

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2008 AT 7.30 PM IN ST PETER'S HALL WOODHALL SPA**

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Mrs A Pestell, introduced herself and welcomed every one present. She then drew attention to the agenda and explained the format of the evening.

## **2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr P Franklin, Mrs S Stennett, Mr B Chapman and Mrs M Horton.

## **3. TO READ AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 07**

The clerk read the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting. It was proposed by Cllr M Harness and seconded by Mr B Buck (both of whom had been present) that the minutes be signed as a correct record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The clerk reported that:

the village signs had been cleaned;

the dog warden had followed up complaints, new dog bins had been put up and there were more to come;

East Lindsey had increased street cleaning and had promised to do additional cleaning in target areas if problems were reported to them;

the fence on the Broadway had been refurbished and the new notice board was in place;

East Lindsey would be refurbishing the remainder of the fence and erecting a notice board on it for their own notices;

a small improvement had been made to the lay-by opposite the cemetery in Kirkby Lane.

## **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Chairman introduced the Vice Chairman, Cllr D Clarke and the Clerk to the Council, Mrs W Radford. She also introduced the new clerk, Mrs A Bushell, who would be taking up her post in May.

She then gave a detailed account of the activities and achievements of the Parish Council during the previous year. She also referred to the issues that the Parish Council had been dealing with on behalf of the community which were included in the agenda and would be dealt with in detail during the course of the evening.

She also mentioned changes to the council due to the resignations of two councillors and introduced Mrs E Mace who would be replacing Cllr Waring.

She ended her report by drawing attention to the council's Financial Statement, which had been distributed prior to the start of the meeting, and gave details of the earmarked reserves and future spending.

## **6. UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY OPENING HOURS**

Cllr D Clarke gave details of the reasons for concern, namely the outcome of the County Council's Fundamental Library Review, which had resulted in a reduction in Woodhall Spa's opening hours despite its being the best performing of the three local libraries. He referred to the Parish Council's concern that it had not been given adequate reasons to justify the reduction. He said that if local residents shared this concern, the Parish Council would pursue the matter further. He had made a provisional booking of the hall for another meeting with officers/members of the County Council, to whom residents could put their questions.

It was agreed that another meeting should be held and County Councillor E Pole, who was present, suggested some dates when he would be able to attend.

Cllr Clarke ended this item by asking residents to provide a list of questions for the meeting.

## **7. UPDATE ON JUBILEE PARK**

Mr C Leyland, District Councillor and Chairman of the Friends of Jubilee Park, summarised the previous year's achievements and referred to 29 April as the day when ELDC's commitment to the stainless steel pool liner would become action. The District Council had proved willing to take on local suggestions regarding improvements to the park. The Parish Council's priorities had been the stainless steel pool liner and refurbishment of the café, to be followed later by improvements to the changing rooms. The design for a new café would reflect the established buildings in Woodhall Spa. The liner and the café would be funded directly by East Lindsey with the remaining funding coming from grants or private enterprise.

## **8. UPDATE ON THE CEMEX APPLICATION**

The Chairman explained that as a result of the concerns expressed by local residents the company had gone to back to the drawing board and a new application would be put forward. The Parish Council would keep everyone informed and if the new

application was also unsatisfactory further letters of objection should be sent by both the council and local residents.

Local resident, Mr Ward, put forward the view that the land should be retained for agricultural use because of food shortages and the price of food. This would solve both the food problem generally and the Cemex problem for local people.

## **9. UPDATE ON THE DRAINAGE SUMMIT**

Cllr A Midgley summarised the issues that had led to the summit meeting and gave details of the outcomes. It had emerged that a lack of communication between the District Council, the Water Board, Drainage Board and the Environment Agency had prevented the joined up approach needed to find the causes of and solutions to the problems. This was acknowledged by all the participants and there was a promise that contact would be made with all those who had reported problems.

Since the meeting, the team set up by the District Council to deal with these issues had been active in Woodhall Spa, looking at the issues raised by individuals and also at strategic issues. They were cross-referencing all the issues brought up in an attempt to identify common problems and approaches.

## **10. PROGRESS ON THE CORONATION HALL**

Cllr D Hill started his presentation with a brief resume of the history of the hall up to the present day. He explained that the previous two associations were to be replaced with a new body of trustees and a new trust deed would be drawn up. He gave details of the improvements, funded by Lincolnshire County Council, to the roof, windows and floor. By 1 October the new trustees would take full responsibility for the building, including its maintenance, and their first task would be to draw up a new lease for the Youth Club. Further improvements would be funded by grants.

## **11. UPDATE ON THE PARISH PLAN**

### **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**

The Chairman explained that the drawing up of a design statement, which was needed to protect and enhance Woodhall Spa, would be headed by Cllr N Storey in conjunction with the Heritage Committee. It would reflect what local people valued about their village by describing its distinct character and landscape. It would help to manage not prevent change.

### **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION AND BRITAIN IN BLOOM**

Cllr J Nelstrop opened this agenda item by referring to the fact that Woodhall Spa had won the Best Kept Village Competition in 1988, 1998 and hopefully would win it again for this decade in 2008. She explained that work done towards the Britain in Bloom Competition would be a step towards this and that everyone in the village

needed to be on board by keeping their gardens neat and helping to clear litter etc. She finished by giving details of the work done so far to progress Britain in Bloom.

## TREE COMMITTEE

Mr W Saunders, Chairman of the Committee, explained that the committee had two roles: to look after the trees that exist and stop any unnecessary felling and to provide new trees for the future to sustain the woodlands. These, together with consultations on Tree Preservation Orders and checking that felled trees are replaced, would take lots of manpower and time. He appealed for all those who cared about trees and who wanted to make a difference to join the committee.

## HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Mr M Czajkowski, Chairman of the Committee, recapped on the aims identified in the Parish Plan and outlined what the committee had done to further these aims in relation to the Spa Baths, the production of leaflets and information signs, an audit of historical and archaeological sites and correction of inaccuracies in existing information about Woodhall Spa. He ended his report by thanking members of the committee for all their hard work during the year.

## **12. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

Reports were received from representatives of the following organisations:

- LIVES and the First Responders
- Woodhall Spa Twinning Association
- the Governing Body of St Andrew's C E School
- the Cricket Club
- Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## **13. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

The Chairman answered a query about the settling of a dispute regarding graffiti on a fence by explaining the legal situation and the offer of conciliation.

Attention was drawn to the need for a new sign for 7,9,11, and 15 Grove Drive and a replacement sign for Cromwell Avenue leading to St Hugh's School.

There was a request for removal of the rubbish near the seat on the corner of Grove Drive and Tor O Moor Road.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and reminding them of the ways in which they could support the community and its committees.