

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 MAY 2015 AT 7.30 PM IN CORONATION HALL WOODHALL SPA

There were 115 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 to the meeting. He explained the format of the meeting which was slightly different to other years.

The meeting was told that the following Woodhall Spa community groups / organisations had a table in the hall and were available to speak with when the formal part of the meeting had ended:

Tree Group, Cottage Museum, Country Show, Heritage Committee, Cricket Club, JPWS, GN Construction, Tennis Club, Golf Club, Round Table, Ladies Circle, Croquet Club, First Responders, Young Union at the Hub, Neighbourhood Development Plan, Welcome Club and Town Bowls Club.

Residents were encouraged to stay after the formal part of the meeting and have a drink and look around the tables of the community organisations.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2014

It was proposed by Mr R Sanderson and seconded by Mr M Hindes 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.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman displayed a list of the names of the current members on the Parish Council, as well as those councillors who had stood down in 2014. By request the current Parish Councillors stood at the front of the hall so everyone could see who they were. The meeting was given information about the functions and structure of the Parish Council.

The Chairman spoke about the highlights of 2014/15 which included the transfer of Jubilee Park to a community organisation to manage – Jubilee Park Woodhall Spa Ltd, participation in the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership speed awareness campaign, the refurbishment of the wooden village signs, the tidying up of Kirkby Lane cemetery, and the request to the ELDC Planning Department to ask them to ask consultation questions specific to an application, rather than just ask for comments which often resulted in a no comment response. The meeting was

informed that passive and reactive speed awareness signs would be erected along the main entrance roads to the village in the next couple of days.

The Chairman gave details of grants which the Parish Council had given to community organisations during the 2014/15 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.

The Chairman spoke about the precept and he explained why the precept had been increased and how it only equated to a 1.35% increase to property owners, and he commented that the precept for Woodhall Spa was still lower than many other similar size parishes.

Details were also given about the consultations and planning applications which the Parish Council had been asked to consider and respond to during the past twelve months.

The Chairman reminded residents of the ways that they could get in touch with the Parish Council.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that copies of the financial report had been put on the seats and the reason that they had 'draft' written on them was because the Parish Council had not yet approved the year end accounts.

The Clerk gave a verbal summary of the financial report and informed the meeting that the Council's accounts were currently available for inspection for a 4 week period so any resident of Woodhall Spa could make an appointment to come and view the Parish Council's accounts.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr Hoyes informed the meeting that Highways had spent a lot of money in Woodhall Spa and he had been happy to see where the funds had been spent. He told the meeting that he was working hard on drainage issues, in particular the Green Lane dyke. The meeting was also made aware that £500 of Cllr Hoyes 'Big Society' money had gone to Woodhall Spa.

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Susanna Gorst introduced herself and said that she was delighted to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Gorst invited residents to contact her with any questions relating to ELDC business.

District Councillor Craig Leyland encouraged residents to contact the District Councillors with ELDC issues, and he congratulated the Parish Council for the way it dealt with planning issues. Cllr Leyland told the meeting that he looked forward to working with and representing Woodhall Spa for the next 4 years.

The Parish Council Chairman thanked the District and County Councillors for their support, and invited any other representatives from Community Groups who did not have a table to promote their organisation to give a short report.

Representatives from the following organisations stood up and spoke:

CORONATION HALL

Isabel Clarke informed the meeting that there would be an event to open the refurbished court on Saturday 13th June with a BBQ and she encouraged residents to attend.

WOODHALL SPA LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Shirley Williams informed the meeting that the Library was opened every Monday morning by volunteers, and she encouraged residents to attend the library as much as possible within the next fortnight. Mrs Williams explained that the library could be under threat if it was not used enough. She commented that she hoped that members of the LCC library staff would have been in attendance at the meeting to promote the library.

FRIENDS OF CANCER RESEARCH

Details were given about the friends organisation in Woodhall Spa which worked in support of Cancer Research UK. The meeting was informed that the group had raised £300,000 since the mid 1990's. Residents were told how they could donate and it was emphasised that no profit was made.

WOODHALL SPA TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Jack Baker informed the meeting that Woodhall Spa had accommodated the French families this year, and the association was always on the look out for new members and families.

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

There were no questions.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and encouraged people to stay and look around the tables around the hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.54pm.