

Burton upon Stather Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 6pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Pringle (Chair)	Cllr Evans	Cllr Harber
	Cllr Mitchell	Cllr Webber

Also present: the Clerk, Ward Cllrs Marper, Ogg & Rowson, two representatives from Quickline, and 12 members of the public/community groups.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. (see attached report)

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Barnes & Nicholson and Karen Day (representing the Heritage Group)

3. Declaration of Interest –Code of Conduct adopted by this council:

a. **To record declarations of interest by any member of the council in respect of the agenda items listed below. Members declaring interests should identify the agenda item and type of interest being declared.**

None declared

b. **To note dispensations given to any member of the council in respect of the agenda items listed below**

None

4. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th May 2022

Members had received the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 24th May 2022 prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Harber seconded by Cllr Webber and **RESOLVED** that they were a true and accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Pringle.

5. Presentation of the Peter Hearn Award for Young People and the Geoff Robinson Award

Cllr Harber explained how the awards had come about and read out the reasons as to why these people had been nominated. (see attached report). Elizabeth McNeive & David Hearn presented the Peter Hearn Award to Erin Taylor and Jane Tuplin presented the Geoff Robinson Award to Trevor Rowbotham.

6.15pm four members of the public left the meeting

6. Parish Council Chair's Report

Cllr Pringle gave a verbal report on the last years work of the Council. (See attached report).

7. Responsible Financial Officer's Report

The Clerk gave a report on the Council's finances. (See attached report). Cllr Marper thanked the Clerk and the previous chair, Cllr Harber for all the work they have done for the Council.

8. Report from Village Hall Management Committee

Ian Pringle, the Chair of the Village Hall Committee gave a report. (See attached report)

9. Presentations from local groups

The representatives from Quickline explained that their work was covered by the government voucher scheme. The build in the parish had now been completed and as a company they wanted to be involved in the community. They had a community fund which community groups could apply to.

Representatives from British Heart Foundation explained the work that they did with fundraising for the charity. The group was dwindling in size and they were looking for volunteers to help. The heritage

group had organised a coffee morning which had raised over £1,000 for the charity. The representatives were trying to raise people's awareness of them locally.

The Chair of the Youth Council thanked the parish council for all the help that they had received in the last year.

6.40pm one member of the public left the meeting

A representative of the Women's Institute explained that they provide education for members and help them to learn new skills. She explained the recent campaigns that had been run by the Women's Institute and the type of things that they were involved in. This year the local branch had been running for 105 years.

A representative of Burton in Bloom explained the work that the group does locally. She explained how the group had first begun and that currently the Christmas trees and hanging baskets were funded by a grant from the parish council. They also arranged the annual fete on the paddock, a biannual open gardens day and the bicycles, with flower baskets, that are dotted around the village. They were also looking for new members.

10. Questions from members of the public

There were no questions asked.

11. Date of next meeting

A proposed date of Tuesday 7th May 2024 was set for the next Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business, Cllr Pringle closed the meeting at 6.57pm

Chair's signature.....

Date.....

CHAIR’S WELCOME

Hello and welcome to everyone who is here tonight to hear about and celebrate what goes on in our wonderful parish. My name is Penny and I have been the Chair of the Parish Council for 7 days now.

Firstly - a few housekeeping details – we are not expecting the fire alarm to go off tonight, if it does – in air hostess tradition – there are fire exits to my right, in the kitchen lobby, the main entrance and one backstage should we need it. Toilets are situated through the foyer.

We have a number of organisations and displays available here tonight showing some aspects of our village life. There will be the presentations of our two new awards, as well as a number of reports when you will be reminded of what has happened in the last year. And – there are refreshments available from the kitchen. So enjoy.

CHAIR’S REPORT

When I read Cathy’s report from last year it was quite daunting to try and emulate it – till I realised that effectively she was reporting about 2 years. I only have one.

A lot has happened in the last 12 months. We have seen key events like the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, with activities happening in all areas and with coins being presented to each child at the school. All too soon afterwards we sadly saw the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, followed by the proclamation of King Charles III, and only 2 weeks ago the Coronation of the King, which also saw events organised to bring the community together and the school children presented with bookmarks to mark the event.

