

Burton upon Stather Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 6pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Harber (Chair) Cllr Bull Cllr Burt Cllr Collinson
 Cllr Faulks Cllr Johnston Cllr Pringle
 Cllr Taylor Cllr Webber Cllr Whittaker

Also present: Cllrs Ogg, Rowson (NLC), five residents and the Clerk were also present.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting mentioning that it was good to meet face to face.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bell and Nicholson and Cllr Marper (NLC)

3. Declaration of Interest –Code of Conduct adopted by this council:

a. **To record declarations of interest by any member of the council in respect of the agenda items listed below. Members declaring interests should identify the agenda item and type of interest being declared.**

None declared

b. **To note dispensations given to any member of the council in respect of the agenda items listed below**

Dispensations given to Cllrs Burt, Harber and Johnston for the Village Hall

4. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2019

Members had received the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 7th May 2019 prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Pringle seconded by Cllr Johnston and **RESOLVED** with one abstention that they were a true and accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Harber.

5. Parish Council Chair's Report

Cllr Harber had provided a written report on the last two years work of the Council. (See attached report).

6. Responsible Financial Officer's Report

The Clerk gave a report on the Council's finances. (See attached report)

6.40pm Cllr Taylor arrived at the meeting

7. Report from Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Faulks gave a report from the Village Hall Committee. (See attached report)

8. Questions from members of the public

The residents in attendance had a number of questions for the Council:

a. It was noted that at the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2019, the delivery lorries on the High Street were mentioned. Has anything been done about this since they often block the resident's drive. He wondered if a dedicated loading bay could be installed near to Todds Lane or move the bus stop nearer to the shop. Cllr Ogg mentioned that there had been a discussion about a limited timed parking area outside of the shop. He agreed to discuss this issue with NLC Highways to see if a solution could be made.

b. Update on Burton Hills Lease. The lease had still not been provided by Normanby Estates to sign. The Clerk would try to get this moved on. Cllr Ogg also agreed to enquire with Normanby Estates. A resident mentioned that there was interest in clearing the picnic area and volunteers were willing to help.

c. Update on Riverside Footpath. The Clerk mentioned that further information would be submitted to North Lincs Council in the next couple of weeks.

d. Huntingdon Crescent. There is much slurry on the edge of the road since it hasn't been cleaned out for many years. Cllr Ogg agreed to pass this onto NLC.

e. Signage at the playing field. The large sign has been removed. Other villages have signage at their parks stating the regulations. Can one be placed at the playing fields?

- f. There are little properties in the parish available for first time buyers. People are buying small properties and adding extensions. Can the Parish Council restrict these? No social housing has been built in the parish.

7.15pm Cllr Collinson arrived at the meeting

- g. Dogs on the playing field. When did it change that dogs were allowed on the field? This is causing difficulties. Cllr Harber mentioned that the Parish Council is looking into having the CCTV monitored more regularly.
- h. Learner drivers are using the car park to practice parking as well as groups from outside the area using the playing field.

All these questions would be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

Cllr Ogg updated the members with some information.

- a. NATS meetings were continuing to be held virtually. The next meeting would be on 15th June at 6pm
- b. The next NLC town and parish council liaison meeting would be held virtually on 16th June at 7pm
- c. The footpath from Burton to Thealby was progressing despite the contractors getting COVID and a new team had to be brought in to complete the job.

A resident asked about installing pedestrian crossings in the parish so that there would be safer routes for the children in the village. He was informed that when negotiations had taken place in the past to get a crossing by the school there were several objections.

7.32pm a resident left the meeting.

A discussion took place about the reopening of the Sheffield Arms and the entertainment that would take place there. This has been reported to NLC.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for all the hard work its members do for the community.

9. Date of next meeting

A proposed date of Tuesday 17th May 2022 was set for the next Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business, Cllr Harber closed the meeting at 7.42pm

Chair's signature.....

Date.....

Chair Report

As this is the first Annual Parish Meeting since 2019 due to Covid-19 I will attempt to summarise the work of the Parish Council over the past 2 years.

2019 saw the culmination of hard work by the Parish Council and a resident, supported by the Ward Councillors and our MP, in securing funding for the installation of fibre broadband to the 194 properties in Burton that did not have connection. Speaking from personal experience I can say that this has definitely benefited those households!

The Make Burton Accessible project started in 2019 working with residents to identify areas in Burton which were problematic for those with mobility issues. We were delighted with the installation by NLC Highways of several dropped kerbs around the village. Whilst Covid-19 stalled the project, we are hopeful that we can continue this work in the future.

