

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 MARCH 2014 AT 7.00 PM IN CORONATION HALL WOODHALL SPA

There were 185 members of the public in attendance.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr David Clarke, introduced himself and the Parish Clerk, and welcomed everyone. He explained the purpose of the Annual Parish meeting and stressed that this was not a Parish Council meeting. He ran through the order of the agenda.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Mr and Mrs Knight, Joanna Nelstrop, Marjorie Sargeant, Lucy Wells, Mike Armstrong and Tim Peacock.

3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2013

It was proposed by Mr B Chapman and seconded by Mr M Czajkowski that the minutes be signed as a correct record of the meeting. This was confirmed by a show of hands and the Chairman signed the minutes.

The Clerk provided an update on the outstanding issues from the minutes which were the street sweeper and car parking.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman introduced the Parish Councillors and informed the meeting that due to three recent resignations there were vacancies on the Parish Council and anyone interested in becoming a councillor was asked to contact the Parish Clerk. The Chairman asked for thanks for their hard work to be recorded in the minutes to those councillors who had recently stood down. The meeting was given information about the functions and structure of the Parish Council.

The Chairman spoke about the highlights of 2013/14 which included working with HSBC and ELDC to get the purpose build pod completed to house the new ATM on The Broadway, setting up a working group to look at ways to improve car parking in the village, setting up a Community Emergency Plan shed to store sand bags and grit, overseeing the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan, holding negotiations with ELDC on the asset transfer of Royal Square and Millennium Gardens, and having an increased involvement with developers for any new housing developments proposed for the village. The Chairman commented that there were less highlights than in previous years and this was due to Jubilee Park taking up so much of the Parish Council's time.

The Chairman gave details of grants which the Parish Council had given to community organisations during the 2013/14 financial year, and he explained the grant application process and emphasised that applications needed to demonstrate a benefit to the community; and community groups within the village were encouraged to apply for a grant for any upcoming projects. Details were also given about the consultations which the Parish Council had been asked to respond to during the past twelve months, which was less than in previous years.

The Chairman gave details about the precept and he explained why the precept had been increased.

The meeting was given details of the planning applications that the Parish Council had responded to during 2013/14 in particular the large controversial plans, and residents were reminded of the outcome of these applications as well as the Parish Council's response to them. It was emphasised that the Parish Council was working hard to get its responses to planning applications correct so that its concerns would be listened to by East Lindsey District Council.

The Chairman gave details of how residents could get in touch with the Parish Council.

The Chairman gave a report on Jubilee Park which included the following matters:

- The café facility at Jubilee Park had been very successful and Mr and Mrs Sharp were thanked for their hard work and investment in the park (this received a round of applause).
- The 2013 season had been successful, the on-line booking system was a success and the amenity block refurbishment had been well received, there were some structural issues with the amenity block to be addressed which would involve additional money being spent.
- The intention was for the Parish Council to transfer Jubilee Park to a community based charity - Jubilee Park Woodhall Spa (JPWS) in order to make decision making and applying for grants much easier, however the most important aspect of the transfer was to protect the land so it would be a lease transfer with the Parish Council retaining the land, this would provide protection against inappropriate development. Timescales were given for the transfer, and it was explained that the leases for the Tennis Club and Cricket Club would remain with the Parish Council, as well as the roads due to the access agreement, and protection clauses would be included in the lease to protect the asset. It was emphasised that JPWS would be given the freedom to manage the park, but the importance of community involvement was highlighted and residents were encouraged to get involved with Jubilee Park in any way that they felt that they could.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Parish Clerk gave the following financial report but explained that financial year 2013/14 had not yet finished so the information being given was only draft figures and may change on completion of the year end accounts:

Non-Jubilee Park accounts:

This financial year the parish precept was set at £52,000 which worked out at £34.08 per band D property for the year. The Parish Council adopted balanced budget of £70,310.74 and in order to do this it expected to use £2,964.74 of its general reserves.

The predicted expenditure of the non-Jubilee Park budget was approx. £75,000 so slightly more than budgeted, but the predicted income was also higher than budgeted at approx. £76,000.

The predicted general reserve at 31st March 2014 was in the region of £15,000 with an additional £7,281.20 in earmarked reserves for projects/improvements to community facilities.

