

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for Haxby held on
Monday 28 April 2025 at 7pm in the Oaken Grove Community Centre, Haxby**

Present: Cllr R. Pearson – in the Chair
Cllr G. Cockburn
Cllr I. Cuthbertson
Cllr T. Fisher
Cllr C. Layfield
Cllr E. Pearson
Cllr J. Secker

Also present: Alan Draper (town clerk), Jane Grant (cemetery clerk), Joanne Pratt (admin officer) and eight residents.

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The chairman of the meeting, Cllr. R. Pearson, welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Those present received apologies from Cllrs C. Cooper, C Hogg, T. Richardson, G. Stow and I. Thompson.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 22 April 2024

Those present confirmed the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 22 April 2024.

4. Report from the Chairman of Haxby Town Council, Cllr R Pearson

Cllr R. Pearson reported as follows:

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of former councillor Neil Wyatt last July. Neil was a big personality with strong views, but he was ready to help me out personally for risk assessments and very helpful with regards to the cemetery.

We have two new councillors – Chris Cooper and Caroline Layfield. That means we have full complement of 14 councillors who represent the 4 different wards in Haxby - North, East, Central and South-west. These correlate to the polling districts in Haxby.

Just to note Haxby and Wigginton have 3 ward councillors from the City of York Council who represent Haxby at the next level of local government.

As chair I attend the Parish Liaison Meetings at City of York Council (CYC) to represent Haxby and to find out issues that concern our community.

We have several committees that all eventually report to full council if something is contentious, expensive, or otherwise presents a possible difficult situation.

And we have representatives on different forums such as the Bus Forum upon which Ian Craven does a sterling job. He has lobbied hard against the changes to the bus routes and reliability of the services.

Or on the Haxby and Wigginton Community Centre – again Ian Craven represents HTC and Ed Pearson is a trustee of the H&W Youth & Community Association.

As a council we give regular sums of money to help the Oaken Grove Centre to provide services for the youth of Haxby and Wigginton.

Chris Cooper is our link with the traders' association, and we are trying to maintain the uniqueness of the centre of the village to encourage more trade.

We have increased the length of the hitching rails, and they are all going to be cleaned and painted in June.

Due to reductions in the number of grass cuts by CYC, we are continuing with the extra we have done to maintain the green areas. And we are looking at all snickets to make sure those we are responsible for get maintained and that those that are not – are looked after by the appropriate authority.

We are looking to start a friends of the duck pond group.

We are working hard to improve the pavilion on Ethel Ward Playing Field and are currently in talks with the FA and the netball and football clubs. If you have anything that you think would increase the usage of the Pavilion, please let us know.

The amazing Jo – our admin officer - managed to secure over £20,000 in grants which has been used to buy an all-inclusive see-saw. And very recently some musical chimes.

We hope to buy new equipment in the not-too-distant future and will engage with you to buy what you think you should have for your children.

A regular programme of checks and maintenance on both of our playing fields - Mancroft and Ethel Ward – takes place each week.

The trees in the village have been checked by the arboreal team from CYC and works have been carried out. We will be removing and replacing the dead/diseased tree situated outside Ashgrove.

Because we have now got a full and happy complement of staff, which is due in no small part to Alan, our clerk, we are slowly picking up, dealing with and improving things that have been left in abeyance.

The cemetery issues have been resolved, and works are starting to improve it. Again, due to the excellent efforts of another staff member - our cemetery clerk, Jane.

The Planning Committee has fought hard against the ST9 development off Usher Lane and will continue to do so.

We are now working on completing the Neighbourhood Plan – it is nearly ready to be sent to CYC for approval.

We have supported the development of the railway station.

The Events Committee has worked incredibly hard under the leadership of Cllr Jessie Secker and her trusty team of volunteers.

There was a successful carnival last year despite the poor weather and we are looking forward to this year's on Saturday 12th July.

We finally invested in new lights for the Christmas tree. The tree was checked prior to the installation! Sadly, as you will be aware it blew down. However, the events team have now procured a Norway spruce. Very many thanks to them. So, there will be another Christmas lights switch on this year.

Upcoming events are the VE day 80 celebrations with a small financial donation from HTC – D-Day 80 last year was a hugely enjoyable gathering financially assisted by us.

Haxby Town Council was found to be dysfunctional two years ago. With the help, support, hard work and sheer doggedness we have been commended by CYC for all that we have achieved so far.

There is a long way to go but we have all been offered and, where possible, undertaken full updated council training. There is a comprehensive programme of study and learning available to both staff and councillors.

I would personally like to thank them all, from Dave and Mick, Jo and Jane, Alan and all my fellow councillors for their dedication.

5. Various report(s) concerning the parish from interested parties

Joanne Pratt provided an update on the allotments.

Jane Grant provided an update on the cemetery.

Cllr I. Cuthbertson (Finance Committee chair) provided an update on the council's financial situation.

Cllr T. Fisher (Planning Committee chair) provided an update on the work of the Planning Committee.

Cllr J. Secker (Events Committee chair) provided an update on the events organised by the Events Committee.

6. Parish matters raised by electors from the floor

The following matters were raised:

- Poor/dangerous parking of vehicles on Moor Lane. Cllr I. Cuthbertson confirmed that the Highways Department at CYC have been informed but residents are encouraged to report it to CYC too.
- The closure of the post office. Cllr R. Pearson confirmed that HTC is working with Luke Charters MP on this.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

Signed **Date**

Chairman