The refurbishment of the Parish Office was completed and provides a permanent base for the Parish Clerk. We were hoping to be able to open the Office to exhibit some of the archive materials but have been delayed by Covid-19. As we move out of lockdown this is something to be looked at in the future.

Throughout the latter part of 2019 and early 2020 we began to work with a number of community groups to organise a VE Day 75 weekend of events. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled but the community spirit in the Parish was heartening to see.

This community spirit became evident with the formation of the Community Action Group co-ordinated by Mrs Eyre, the Headteacher of Burton Primary School, and her sister, together with Friends of the School at the start of the first lockdown period. In addition to their own efforts they were instrumental in co-ordinating supplies from the local shop and the Sheffield Arms Pub to vulnerable local families. The Parish Council supplied a grant to the group and are very grateful to them for all their hard work and effort throughout the pandemic.

In late February 2020 we were notified of NLC's intention, via their emerging Local Plan consultation, to allocate land off Darby Road for residential development. The Council called a village meeting which was well attended and resulted in objections to the allocation from the Council and many parishioners. The Corona Virus crisis seems to have stalled the Local Plan process for the time being, but we will remain vigilant as to the Plan's progress.

2020 saw us face a number of unprecedented challenges with the COVID-19 virus affecting us all. Our hearts go out to all of those who have suffered and to those who have lost loved ones. We are hopeful now that the roadmap out of lockdown will continue, as more and more of us are vaccinated and look forward to reuniting with families and friends we have been unable to see during the pandemic.

Nevertheless, parish life, and the work of the Parish Council has continued throughout the pandemic. Our meetings have been held via Zoom – a notion introduced to us by Cllr Ann Croft, who sadly passed away last year. I hope she would be pleased with how the individual Councillors mastered the art of Zoom meetings to be able to continue working and making decisions to benefit the parish. Cllr Croft is still missed very much by all of us who were fortunate enough to work with her over the years.

The Parish Council were delighted to welcome new Councillors last year, including two Councillors who are very much more youthful than most of us! Since then, the Council has undergone a number of changes with six new Councillors joining us in 2021. It is notable that in a buck to national trend there are currently more women than men on the Parish Council. We are also delighted that Thealby is now represented by Cllr Collinson, and a resident in Normanby is very supportive, and works with, the Parish Council.

In the autumn of 2021, the Parish Council became aware of plans to construct a waste incinerator at Flixborough wharf by a company called North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park Ltd. The Parish Council objected strongly both to the applicant and the Secretary of State on the basis of totally unacceptable means of consultation under the Covid-19 restrictions in place. The Parish Council are monitoring the situation and will continue to raise objections.

The Parish Council have recently employed a Grounds Maintenance Operator to be responsible for the cutting of grass in the Paddock, the Playing Fields, the Burial ground, Churchyard, Allotments and Thealby Play Area, as well as taking care of other Parish maintenance requirements. The purchase of equipment needed will be funded by the remainder of the £500k grant from North Lincs Council, and the ongoing work will be funded from the savings of not employing contractors.

The Parish Council have been successful in securing a number of grants from the North Lincs Council Community Grant Fund to benefit the community, such as the resurfacing of Todds Lane due to take place in June, the tarmacked area in Thealby Play Area, and the new Village signs at Thealby and Burton. In addition, the Grange Wind Farm Community Fund paid for the purchase of 2 benches to replace those removed due their condition – 1 at the junction of Barnston Way and Flixborough Road, and 1 on the Paddock – the memorial plaques for both are retained and will be re-installed; the refurbishment of the perimeter Lincolnshire Fencing around the Playing Field, and, further to the discovery of the VE Day plaque in the area, the clearance of the self-set undergrowth from the bottom right-hand corner of the Playing Field. This means the commemorative Oaks planted by the Parish

Council to mark the 50th anniversary of VE Day can now be fully seen. In addition, various noticeboards around all 3 villages have been replaced.

Last month Cllr Alan Craddock resigned from the Parish Council after serving for around 4 years on the Council, with 2 of those years as Chair. Cllr Craddock worked extremely hard during his time on the Parish Council and has been instrumental in all of the achievements of the Parish Council over the past few years. We wish him and his wife all the best and hope they can enjoy some well-deserved relaxation.

I would like to extend thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to our dedicated Parish Clerk, Candace, without whom we would be lost! Candace has steered us well over the past 2 and a half years and her experience and knowledge (and patience!) is invaluable to us all. I would also like to thank our hard-working Ward Councillors, Elaine, Ralph and Helen, for all their support too.