The Council should have met every month other than August in the last year, though we did have to make the decision to cancel the meeting in July 2022 due to the extremely high temperatures prevailing at the time. As a Council we have grown together as a team with the one aim of serving each and every resident in the parish, with time allocated at the start of each meeting for residents to speak to us.

We were delighted when the final version of the North Lincs plan came out, showing – or rather not showing any sign of the previously planned development on Darby Road. With the freak flooding we experienced just 2 weeks ago this decision was more than justified as it proved that the water demands and drainage infrastructure of the village just cannot cope with any more pressure being placed on it!

Throughout the year there have been a number of meetings regarding the North Lincs Green Energy Park, with representations made as to the arguments against it. All the evidence has now been gathered and the examiner has until 15th August to send his recommendations to the Secretary of State.

Earlier in the year Cllrs Sharpe and Johnston resigned, though during the year too we saw the return of Cllr Whittaker. When the council had to stand down for the May elections, we lost Cllr Collinson who has moved away and Cllr Faulks, who after many years of Council service decided that the time had come to retire. We thank them for all that they did while they were with us.

Our new Parish Council – since the elections has only met once so far – but many members have returned as well as two new Councillors, Cllr Emlyn Evans (who actually joined the old Council for a couple of months before the election) and Cllr Simon Barnes.

Since last year we have worked with our Youth Council as they continue to establish the forum whereby the Youth Voice of our Community can be heard. They have done litter picks, painted the bus shelter in Normanby, organised and held a Hallowe’en Party, as well as supporting the Council at events like Burton in Bloom and the Christmas Fayre. Their next proposed event will be a film night – which should be fun. The Parish Council are also working with the Football Club to improve conditions on the playing field, as well as doing things like replacing benches, adding to play equipment if possible and making representations to North Lincs Council with regard to road conditions, inconsiderate or dangerous parking and the like. An ongoing project is getting a defibrillator installed in Thealby that awaits the electricity connection but is otherwise ready to go.

Many grants have been applied for throughout the year, either from North Lincs Community Grant Fund, or the Wind Farm, but Candace will tell you more about that later.

All of our Parish Councillors are volunteers and any work they undertake is in their own time. So a big thank to each and every one of them for all their hard work and support over the past year. They turn up in all weathers to attend meetings, to listen and work together to make decisions about our parish. Some attend other meetings and working groups, such as that for the Green Energy Park, the Roxby Landfill meetings, Neighbourhood Action Team meetings and so on, thus representing our parish and making sure your voice is heard beyond the immediate villages.

Thanks must also be extended to Michael, our very hardworking groundsman, who has done so much to make our village look beautiful trying to tame the grass on the Paddock, in the Burial Ground, in the churchyard and on the Playing Field, cutting the hedges and removing the litter that invariably gets dropped as well as scattered from bins in windy weather. He is replacing the posts and rails at the Playing Field at present as well as installing benches. Michael has always been available to help in an emergency and well deserves the compliments that he has received.

I would like to thank Cathy for all the hard work she did as Chair of the Council for the last two years and as Vice Chair for the two years prior to that, in what were very difficult times for us. She has now stepped back but is there to help us continue to develop the Council as she regains her energy. And last, but by no means least, I would like to thank Candace, our wonderful clerk. Candace is simply worth her weight in gold. Her knowledge and experience serves to keep us on track, on budget and under control. The Parish Council would not be where it is today without her input – her passport to leave the village has been cancelled.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

I'll keep this report brief since I'm aware some find accounts boring!!!

During the financial year 2022/23, the Ground's Maintenance Operative has continued to cut back vegetation that had previously become overgrown as well as instigated other jobs that he felt needed to be done to improve the parish. By having these tasks done by an employee rather than a contractor does not make it financially cheaper but means that the parish council has more control on when this work is done. It also means that other jobs are noticed and completed more quickly. The increase in costs by employing him, has certainly had an impact on how much better the parish now looks.

