Street Lights

At the Annual Parish meeting 2 years ago, I mentioned that we were planning to upgrade our 84 street lights to LED bulbs and with part-night controls. This work was finally carried out in September. Apart from a future reduction in our electricity charges, it meant that several lights that had not been working for some considerable times are now active.

Scalp Road

This is my 4th Annual Parish Report and the 4th time I must specifically mention Scalp Road. From Haven House to the Pilgrim Fathers Memorial the road has still not been adopted and each year sees a deterioration in its structure. Last October, through our Borough Councillors we again asked Boston Borough to share the cost of upgrading Scalp Road with Lincolnshire County Council. In April we formally wrote to the Chief Executive of Boston Borough Council copying in our 3 Borough Councillors, MP Richard Tice and several others at the Borough. Whilst I am not aware that receipt of this letter has yet been acknowledged, I understand that representatives of both the Borough and County have discussed the issue. It would be nice to think that we might soon be able to drive all the way along to the Pilgrim Fathers Memorial without damaging our cars.

Litter Picking

Together with 2 residents Cllr Day and I went litter picking along Priory Road from the junction of Wythes Lane. It only took us 2 hours to collect 4 full bags. With the fine weather now back with us we plan to hold more litter picking sessions. You would be welcome to join us.

Litter Bins

In September we asked Neighbourhood Services at Boston Borough Council to install a waste bin within The Chase. (off Kingsway) The response was that there was a temporary pause on litter bin requests as the bin routes were at capacity. The Borough were working on new routes which might open up the availability of new bins. We haven't heard anything further on this so will pursue the matter this coming year.

Meetings

As Parish Councillors we have had several meetings with outside organisations.

Emergency Planning

Cllr Armstrong and myself attended a Parish Council Liaison meeting with Boston Borough and we were addressed by the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire Resilience Forum on flood prevention. Along the side you will find leaflets on flood management. Please help yourself.

Cllr Williams had started work on forming an Emergency Plan for the Parish and we have recently been in contact with Sibsey and Frithville Parishes seeking to combine resources on this. Again, we will be looking for volunteers to join an Emergency Committee.

Anglian Water

In December representatives of Anglian Water attended a Parish Council meeting to discuss plans to extend tanker movements through the village to 7 days per week. The Parish Council asked that these be restricted to no earlier than 10 in the morning and no later than 4 in the afternoon.

Unfortunately, Anglian Water find that operationally this is not appropriate and you may find that their tanker movements at the weekend and on Bank Holidays will start at 9 in the morning and go through until 5 in the afternoon. They have said however that they will seek to minimise any disruption that may be caused.

MP Richard Tice

In February your Parish Councillors met with our new MP, Richard Tice, at his suggestion to discuss any issues we may have that he could assist with. Several matters were discussed including proposed developments on agricultural land within the Parish and Scalp Road. It was a very encouraging meeting and we appreciated that he was willing to come out and talk with us.

Gaysfield Road

Last Tuesday I attended Boston Borough Planning Committee and represented the Parish Council in asking that the proposed development off Gaysfield Road not be approved. It was an interesting meeting and despite what I thought were strong arguments against the development the plans were eventually passed. This is a disappointment not only to Gaysfield Road residents but to the village as a whole. When we can, your Parish Council will represent your views at Planning Committees but sadly whether our opinions carry much weight is a debatable point.

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. There are currently only 5 of us. It makes for cosy meetings but we could do with help in allocating tasks and we are interested in coopting suitable candidates. If you think that might be you, please have a word with Sarah.

And Sarah, thank you for all your hard work not only for the Parish Council but also for me as the Chair. It is a pleasure working with you.

I have mentioned that we will be looking for volunteers to help us with interactive speed signs, litter picking and Emergency Planning. If you would like to be involved in any of those activities, please provide us with your contact details and we can be in touch.

