

M I N U T E S
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
NORTH FERRIBY PARISH COUNCIL
26th April 2010

- 1. Present:** Councillors Halmshaw (Chairman), Abraham (Vice Chairman), Bannister, Broadbent, Dobbs, Harris, Holtby, Hyland, Mabbett, Pickering & Swindin
- 2. Apologies:** None
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on:** 27th April 2009 were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Councillor Abraham. Seconded by Councillor Bannister. The Chairman noted that Chris Swindin had raised the point of accuracy regarding the Chairman's Report of 2009. The lead in organising the Parish Plan Household Questionnaire had been taken by Mrs Swindin whereas Chris Swindin had taken the lead in the analysis stage.
- 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The make-up of the Parish Council has not changed during the last year. The village is lucky to be able to have the support of a stable group of volunteer councillors who work hard for the good of the village, and of the Parish Clerk, Pat Lambert, who gives unstintingly of her time to deal with the myriad matters raised by residents, outside bodies and all those who have a need or interest involving North Ferriby's services and organisations.

Priorities for the Year

Priorities identified last year have been progressed as follows:

The Retention of Medical Practice - GP's Surgery. We have been successful in reaching agreement with the PCT and medical practices to provide replacement facilities for Dr. Robertson's surgery in the Village Hall, where the RNLI shop has vacated space. After lengthy discussions the Parish Council has agreed to provide a grant to enable the necessary improvement works to proceed, and to share the rental income from the new practice with the Village Hall Trust (VHT). The legal negotiations between the VHT and the medical authorities have been very long and difficult, and I must pay tribute to the tenacity and hard work of Councillor Chris Swindin, who has led this critical part of the negotiations. All parties are now agreed, and we only await the last minute finalising of documentation so that all the legal matters can be completed. It will be very pleasing to see this project come to fruition during the next few weeks.

Playing Fields Improvements. The Parish Council has again worked to support the Playing Fields Management Committee in improving facilities. The new pavilion will be completed for the new cricket season and will also be available for all other users of the playing fields. The Cricket Club has been successful in obtaining a grant from the English Cricket Board to improve facilities further. We have also been able to assist in the provision of improved play equipment for young people through a grant from the Play Pathfinder Scheme, and the installation of this has recently been completed. Councillor John Mabbett, a Parish Council representative on the Playing Fields Management Committee, has been instrumental in securing these improvements, in consultation with the East Riding Council and young users, and I must thank him for the impact he has made. At the same time, the Parish Council in agreement with the Management Committee has employed a new Recreation Warden, Maurice Lambert, on a limited part-time basis to ensure the cleanliness and safety of the playing fields. We will continue to examine opportunities to produce further improvements over the coming year and beyond.

Parish Plan. The Parish Plan group has completed the analysis of the lengthy questionnaire surveys carried out last year, and has held a further Open Day in February to discuss outcomes and the likely content of the Plan with village residents. A Draft Plan is to be produced in the coming weeks, which will contain a variety of initiatives that we can take forward for the future well being of North Ferriby. Proposals for priorities and key projects will be progressed through further consultations and events to involve village residents.

Emergency Planning. The Emergency Committee formed last year has completed the preparation of an Emergency Plan, and we must thank Councillor John Pickering for taking the lead in bringing this together. We need to continue to work with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and other Authorities, to remain vigilant and to keep our plan 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.

Football Club Lease. The renewal of the North Ferriby United lease of land from the Playing Field Trustees has been agreed during the year. Following legal and valuation advice, a successful negotiation was concluded which will see the present arrangements continued in accordance with the option in the original lease for a further 10 years. Whilst the legal details are still to be concluded, I am pleased that this arrangement will enable the special interest and benefits to continue that the football club brings to the village.

Flood Defences. The Parish Council has continued to work with the Environment Agency to address the concerns about possible tidal flooding as a result of rising sea levels. The Environment Agency has carried out further work on actions to address flood risk, as a result of which it has proposed a flood wall and gate to protect the most vulnerable parts of the village from immediate risk. Discussions on this project are still continuing to ensure that it will integrate satisfactorily with existing Water Authority drainage services and improvement proposals. We are hopeful that an agreed project will be implemented shortly. The Parish Council will also continue to press the Environment Agency and the East Riding Council regarding the longer-term protection that might be needed for the village in 30 to 50 years.

We are also continuing to press the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the Yorkshire Water Authority to ensure the maintenance and effectiveness of the surface water drainage in the village following the flooding events in 2007. We are still awaiting the Yorkshire Water Authority to improve the storm water storage and pumping arrangements immediately adjacent to Brickyard Cottages, which are believed to be crucial to the solution of the problem. A scheme is in preparation and with the East Riding Council we are pressing them to carry out this work urgently.

Planning and Development. The Planning Committee has considered a total of over 60 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. In addition we are consulted about development proposals and applications for planning consent that are adjacent to the village or that may affect it, including two current proposals that involve the bridgehead sites in Hessle and the land immediately west of the village in Welton and Melton parish. I am grateful to the members of the Planning Committee, who work hard to respond within the timescales set by the planning process, and arrange additional meetings and consultations with local people where necessary.

Environment and Amenity. The Riverside Walkway and Environment Committees have as usual been very active during the year. The Community Fun Day in June was very successful, and the Riverside Walkway Committee has carried out improvements to planting and woodland maintenance, provided a new brochure and even hosted a wedding this year. The Environment Committee considers proposals regarding work to trees and maintaining and improving the planting, amenity features and tidiness of the village. Many thanks must go to Councillors Wendy Dobbs and Margaret Hyland and their committee members for the sustained hard work they put in to achieve this.

Twinning. The twinning arrangements continue to develop, and a recent visit to North Ferriby by 22 people from Le Pellerin was again very successful. Chris Swindin, Mrs. 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. Our partners in Le Pellerin have recently honoured the Parish Council by naming 3 streets in a new development after North Ferriby, Yorkshire and the Humber respectively. The aim is to move towards a full Twinning agreement between the two Councils in 2011.

OTHER MATTERS:

The Parish Council makes every effort to support village life and to encourage other agencies to improve our facilities whenever possible. This year successes through working closely with partner organisations have included:

- The provision of a speed activated sign at Swanland Hill by East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- The achievement of a successful bridge replacement by Railtrack at Nunburnholme Avenue with the least possible disruption and disturbance to residents
- Securing a commitment from Railtrack to maintain the lighting on the station footbridge in the interests of public safety
- The provision on an experimental basis of a bus service from Swanland to Hessle Square via North Ferriby (in support of Swanland Parish Council's initiative)

As I have indicated, many of these initiatives will continue to be priorities for the coming year. The completion of the Parish Plan will provide a framework to assist us in deciding future priorities in the light of our knowledge of the views of our village community. Developing projects to implement ideas in the Plan will mean we have to look carefully at opportunities for grant aid and possibly additional precept resources. We will seek to create appropriate working arrangements with those in the village who wish to get involved in the development of projects and proposals and 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. For the next year we have again managed to hold the parish precept at the same level as last year.

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 again I have had immense support from Pat Lambert and the whole Council. My thanks must go to them for all their effort and for helping to sustain the positive working relationships that the Parish Council has with its various partners.

OPEN FORUM:

The Chairman thanked the three members of the public who attended the Open Forum.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm