

**MINUTES**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**OF NORTH FERRIBY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.00 pm**  
**Village Hall, North Ferriby**

1. **PRESENT:** Councillors Halmshaw (Chairman), Abraham (Vice Chairman), Bannister, Broadbent, Dobbs, Harris, Hyland, Mabbett, Pickering, & Swindin
2. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Holtby submitted his apologies.
3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

This is my first report to the village, having taken over as Chairman last May from Julie Abraham. Julie was a hard act to follow after her splendid work for the village with over 9 years as Chairman and has been of enormous help to me in getting used to my new position. Also during the year we were very disappointed to lose Ivan Patterson, who resigned in September after many years of service. Ivan continues to give a great deal of support through the Playing Fields Management Committee and the Parish Council is very grateful to him for his commitment. Ivan has now been replaced by John Mabbett - who was co-opted following a competitive interview process. We are very pleased to have John aboard.

Pat Lambert has also been of immense support to me during the year. She joined the Parish Council as Clerk just before the May 2007 elections and so we are both relatively new. We have developed a good working relationship and in many ways are learning together. She is very capable and works hard and long for the Parish Council and deserves all our thanks for this.

**Priorities for the Year**

Priorities identified last year by Julie have been progressed as follows:

- **The Medical Practice GP's Surgeries.** Julie Abraham has been supported by residents and patients' representatives in lobbying for a continuing presence following the closure of Dr. Robertson's surgery and a variety of options have been considered. The PCT has announced the transfer of the service to Hesse, but we are continuing to work for a replacement facility, preferably in the Village Hall where space has been vacated by the RNLI Shop and we have the support of our MP, David Davis. The Parish Council will continue to press for both a short and long term solution in the village.
- **Playing Fields Improvements.** The Parish Council has worked to support the Playing Fields Management Committee in improving facilities. The new pavilion is progressing towards completion and although primarily erected as a cricket pavilion, will be available for other users of the playing fields, subject to satisfactory arrangements through the Management Committee. The Parish Council has provided additional funding from its reserves to ensure this project went ahead and we now have 3 councillors on the Management Committee and we hope this will strengthen the committee for the work that it still needs to do. We are also looking at what support is needed in respect of maintenance and cleaning, of which more later. We hope that this will produce further improvements over the coming year and beyond.

- **Parish Plan.** The Parish Plan group has completed a very comprehensive survey of village residents and businesses and achieved an excellent level of resident's responses. Analysis of the results is proceeding, with invaluable support from Peter Hirschfeld of the Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council who have also grant-aided this part of the process. I am very grateful to Councillor Chris Swindin who has led the survey-working group and to his team of local volunteers. Although applications for further grant aid have been unsuccessful, the group hopes to follow up the survey results with proposals for priorities and key projects during the year and will carry out further consultations and events to involve village residents in these.
- **Emergency Planning.** An Emergency Committee has been formed and a draft Emergency Plan is being drawn up, scripted by Councillor John Pickering. We are consulting residents about the particular needs of any vulnerable villagers and about available resources and this information will be fed into the final draft document, which we hope will be published later this year. There is a continuing need to work with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and other authorities for vigilance and for our plans to be kept under review. The aim is to ensure that practical support is given to the emergency services, which will remain responsible for leading any necessary emergency response.
- **Village Hall.** The Village Hall Committee is continuing to look at proposals for the improvement of the Village Hall in both the short and longer term. In particular, the possibilities of providing temporary or permanent medical practice facilities are being explored. Other opportunities for consolidating services on the site need to be taken into account and further progress on proposals is expected in the coming year. Consultation with village residents will need to be an important part of project planning.
- **Football Club Lease.** The renewal of the North Ferriby United lease of land from the Playing Field Trustees is due in 2010 and the process for considering this will commence in May 2009 following legal advice.