The Council had set a precept of £53,040 for financial year 2014/15 which worked out at £34.35 per Band D property.

Jubilee Park accounts:

Jubilee Park brought in a total income of £293,302.97 this financial year. This did include the revenue grant from ELDC for £18,013 & £4,306 from the ELDC contingency fund that was offered when the park was transferred to the Parish Council. This contingency money was used to buy grounds maintenance equipment because ELDC withdrew from the carrying out the grounds maintenance last year. The Caravan site brought in £99,519.63 last year, and the pool brought in £124,780.66. The remainder of the income was made up from putting, bowling, games, shop sales, events, grants, donations, licence fee for the café, access agreement payment, club leases and bank interest.

The predicted expenditure for Jubilee Park was approximately £282,000 so we are predicting a year end surplus in the region of £11,000, which would have been higher, but some money was spent on repairing the amenity block which suffered from subsidence and needed underpinning, but the utility costs came in much lower than anticipated this year, so the balances of the water, gas and electricity budget was used to pay for the required work.

The Council accounts would be available for inspection for a 4 week period during May/June, so any resident of Woodhall Spa can make an appointment to come and view the Parish Council's accounts, which also include the Jubilee Park accounts.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

PCSO STUCHFIELD

PCSO Stuchfield didn't give a report but residents were informed that she was available to talk to after the meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Mick Harness gave information about income generated by East Lindsey District Council from their car parks and explained that the revenue from car parks had helped fill the gap caused by the reduction in the grants received from central government. Cllr Harness commented that he thought that the new green waste scheme would be a success and offer savings to the District Council, he also gave examples of the grants that had been given from his £2,000 Community grant, and he encouraged organisations to apply. Cllr Harness informed the meeting that both he and Cllr Leyland worked hard for Woodhall Spa and had managed to secure 2 hours free car parking in the Woodhall Spa car parks from April, Cllr Harness answered a question from a resident about car parking.

District Councillor Craig Leyland explained that he was aware that planning was a great concern for the village and he gave full credit to the Parish Council for being fully engaged in the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Woodhall Spa. Cllr Leyland spoke about localism and the challenges for ELDC to save money. He finished by saying that he felt very privileged to represent Woodhall Spa.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr Denis Hoyes informed the meeting that he was working on flooding issues and issue with the road surfaces in the village, but he commented that the roads were bad around the entire county. He gave details of a consultation that was out on on-street parking and he informed residents that he was contactable by telephone.

The Parish Council Chairman thanked the District and County Councillors for their support.

7. TO UPDATE THE COMMUNITY ON THE TRANSFER OF JUBILEE PARK TO A COMPANY TO MANAGE

Barry Chapman read out a statement regarding the history of Jubilee Park which contained detailed of what had been done in the park since 2006.

Justin Scarborough, A Director of Jubilee Park Woodhall Spa (JPWS) stood up and provided the meeting with the following update:

Negotiations between JPWS and the Parish Council had only been completed the previous evening, but it was hoped they would be in a position to sign the lease on 15th April. A lot of hard work had been put in over the past 12 months into order to get to the position they were currently at. Mr Scarborough introduced all the JPWS Directors and explained that they were all local people who felt privileged to be looking after an important part of the community and whose aim was to make sure that everything that JPWS did was in the best interest of Jubilee Park.

Mr Scarborough informed the meeting that JPWS did have a business plan in place to try and fill the gap in funding and would be looking at ideas to bring revenue into the park all year round. The Directors had spoken to experts, carried out surveys and were keen to involve the community and be open and transparent. Residents were asked to get in touch with JPWS if they had any ideas for saving/making money at the Park.

The main aim of JPWS was to make sure that Jubilee Park remained as the jewel in Woodhall Spa's Crown.

The meeting was informed that JPWS would start its membership drive soon and was given details of how to get in touch with the Directors.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

FRIENDS OF JUBILEE PARK (FOJP)

Kim Barr gave details of the number of members that FOJP currently had and the amount of money that FOJP had raised to date. She explained that all money raised by FOJP goes back into Jubilee Park, but members also give time to help refurbish the park. Mrs Barr informed the meeting that FOJP members got a 10% discount off activities at the Park and she thanked residents for their support and encouraged people to get involved.

