

Hemswell Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Hemswell Parish Council held on Tuesday 04 March 2014 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Blanchard, Foster, Peacock, Huntley, Dist Cllr Howitt-Cowan & Sharon Gleave (Clerk)

17/0314 Apologies for absence

Cllr Dutton – Attending another meeting in Parish council's behalf

Cllr Black – Work Commitments

PCSO McFaul – Holiday

Cty Cllr Strange – Other commitments

Resolved: To accept the apologies.

18/0314 Chairman's Welcome and Annual Report

CllrBlanchard read the following report on behalf of Cllr Dutton.

I would like to thank all the people here tonight, both Councillors and members of the public. This is the annual assembly of the village, to discuss village matters. Before we go to an open meeting, however, it is my pleasant duty to give a brief account of the work of the Parish Council over the past 12 months.

We have met on six occasions.

The attendance of the councillors was 91% which is absolutely excellent and shows the total commitment of the present Parish Council to the affairs of the village and Parish.

Councillors, I thank you sincerely for your support and your enthusiasm.

We have continued to employ Dave Gillott of Mantree Garden Services for the grass cutting service but following a meeting at the cemetery and discussions over further work required, we have amended the contract to include this extra work.

Minutes of all meetings are available if anyone requires to see them and are also on the Parish website - parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Hemswell.

We dealt with two planning applications this year and as always have considered them carefully and either objected or supported. This village was at the forefront of the objection to the planning application to construct a massive wind-farm on the cliff overlooking the village. The villagers gave this application a massive no-vote. We were successful in having this application rejected at the planning committee meeting at the Epic Centre. This was unanimously rejected by the planning committee. We have always been able to maintain our commitment to the conservation nature of the village and have interacted with WLDC Planning Officers and the Planning Committee in a very professional manner.

We managed our finances very well during the year, and we have been able to keep the precept unchanged for the 2014/2015 budget. From last year's precept we were able to perform all the normal services expected of the Council and we made a capital grant to the Village Hall.

An item of concern is still the traffic issue on the A631.

There was a fatality on the A631 at Harpswell last year and despite a strong petition from the residents of Harpswell and those Hemswell residents who reside at the Park, nothing visible has been done to try and prevent a future fatality.

This petition was presented to the full Lincolnshire County Council last year by Geoff Kealey from Harpswell and now the issue has been passed to a Scrutiny Committee, who have selected a Task and Finish group to finalise the decisions for recommendations back to council.

We will be represented when that Group come to inspect and study the issues surrounding the traffic movements on these dangerous bends.

Yearly Report from March 2013 to January 2014

March 2013

- A planning application for external alterations to a property on Weldon Road was passed through with no objections
- Progress with the Wind Farm application was discussed in detail.
- Cllr Blanchard and the clerk reported on a Cemetery course they had attended.
- Clerk reported pot holes on Dawnhill Lane and Brook Street.
- Discussed options for water supply at the Cemetery.

May 2013

- Cllr Dutton was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Blanchard as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council.
- The A631 bends were again discussed which prompted discussions of presenting a petition to Lincolnshire County Full Council.
- Responded to a letter on JU policies
- The annual Accounts for 2012/2013 were signed.
- All Parish Council Policies were reviewed.
- Clerk and Cllr Blanchard inspected graves in the Cemetery.
- Progress with the Wind Farm application was discussed in detail.
- May Day celebrations were a huge success.

July 2013

- The objection for the Hemswell Cliff Wind Farm was finalised and handed in the West Lindsey.
- Noise Levels from Eco-Plastics were discussed and the Clerk wrote to both Eco-Plastics and the Environment Agency.
- Discussions on the A631 were ongoing and Cllr Dutton met again with Lincolnshire county Council and Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.
- Quotes were requested for a new spoil bunker in the Cemetery.
- The 30mph sign on Bunkers Hill was reported as faulty.

September 2013

- The Police are pleased that residents are using the 101 number.
- A meeting took place with Eco-Plastics regarding noise.
- The Wind Farm Planning meeting confirmed to be 30 October 2013.
- Initial discussions took place regarding reactive signs.
- Potholes on Dawnhill Lane, Brook Street, Weldon Road, Middle Street and around the maypole were reported.
- Cllr Dutton attended a meeting regarding lack of consultation from the JPU.

- The water supply at the Cemetery was transferred to the Parish Council at no cost.

November 2013

- The Wind Farm planning meeting was held and a unanimous decision to object by West Lindsey.
- The A631 petition will be presented to Lincolnshire County Council on 13 December.
- The Clerk started working from the Village Hall on Mondays 10am – 12pm.

January 2013

- A631 still a prominent issue with a proposed task and finish group set up by Lincolnshire County Council to discuss.
- A meeting took place with the Contractor to tidy up the Cemetery following a complaint.

Draft Statement of Accounts **From April 2013 to March 2014**

INCOME (£)		EXPENDITURE (£)	
Precept	4,995.00	Clerks Salary & Expenditure	1,520.46
Bank Interest	1.04	WLDC	34.65
Cemetery Income	200.00	Grasscutting	280.00
		Village Hall	135.00
		Audit	0.00
		Churchyard	360.00
		Insurance	325.01
		Newsletter	189.60
		Benches	0.00
		Fieldpaths	5.00
		Cemetery	14.00
		Election	0.00
		CPRE	29.00
		CAB	0.00
		LALC	210.80
		Miscellaneous	0.00
		Maypole	0.00
Total	<u>5,196.04</u>		<u>3,103.52</u>

As at 30 January 2014

Reserves, capital and current a/c total in hand £9,536.17

19/0314

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Assembly

The notes of the 2013 Annual Assembly which took place on Tuesday 13 March 2013, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by Cllr Blanchard as a correct record of the meeting.

20/0314

Report From County Councillor Strange

Not present.

21/0314

Report From District Councillor Howitt-Cowan

West Lindsey District Council rejected the application for the proposed wind farm at Hemswell Cliff. RWE has until April to appeal. The wind farm is the biggest planning application for a long time in West Lindsey. There is now another application pending in Corringham. Wifi in public spaces is being pushed across the district. The Councillor Initiative Fund, Community chest and Community Assets Fund are still available. West Lindsey have now appointed a Commercial Director who is training two members of staff. Almost all money has now been brought back from Iceland. The building of a hotel in Gainsborough is no longer going ahead, however, the Sun Hotel has been purchased and talks are taking place regarding planning. The old Guildhall site will be landscaped and talks are ongoing regarding how to use the space. West Lindsey has saved £1m this year and must save £1m each in the next 2 years. We are one of the smallest districts in the county and one of the prudent, West Lindsey is quite asset rich. Dist Cllr Howitt-Cowan has appreciated coming to the meetings and particularly enjoyed the May Day celebrations and Christmas Carols. Dist Cllr Howitt-Cowan supports the work being done on the A631 which is county led.

22/0314

Report From Police

There has been very little to report in Hemswell, PCSO McFaul is very pleased that the 101 service is being used to good effect within the village.

23/0314

Report from Village Hall Committee

Will provide in Parish Council meeting.

24/0314

Meeting Closed

Meeting Closed at 7.30pm.

25/0314

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10 March 2015