#### **OTHER MATTERS:**

- **Cleaning Contract.** Soon after I took over as Chairman, the Parish Council's street and playing fields cleaner was unfortunately absent due to sickness and ultimately retired from this post in December after many years service. The Parish Council is reviewing these services and has updated its related employment policies and procedures. In the future we hope to make arrangements for a wider service for the playing fields that involves maintenance as well as cleaning; this is currently being discussed with the Playing Fields Management Committee.
- **Tidal and Surface Water Flood Defence.** The Parish Council has continued to press East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the Yorkshire Water Authority to improve the surface water drainage in the village following the flooding events in 2007. East Riding Council has completed an upgrading of the drainage of Swanland Hill and Church Road. We are still awaiting the Yorkshire Water Authority's actions needed to improve the effectiveness of the pumping arrangements immediately adjacent to Brickyard Cottages, which are believed to be crucial to the solution of the problem. With East Riding Council we are pressing them to carry out this work urgently.

- Following the public meeting in April 2008 with the Environment Agency, the Parish Council has continued to work with the Agency to address the concerns about possible tidal flooding as a result of rising sea levels. The Agency reported back to a second public meeting in December, at which it proposed to carry out a project study of emergency works needed to bring the village flood protection up to an acceptable standard for the immediate future. We currently await the results of this exercise and the Agency's timetable for the project's early implementation. At the same meeting the Agency was able to produce a revised risk analysis following site specific investigations, which considerably reduced their estimates of the likely impact of possible short and medium term flooding. This information has been communicated to residents in the relevant affected area. The Parish Council will also continue to press the Environment Agency and East Riding Yorkshire Council regarding the longer-term protection that might be needed for the village in 30 to 50 years.
- **Planning and Development.** The Planning Committee has considered a total of over 50 planning applications during the year. It also continues to monitor the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's decisions and Planning Appeal Service appeal decisions and to submit the Parish Council's observations where appeals are held against the refusal of planning consent. The enforcement action taken by East Riding Yorkshire Council against the unauthorised work carried out at the former pump house on Church Road continues to attract considerable comment. The Inspector, whilst allowing the use of the building as an office, imposed a timetable for the submission, approval and implementation of a scheme to reinstate the frontage of the site. A satisfactory scheme has now been approved by East Riding Yorkshire Council and is expected to commence in August. I am grateful to the members of the Planning Committee, who work hard to respond within the timescales set by the planning process and arranges additional meetings and consultations with local people where necessary.
- **Riverside Walkway.** The Riverside Walkway Committee has also been very active during the year. They have made grant applications and worked with a range of bodies to secure further tree planting, educational walks, the replacement of damaged notice boards, seating, and dog waste facilities. A community fun day is being planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> June, with a range of events even though the application for Big Lottery funding for this event was unsuccessful. The Walkway has become a major asset for the village and many thanks must go to Wendy Dobbs and her committee members for the sustained hard work they put in to achieve this.
- **Twinning.** My first and most pleasant duty was to sign the Friendship Agreement with our French partners in Le Pellerin last June. The twinning arrangements continue to progress and visits in both directions have been undertaken very successfully during the year. Chris Swindin, Jane Knight and their Committee are working hard to broaden the involvement of the whole community in this very positive initiative and to support it through an interesting and varied range of fund raising events.

As I have indicated, many of these initiatives will continue to be priorities for the next year. We have managed to hold the parish precept at the same level as last year and hope that this will help in a small way in the context of the current economic situation. This has been despite making extra money available from reserves to support the playing fields pavilion. If we wish to carry out additional work for the village, perhaps for example to follow up Parish Plan aspirations, we would have to look carefully at opportunities for grant aid and possibly additional precept resources. We will report on any such proposals and costs as they arise. Our aim must be always to match value for money with agreed priorities for the future.

I need to thank Graham Latter once again for his work with Julie and Pat to produce the Ferriby Focus and to continue to develop our communications through the village web site.

There are I know many other projects and areas of work that I have not been able to mention or thank but I have had immense support from Julie Abraham, Pat Lambert and the whole Council. We may have difficult decisions to make on occasions but our council is generally friendly and positive and maintains a good spirit of co-operation. I am sure we can build on this and continue to improve what is already a good service.

**OPEN FORUM:**

Two residents of the village attended the Annual Parish Meeting in order to thank the parish council for their continuing hard work in the village. The Chairman thanked them for their comments.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.