

HUGGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting, 23rd May 2023, 7pm St Mary's Church, Huggate

In attendance

Clive Owen – Chair, Jane Thorpe, Claire Myers, Stewart Middleton, Kevin Ashurst, Sophia Hobson, Vicky Knocker, Abby Popely – Clerk

9 Parishioners were in attendance

1. Last year's minutes from 14th June 2023 were approved and signed by Clive.
2. Trevor Smith from St Mary's Church provided a progress report about the Church. An offer of £226k from Heritage Lottery has been received which has taken 2 years but is a remarkable achievement. The pews will be moved, floors will be coming up and a new heating system will be installed. The church committee would like people from the village to be involved and we want to keep the heritage of the village. A project manager will be appointed as lots of work will be involved.
3. Clive reported the following:

Who are we?

Since our last meeting in June 2022, Jane Leaver and Phil Duggleby have resigned from their roles as Councillors, Phil and Jane were our longest standing Councillors and I'd like to thank them formally for their commitment to the village over their many years of service to the Parish Council. I have been Chair since January 2021 and was nominated again so will continue in this role.

Claire Myers, Stewart Middleton, Jane Thorpe and Pete Cowan have remained as Councillors. Kevin Ashurst, Vicky Knocker and Sophia Hobson are our newest recruits and Abby Popely has been our clerk for 4 years. The 8 of us put ourselves forward in the local elections last month and this was uncontested so we will all remain as Councillors. Abby has decided to resign from her role due to other commitments, she will be missed and we are seeking a replacement, initially we will try to find another clerk within East Riding who would be willing to take on Huggate.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the JuliArnos room on Mill Lane.

What's been done since our last meeting in June 2022:

Our main project was the creation of the **village car park**. Thank you to Grant Thorpe who carried out the work (who I personally think has done a really good job) and Clare Swann who provided the art work for the notice board. My thanks also to all the Councillors and villagers who supported this project. We feel that it is a much welcomed addition to the village and has worked in reducing the number of parked cars. The car park is often busy with visitors and walker and we've received lots of positive feedback about this. The wildlife area has been left alone and this looks after itself. We are still awaiting the pointer sign on Stocks Hill, after ordering this last May!

Further attempts have been made to reduce **speeding** in the village:

- The Speedwatch volunteers continue to record the speeds of cars outside the pub to deter high speeds through the village – our thanks go to those who have kindly given up their time to do this which has proved successful in reducing speeding vehicles through the village.
- The painted the tyres and easels asking drivers to keep to the speed limits create a nice touch at the village entrances, thank you to those kind volunteers who regularly maintain the plants and shrubs in the tyres.
- White gates at the village entrances are not allowed in East Riding but this will be monitored to see if anything changes.

For the **Coronation**, we applied for another grant and secured £456 from the King's Coronation Community Fund which was used to pay for items for the Coronation events kindly organised by the Church Committee that took place earlier this month

We continue to work with East Riding Council regarding **maintenance requests and issues** (mainly road signs and potholes which we've had varying levels of success with!). A village walkabout will take place on 31st July where someone from the Council visits the village with us and we highlight areas that need attention – if anyone has any ideas please do let us know. We are aware of the pond railings and that these have still not been repaired.

The new **basket swing** is holding up well and the children seem to enjoy playing on this.

We purchased some LED **solar lights** that were used on the Green at Christmas which will hopefully use for many years to come, thank you to the villager who charged the lights for us and to the Councillors who put the lights up on the trees – hopefully you'll agree that these looked lovely over the festive period.

We have purchased **2 marquees** (thank you to Stewart for ordering these) which made their debut appearance at the Church for the Coronation – if anyone would like to use these please do get in touch. We have two bookings already – one of which is for Warter School’s sports day which we’re really pleased to support.

Thank you to Helen Bowman for the hire of her meeting room that we use each month and the minutes from all our meetings are always published on the noticeboard in the bus shelter and minutes are also on the village website where you can see what has been discussed and agreed at the monthly Parish Council Meetings.

Communication

The 2 village WhatsApp groups are continuing to prove useful and popular with 80-90 people on each group, if anyone still isn’t on the groups who wants to be please get in touch with Abby who will add you. We’ve started including a link to planning applications onto the WhatsApp information group just to make you aware of any applications that are received.

Thank you to Jenny Zarek and Teresa Purdy who produce the monthly Huggate News which we input to each month. This is delivered or emailed to every household and is also published on the village website. Hopefully communication within the village is still working well but if anyone has any other ideas please do let us know.

4. Finance update

Financial Year ending March 2023

Opening Balance	£18,250
Receipts in year	£19,116 which included
- precept of £4800	
- Love your high street grant of £9370	
- Jubilee grant of £480	
- VAT that we claimed back	

Payments in year	£31,589
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£27,000 was on the car park (including all the VAT to claim back the total spend will be about £23,000)

Closing balance	£5776
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Costs incurred include filling salt bins (which queried as weren’t convinced much salt was used this winter) and mowing the grass for which we pay East Riding Council, the clerk’s salary, insurance, the village website domain, contributions towards the maintenance of the churchyard and the printing of the Huggate News. The Village Precept wasn’t used for the car park, this was paid for by a donation, a grant and the inclosure fund given to the village many years ago. We purchased a new basket swing for £1000, Jubilee items were £880 and the solar lights for £300 and we paid for the Church’s film licence which was newly introduced this year.

The accounts are currently being audited and will be published on the website and displayed on the notice board at the end of next month.

5. Councillor Vacancy Update - There is still one vacancy for a Councillor, anyone who is interested, please do get in touch.
6. Questions / feedback from parishioners were invited. One parishioner asked about the CL caravan site and Clive confirmed that this was up and running with 5 caravans allowed at any one time.

To be agreed and signed at the 2024 Village Meeting

_____ Chairperson

_____ Date