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
12 May 2025

Appendix B Financial Report

Fishtoft Parish Council Accounts for the period 1st April 2024 to March 2025

Financial Report from Responsible Financial Officer

INCOME

Balance brought forward from 2024/2025	78693.52
Precept	41510.00
Grants	3835.50
Allotment Rent	1651.71
VAT Rebate	5636.96
Bank Interest	951.78
Wayleave	44.12
	132323.59

EXPENDITURE

Footway Lighting Costs	39173.30
Staff Costs inc. HMRC	5359.24
PC Dispersements inc. Room Hire for meetings	1453.40
Insurance, Audit and Subscriptions	2013.85
Ground Maintenance inc. War Memorial & Drainage Fees	15969.64
Donations/Grants	750.00
Fishtoft 400 - Buoy	5518.98
Other (S147 and Election Fees)	25.00
Bank Charges	4.25
	70267.66

Balance to carry forward to 2025/2026	<u><u>62055.93</u></u>
---------------------------------------	------------------------

Appendix C

Wooded Area by Fishtoft Pumping Station

Earlier in the year a risk assessment had been undertaken in association with the public and the prisoners and following correspondence received the work has started and it looks like they are doing a good job.

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Geoff Day

Appendix D

St Leonards Hospital Trust

St Leonards Hospital Trust was established over 800 years ago and is probably the oldest institution on Boston and fifth oldest almhouse charity in the country.

Today the Trust owns and maintains 10 almhouse properties in Willoughby Road, Boston whose purpose is to provide accommodation for single male residents from the Borough of Boston who are in need, aged 60 or over or disabled. Preference is given to residents of Skirbeck as that is where the Charity was first established; the Trustees also endeavour to have at least one resident from a seafaring background. One Committee member raised a query about allowing women to apply for residency, in keeping with today's Equity Laws, but it was agreed that this might well present a problem for the all-male occupants and require a change to the Constitution, which could prove costly.

Prospective residents are interviewed to establish their suitability as it is important that they understand the terms and conditions relating to the accommodation, that they are able to look after themselves and will fit in with the other residents.

The Trustees usually meet three times a year in March, July and November and whenever there is a need to call an extra meeting to appoint a new beneficiary if a property becomes vacant.

The July meeting is an opportunity for the Trustees to meet all the residents, discuss any issues that they may have and for the residents to put their suggestions to the Board of Trustees. It is also time for the Trustee members to inspect each property inside and out for the purpose of maintenance.

This year we have had three properties become vacant with the death of one of the residents, another resident unable to look after himself and removed to a care home and one resident causing problems for the others and asked to leave.

The three vacant properties have been completely refurbished and now have new tenants.

There is currently a vacancy for three Trustees.

Elizabeth Armstrong
Trustee

Appendix E

Fishtoft400 Community Group

The Group meets every Tuesday morning between 9.30 and 12.30 at Rochford Tower Hall.

This year we have built on our foundations and we now have a respected standing in the local community. We have built strong relationships with a great number of local organisations who have supported us throughout the year with both finance and advice. This has enabled the Group to continue to operate free of charge. In particular I would mention The Spar shop on Priory Road. Sarah Hobbs from the Co-op, Bethany Hall from the YMCA and the Eleemosynary Charity of Fishtoft. Also, Asda and Tesco.

Our membership has grown to in excess of 50 members as a result of our strategy of seeking to build a community spirit within the Parish of Fishtoft. The best kind of advertising is word of mouth and our success has been built on exactly that.

We have a good following on our F/B page and Roly Ashley keeps our webpage fishtoft400.org updated.

With a help of a grant from UKSPF we have been able to purchase our own portable and automatic Defibrillator. And a grant from Asda allowed us to purchase a sound system which allows those hard of hearing to hear all the announcements. We also endeavoured to deliver Mobility & Balance sessions for our members with help from our BBC councillors for Fishtoft, Sarah Sharpe, David Scoot and Helen Staples, who donated £100 each to pay for the hire of the hall and an Instructor. Unfortunately, not enough people came forward to make it cost effective and so it was decided to stop the sessions.

This past year has seen us deliver a number of activities for the Group, lunches and celebrations for St Georges Day, the Coronation, Halloween and Christmas, plus entertainment. We have an annual trip out, courtesy of Fishtoft Eleemosynary Charity, which last year was to Holt and then on the Poppy line train to Sheringham. This year we have just celebrated VE Day with a lunch and entertainment and are currently organising this year's outing on August the 12th.