Harry Barr from FOJP Juniors stood up and gave details of events that the junior members had been involved with, and the amount of funds they had raised and what they had done to raise it. Joe Stanhope, the Jubilee Park Manager was thanked for all his help and support.

COTTAGE MUSEUM

Rodger Pickavance informed the meeting that the museum would re-open on Good Friday and there would be new displays this year, so residents were encouraged to visit. The District and County Councillors were thanked for the grants that they gave to the museum,

and details were given about the main event in the museum's calendar this year which would be to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Arnhem on 6th September. People were encouraged to get involved and volunteer.

CAR PARKING WORKING GROUP

Rich Sanderson explained that the working group had been a collaborative effort between the Chamber of Trade & Tourism and the Parish Council. He spoke about what the group had been up to and recommendations that had been presented to the Parish Council. Mr Sanderson explained what the praise scheme for shop owners was and encouraged shop owners to support the scheme, and residents to challenge shop owners. Residents were told about inconsiderate parking which regularly occurred around the village and everyone was encouraged to park sensibly.

YOUNG UNION AT THE HUB

The meeting was given details about the youth club and informed that the club really needed help from young leaders and adults.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Michael Czajkowski spoke about the aims of the Committee and emphasised that they were not in competition with the Cottage Museum. He explained how the group was formed and gave details of the work that it had done during the past year. He spoke about the Spa Baths but explained that there was nothing to report at the moment. Mr Czajkowski provided the meeting with information about heritage implications in the planning process and informed the meeting that the Heritage Committee were involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Development Plan; and the Article 4 Direction was still in the hands of East Lindsey District Council. A visit to the Tower on the Moor was being planned and he appealed for new members and gave out contact details for the group. Mr Czajkowski finished by thanking members for all their hard work.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NHDP)

The Chairman explained the purpose of the plan and informed the meeting that the aim was to have it ready for ratification later in the year. The process that the plan had to go through before being adopted was explained and residents were encouraged to join the steering group. Mr Clarke gave details about the grant funding that was available and he gave details of consultations, and the meeting was informed that the steering group were currently at the policy drafting stage. Mr Clarke explained that the NDP wouldn't be able to contain site allocations, but he gave details of the policies that would be included. The NDP website was displayed on the screen and residents were encouraged to visit the site.

WOODHALL SPA 10K RUN

Graham MacRury informed the meeting that this year's event would be taking place on 1st June and had been organised by the Round Table just like the previous two runs, but before that Graham Keegan had ran it on his own. The event brings in a lot of money for local charities, and this year's event was already fully subscribed with 1200 runners. Stixwould Road would be closed for a two hour period on the day and residents were asked for their patience and support.

TWINNING COMMITTEE

Gill Baker urged new people to get involved with twinning, especially younger people and families. Residents from Woodhall Spa would visit France at the end of May, but a coach to take people there had not been arranged this year. Anyone who would like to join/get involved was asked to contact Gill Baker.

9. TO RECEIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR 2015/16 BUDGET

Residents were asked to forward any ideas to the Parish Council before November.

10. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

The following questions were raised:

- Who are the JPWS Directors and why did they stand down and then come back, and will they make public their business plan?

It was explained that the Parish Council felt that JPWS were the best group to take the Park forward and the disagreements had been resolved. The business plan would be available before too long.

- Three well known councillors had resigned recently stating bullying and intimidation was this true?

It was confirmed that no bullying or intimidation had taken place.

- Would residents have to become members of the proposed fitness and wellbeing suite in Jubilee Park?

It was explained that the facility would be separate to the pool and would have membership. There were plans for village changing, but this would be done in a sensitive manner and customer's privacy would be a very important factor in the design.

- Swimming pools are known to be loss making so how will JPWS succeed?

JPWS will involve the community and keep residents informed so there will be no surprises.

Craig Leyland stood up and reminded residents that at the past two year's Annual Parish Meetings the Parish Council had explained that Jubilee Park needed to be transferred. The idea of a fitness suite had always been on the table. Membership of JPWS will be open to everyone so if you are concerned then get involved. A CIC (Community Interest Company) is a critical way of getting funding so it is important than everyone buys into it. Craig commented that Woodhall Spa had a lot going for it that other communities did not have.

A resident commented that the turn out demonstrated how much the residents care about Woodhall Spa.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.54pm.