

**Minutes of the Haxby Annual Town Meeting for Haxby
on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7p.m. in the Oaken Grove Community Centre**

Present: Cllr. R. Pearson – in the Chair
Cllr. G. Cockburn
Cllr. M. Guilford
Cllr. M. Harrison
Cllr. E. Pearson (also York CC)
Cllr. T. Richardson
Cllr. J. Secker
Cllr. N. Wyatt

Also present: Anne Wilson, Locum Town Clerk by invitation of the Chairman
Cllr. I. Cuthbertson – York CC
Cllr. A. Hollyer – York CC
25 residents

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman, Cllr. R. Pearson welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Those present received apologies from three residents.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2022

Those present confirmed the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2022.

4. Proposed Developments

Representatives from the proposed Developments in the town will give an overview of their developments:

- New Care Home – Haxby Hall Redevelopment: Byron Draycott from Hobson Porter will address the meeting about the development at Haxby Hall.

Mark, the Contracts Manager, Paul, the Health and Safety Manager and Bryan, Site Manager spoke about the development and said that it had been difficult to continue with the build as the area had been under water since September. They are trying to work with residents, noting he complaints about the dirt and dust especially over the roundabout. The Care Home was being built to a high standard with two storeys and a third in the roof space.

Concern was expressed about 67 properties sewage, foul and surface water going into pipes where there was already considered to be a problem. They said that there were problems with collapsed drains on site and repaired these would meet up with the adopted sewers. Permeable surfaces were being installed on site where possible. This was a local build specific to Haxby, the location and local needs.

Cllr. Wyatt asked about any contribution they may be making to improve 5G in the area to assist the town, noting that safe limits need to be adhered to. Concern was expressed about the vibrations being caused by the works, but the developers said they kept data on their works each week and where necessary liaised with York CC about the works. The vibrations were from the demolition of the original building on site and the ground works.

Mark said that they had the best interests of the residents at the forefront of their works. They hadn't noticed parking problems or mud on the road. Trees had been promised by Hobson Parker as had picnic tables and possibly disabled access for the scout hut.

The developer was thanked for coming and was asked about the completion timelines. There was a completion date of 11th March 2023 but due to the ground water issues there may be a delay of four weeks. The ground and first floor were residential and the top floor for dementia patients.

- **ST9 Development North of Haxby Moor Lane Development – Ben Pilgrim from Royal Pilgrim Communications will address the meeting on the ST9 Development.**

Unfortunately, no one was able to attend from the ST9 development.

There had been an Extra-Ordinary meeting of Full Council with Wiggington Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Committee to formulate a response about the ST9 Development. There are four separate objections and also there is no new school, play areas or a cemetery.

Cllr. Richardson

5. Town Council activities

The Chairman of the following Committees gave a report on the work of their Committee:

i) Planning Committee

Cllr. Mike Harrison and Cllr. Rith Pearson spoke about the work of the Planning Committee. He explained the constraints in which they worked and that they were just like the public, a statutory consultee but they did try and represent the views of the residents. They had considered about 100 applications over the year including the request for a very tall mast by BT which the Council objected to. There had been some large

developments put in front of the committee in the previous year, including the proposal for a new station and associated development. It was stated that Cllr regularly go on training but reminded those present that they were only statutory consultees in the planning process, like a resident, and it was York CC who made the final decision over planning. This did however mean that a local perspective could be put in about the applications.

ii) Amenities Committee

The Chairman, Cllr Mark Guilford said that this Committee had had a challenging year with the deterioration of the play areas and the necessity to remove some equipment and look at repairs. Some repairs required specialist companies to come in. He stated that there has been some arsonist burning some areas too. The Locum Clerk was looking at the repairs against the safety reports but did state that repairs could take a long time to arrange. It was important that any new equipment was DDA compliant and that equipment for those with disabilities were also included going forward.

A resident asked about the ownership of the Headland Road footpath and was it on the definitive map as residents were encroaching onto the footpath.

iii) Haxby and Wigginton Cemetery Committee

It was explained that this was a joint Committee with Haxby and Wigginton Parish Council. They met on a regular basis and apart from the interments were responsible for the maintenance of the site. The Town Council worked closely with the local memorial masons and undertakers to ensure that every interment went smoothly. Unfortunately, the new appointed Cemetery Clerk did not stay long and therefore shortly there would be an advert for a Cemetery Administrator.

iv) Budget and Oversight Committee

The Chairman, Cllr. Mark Guilford stated Budget and Oversight Committee met on a regular basis and was mainly a procedural committee. It included all areas of the council to consider and discuss before they went to Full Council such as budgets, open spaces sand play areas.

v) Carnival Committee

The Chairman, Cllr Ruth Pearson spoke about the Town Carnival and the success it had become. She thanked all the volunteers, Town Council staff and the Councillors who worked with her to put on this event, without whom it would be impossible. In 2023 it continued to grow and the interest in having stall or taking part to date was amazing. The 2023 Carnival would take place on Saturday 8th July 2023.

Cllr. Ruth Pearson was thanked for all her hard work behind the scenes to make the carnival happen.

vi) Ethel Ward Playing Field (EWPF) Committee

The Chairman, Cllr. Ed Pearsson spoke about the work of the Committee and how it involved representatives from the sports clubs in the town. Grant funding had been obtained from both York Council and the Town Council to put a new base in (which could be a five a side court and then perhaps hired out to the public) and fencing around the netball court. There was a will to upgrade and improve the pavilion, noting that the play group had left the building. It was felt that there should be more of a community facility feeling to the building. The junior Football Club would like to get back to being able to serve teas and coffees during the games.