The parish council is fortunate that both NLC and Grange windfarm provide grants for the community and as you can see at the bottom of the balance sheet that you have been provided with, the council has taken advantage of these grants to finance items as required. Hopefully the defibrillator will soon be installed at Thealby once the electrics are sorted. I would like to thank Overhalls for their help with this and agreeing to have the defibrillator secured to their building.

A new contract has been signed with the grass verge cutting contractor, so the parish council will be responsible for them to be cut but will still receive a grant from NLC to cover the cost.

The accounts are looking in good order and as you can see, there is an increase in the reserves from last year. £29,221 has been put into earmarked reserves but this leaves £64,178 in general reserves. This year's budgeted expenditure is £101,755 so that means there is approximately 7.5 months expenditure in general reserves. The parish council's policy states that it should have at least 6 months, so this is at an acceptable level.

Are there any questions on the accounts?

Balance Sheet

	2021/2022	2022/23
Opening Balance	£62,645	£81,290
Income		
Precept	£64,000	£72,951
Newsletter	£205	£210
Grants	£27,738	£7,146
Allotments	£640	£640
Burial Ground	£3,440	£6,170
Burton Playing Field	£1,140	£1,520
NLC Grass verge cutting grant	£19,624	£19,625
Other Income	£1,540	£100
VAT reclaimed	£12,076	£7,545
Bank Interest	£6	£163
Total Income	£130,409	£116,070
Expenses		
Staff Costs	£31,500	£40,090
Administration	£30,218	£20,885
Grounds Maintenance	£31,062	£26,260
Allotments	£200	£253
Burial Ground	£611	£869
Events	£288	£115
Burton Playing Field	£5,497	£6,564
Village Hall	£2,306	£989
Thealby Play Area	£140	£244
VAT paid	£9,942	£7,692
Total Expenditure	£111,764	£103,961
Closing Balance	£81,290	£93,399

In 2022/2023 the following grants were received:

NLC	Support	£1,422
	STiHL head and attachments	£910
	Car park entrance resurfaced	£4,465
	Grass verge cutting	£19,624
	Saplings	£96
	1/2 defibrillator	£340
Grange Windfarm	Aluminium steps	£163.59
	1/2 defibrillator, case & installation	£1,005
	office handrail steel	£179.96
	Steel tubing for the playing field	£585

VILLAGE HALL REPORT 2023

This has been a year when things have continued to return to how they were before Covid.

We have retained the vast majority of our hirers and have gained one or two new ones. We have not had to rise hirer rates (though this is something that we will continue to monitor).

There is some major work that needs doing – considerable repairs need undertaking, including some structural work and possibly having to fix the flat roof above the kitchen. At time of writing this, we are trying to get quotes for the work – preferably from a local, reputable source. This is not proving an easy task as builders seem to be playing ‘catch up’ after the Covid period; also good builders have a considerable waiting list.

One piece of better news – there are a few surface cracks on the wall in the main hall but, as they are above the radiators, it would seem that they were caused by damp when the radiators weren’t switched on during the long Covid period.

The radiators haven’t been working properly, which could have meant having them bled or flushing the system and getting the annual service done a couple of months early.

However, the latest position re. the heating is that the boiler pump has broken beyond repair – which could turn out to be a blessing in disguise. The boiler itself is old and inefficient, and the casing is cracked. As replacing the pump would be expensive and trying to mend the boiler itself is not guaranteed to be a permanent solution, the better alternative seems to be to replace the existing system with something modern, wall mounted and much more energy and cost efficient. A quote has been sought.

Optimum heating does continue to be problematic – unlike a house, the Hall does not need the heating on at the same time every day so, to some extent, we rely on hirers using the manual override or ‘extra hour’ sensibly. An email was sent to all hirers asking them to appoint someone from their group who is competent to do this.

Last year’s Christmas Fayre was very well attended and a success. We are already well into planning for this year!

I thank everyone who has worked to keep our Village Hall open for use. Special thanks to all the committee, especially secretary Cathy Harber and Treasurer Jan Benn.

Finally, I must give special thanks to my predecessor, David Faulks, who served on the Village Hall committee for 30 years. His experience will be missed but he is at the end of a phone!