The comments we receive are always complimentary, that the group is friendly and welcoming. In fact, we have been asked if other community group leaders can come along and see why we are so successful.

We live in a very rural area with lack of good transport, the Fishtoft400 Community Group supports the lonely and elderly who might otherwise not benefit from interaction with other people and loneliness is one known cause of Dementia.

We welcome anyone, old or young, and although we make a reasonable charge for special events membership is free, as is refreshments.

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Elizabeth Armstrong
Fishtoft400 Community Group

Appendix F

Fishtoft Academy

Fishtoft Academy very proactive school who encourage the children to work with the community and are looking at doing their own Litter Picking event.

There are constant concerns about speeding, and are looking at ways to prevent this. One suggestion raised is being Mini Police.

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Lucy Webb

Appendix G

Fishtoft Playing Field and Pavilion Trust

The Committee have been in office since October 2023 and have with hard work and determination been building up the use of the Pavilion and Playing.

The officers are as follows:

Chairperson - Ben Parkinson

Trustee Representative – Chris Petitt

Secretary – Andrea Hislop

Treasurer – Glenn Hislop

Bookings Team and social media – Koran Darrigan, Glenn Hislop

Parish Council Representative - Richard Lenton

Other committee members - Helen Simpson, Dan Simpson, Brenda Waterman, Janice Flynn, Jamie Dowding, Andy Nixon, Simon Moses.

Fund Raising

The committee have established regular functions to provide social gatherings for the residents of Fishtoft. Coffee mornings are open every second Friday of the month and bring young and old people together for a couple of hours. During these earlier coffee mornings, we asked people what they would like to see the Pavilion used for and we had a list of responses. The top 3 votes were coffee mornings, bingo and quiz evening. These have now been established on a regular basis and are fairly well attended but more local support would be desired.

Finance

The committee still await the final action of the transition of the bank account. We are expecting an increase in the financial position although we have been busy actioning the backlog maintenance issues. We've seen an increase in party bookings and the turnover from the social events.

The finance report will be available following the AGM 15th July 2025.

The committee have started to explore avenues for grants to support the Pavilion and Playing Field to make small improvements to the facilities.

The committee thank the Parish Council for their ongoing financial support for part payment for the annual grass cutting contract.

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.

Andrea Hislop

Secretary, Fishtoft Playing Field and Pavilion Trust

Appendix H

Boston Borough Councillors

Our apologies for not being with you this evening, we are attending a mandatory training session at Boston Borough Council.

We are aware of the concern in respect of the application recently presented to the Planning Committee. We cannot offer any further comment at this time. Prior to issuing of the decision Officers will review the case in full as is custom and practice. We will update you in due course. In the meantime, should you have any questions please direct them to Nick Atkinson - Development Manager - nick.atkinson@sholland.gov.uk

Helen, David and Sarah have had another busy year helping residents in Fishtoft. We have taken part in the borough litter picks, helped the scouts with their litter pick and supplied parish with materials for their litter pick. We've supported the Fishtoft 400 group, held a ward surgery, dealt with issues with the Anglian Water treatment plant, and so much more. Much of the work we do is with individual residents which is confidential.

As part of the Boston Independent administration, we are pleased that work has begun on some major projects in town, most notably the improvement works to the Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex and the Rosegarth Square project.

We had another successful Christmas Festival which was enjoyed by thousands of residents, saw new events such as Boston Strongest and Food Fest, and the amazing Boston Brilliance which not only saw projections onto our historic buildings by world renowned artists, but so many of our young people also had their artwork projected onto the buildings too.

This next year looks to be exciting with more events planned throughout the year, progress on the major projects and so much more.

We look forward to meeting the new FPC councillor and hope he enjoys his new role.

As always, we are only a phone call or an email away, please do reach out to us if there is anything you need from us as we all live within the parish.

A note from Cllr Staples: 'It has been an honour to represent the lovely people of Fishtoft throughout my mayoral year, it has been an extremely busy year and has left some special memories and I have been able to forge links with some Americans who's relative was Mayor in the 16th Century and by chance is also related to the Deputy Mayor of Sleaford too'

Many thanks
Helen Staples, David Scoot and Sarah Sharpe
Boston Borough Councillors for the Ward of Fishtoft