There needed to be a custodial trust set up to make these improvements happen with enthusiasm and encourage the sports clubs to work together for the benefit of the community and themselves. The sports pitches were all on public open space which meant anyone could use them even if not a member of any of the clubs.

There are deeds for the site and a hard copy was currently attempting to be obtained which may focus the way forward

The Council were very keen to make improvements to the play areas in the town and this was high on their list of priorities for 2023.

vii) Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee deals with all Staffing Matters. The Local Town Clerks are keeping the office ticking over and are tidying up the office ready for a new Town Clerk. The Council were also looking to appoint an Administrator and a Cemetery Clerk.

viii) Christmas Committee

The Christmas Committee was made up of Town Councillors and volunteers who enthusiastically, but not always easily, put on the Lighting Up Event in Haxby. It was hoped that the community involvement and working together would improve to grow the event in the town. The Christmas Lights would be put on Thursday 30th November this year.

5. Report from the Chairman of Haxby Town Council, Cllr. Grant Cockburn

The Chairman, Cllr. Grant Cockburn opened by thanking the Chairmen of the various Committees for all their hard work. He had been Chairman since May 2022 and it had not been an easy job with staff and Councillors leaving. It was often difficult to keep the

momentum going. He thanked Cllr. Ruth Pearson for keeping the office going and to Cllr. Mike Harrison and Cllr. Jessie Secker for the support they have shown her.

He gave a report about the work of the Town Council including the pond, the proposed new station, housing, the EWPF Plans and his work as the Chairman of the Council. He felt that the Council had done a lot of good work with and in the community and looked forward to a positive future for the town. It was often hard to get things done as it was all agreed by voting.

Staffing costs a lot of money for the Town Council yet they were finding it difficult to retain staff. It puts other people and our volunteers, such as Ruth, to keep the Council going. He questioned why there were no staff and what was going on?

He thanked the Town Councillors for their support, or at least the majority of them and thanked the Locum Clerks for coming in and working with the Council.

6. Report from Haxby Traders Association

As a secondary shopping centre to York, they were able to tap into some money. There would be Christmas Lights in the lamp posts and into Wiggington too plus they hoped to have some in York Road down to the ring road. As and when the lamp posts were replaced, they would look to extend the scheme.

There would be an Easter Trail with traders having displays in their windows encouraging people to walk the streets, visit the independent shops and have food locally. It was a great place to love and work.

They thanked the Councillors for all the work they do.

A local resident asked the traders where they get their funding from and if their accounts were available? The raise money themselves, apply for grants if available and use the events in Haxby to raise money for themselves.

It was suggested that a Go Fund Me page be set up to raise the £2000 needed to hire the cherry picker to put up the lights on the lamp posts.

The Chairman thanked the Traders and the Councillors for the work they do in bringing Christmas Lights and the lighting up event to Haxby.

7. Report from representatives of York City Council

- i) Councillor Andrew Hollyer, on behalf of himself, Cllr. Cuthbertson and Cllr. E. Pearson spoke about the following Haxby related matters:
 - The library was a great asset to Haxby but needed more regular footfall
 - The Station – this continues to progress but with elections due in June it was unlikely to have decisions made until the Autumn
 - The planning application for 800 houses on The Village in Wiggington had been appealed – any additional comments now had to be sent to the government not York CC
 - NHS is placing an excessive burden on the GP's

- The bank closing this year – there was a petition against its closure noting that cash transactions cannot be made at the Post Office
- There had been mixed reactions about a couple of footpaths being resurfaced although they were easier to navigate now
- There had been many reports about potholes, but these were very expensive to repair
- Ward Councillors had a local projects grant fund of £20 each which supported local projects in their wards
- Anti-social behaviour – the Police were looking at less obtrusive options in Haxby than CCTV – there was a lot more focus in Haxby

Concern was raised with the York City Councillors pothole repairs in the parish which had been done very badly and the speed of traffic through the village needs slowing down, especially in the centre of The Village.

8. Report from PCSO Josh Watson

PCSO Josh Watson was welcomed to the meeting and the Chairman said that we were pleased to see him present.

He spoke about the following matters:

- The increase in anti-social behaviour in the parish
- Residents were encouraged to ring 101 if there was an issue or 999 if it was a serious matter – the more calls received meant a higher presence in the parish
- There was also Street Safe online where you could report matters confidentially
- From the 24th March there would be an increase in patrols in the area when the Police Cadets would also be present
- There was to be an outreach project in the area – not yet in Haxby – the majority do not want a youth club but perhaps sports programmes during the summer months. He would keep the council updated and hoped that such programmes would target the hard-to-reach groups and that the Police get to them before they become known to the Police

9. Would you like to become a Town Councillor? The Locum Town Clerk will give some information about becoming a Town Councillor and the elections in May 2023.

The Locum Town Clerk gave some information about the upcoming Elections in May 2023 when all Town Councillors will be standing down and if they wish to continue to be a Town Councillor will need to stand for election. She outlined the role of a Town Councillor, the time commitment and what was expected as a Councillor in terms of behaviour, training and attendance at meetings.

10. Open Agenda — to accept questions and items for discussion from residents

There were just two matters raised:

- Were anti-social behaviour and crime statistics available for Haxby from the Police?
- There was concern raised about the number of joy riders through Haxby and the surrounding villages

Signed **Date**

Chairman