Finally, as Chair, I would like to thank each and every Parish Councillor for all their support and hard work. All Councillors are volunteers and the job is not always easy - you can't please everyone – but it is through people willing to give up their time freely and willingly to attend meetings and make decisions about the Parish, that we can work towards a better Parish for us all.

Responsible Financial Officers Report

You should have sight of the balance sheet for 2020/2021 and I would like to bring a few items to your attention.

In 2019/2020, the redevelopment of the Parish Office took up most of the expenditure with a cost of £72,224. This was spent from the Council's general reserves.

In 2020/2021, the Parish Council was awarded several grants from North Lincs Council and Grange Wind Farm to the value of £25,198. These were spent on the fence and footpath on the playing field, clearing the VE Day memorial area at the far end of the playing field, tarmac area at the basketball hoop at Thealby play area, flower planters in Burton and Thealby and two replacement benches. COVID business discretionary grants were also received from the government due to the forced temporary closure of the pavilion to the value of £3,803. The Parish Council took over the cutting of the verges in the villages from North Lincs Council and were awarded a grant of £19,624 to cover these costs.

At the bottom of the balance sheet, you can see that the closing balance for 2020/21 was £5,192 greater than the closing balance for 2019/2020, so the Parish Council's finances are in a healthy place. It is recommended to have between three to six months expenditure in general reserves for emergencies. £35,667 has been placed in earmarked reserves to cover certain expenditure/projects, leaving £26,978 in general reserves, which is within the suggested amount.

Balance Sheet		
	2019/2020	2020/2021
Opening Balance	£90,509	£57,453
Income		
Precept	£59,890	£61,900
Newsletter	£425	£50
Grants	£5,205	£31,521
Allotments	£605	£660

Burial Ground	£2,220	£2,540
Burton Playing Field	£2,848	£960
NLC Grass verge cutting grant	£0	£19,624
Other Income	£6,979	£20
VAT reclaimed	£38,168	£11,992
Bank Interest	£106	£18
Total Income	£116,446	£129,285
Expenses		
Staff Costs	£14,278	£14,994
Administration	£13,289	£14,004
Grounds Maintenance	£13,711	£44,385
Allotments	£600	£200
Burial Ground	£2,150	£1,826
Christmas Event	£138	£0
Parish Office Development	£72,224	£1,000
Burton Playing Field	£11,214	£24,810
Village Hall	£3,370	£833
Thealby Play Area	£920	£8,322
VAT paid	£17,608	£13,719
Total Expenditure	£149,502	£124,093
Closing Balance	£57,453	£62,645

In 2020/2021 the following grants were received:

NLC	Thealby Play area tarmac	£5,805
	Playing field accessible path	£15,351
	Grass verge cutting	£19,624
	Spring in Bloom	£609
Grange Windfarm	Memorial corner, benches, fence	£3,850
Government COVID business discretionary grant		£3,803

Village Hall Report

The past year has seen some very difficult times, most notably with the sad death of our Chairwoman, Mrs Ann Croft, who served for many years on the Committee. She is very sadly missed by us all.

Mrs Cathy Harber took on the role of Chair of the Village Hall Committee when meetings were able to resume. Mr and Mrs Craddock took the decision to step down from their Treasurer roles in October.

The Committee remain very grateful to them for all their hard work over the years. Miss Bethany Burt was warmly welcomed onto the Committee as she stepped into the Treasurer role.

The Hall has been closed to hirers during the three lockdown periods but is gradually beginning to open up again. The Village Hall Committee worked very hard with our cleaner and our hirers to ensure procedures were in place to keep the Village Hall Covid-19 Secure. Comprehensive risk assessments have been completed by both the Committee and hirers. Although we can only ever minimise the risk and not eliminate the risk completely we are all confident that every precaution is being taken in order to ensure everyone's safety. We are hopeful that this situation will not last for very much longer.

Despite the closures over the past year, work to improve the building has still been able to be carried out. The Hall was awarded a grant of £3000 to fund the installation of a Cleaner's Cupboard, complete with a deep sink and storage facilities. Our Cleaner, Mrs Crowston, is delighted with the results and it has certainly made her job much easier and safer.

A grant from Grange Wind Farm funded the replastering and painting of the entrance hall and Wedgwood Room in September of last year. This has made a massive difference to the appearance of both rooms. The Committee and hirers were all very pleased with the results as the areas now look brighter and fresher.

The Village Hall has also been awarded a grant from FCC to fund the installation of a new fire alarm system and we hope to be able to commence with this work very soon.

In addition, the Tesco Carrier Bag Fund has awarded the Hall £1000. This will be put towards the refurbishment of the ladies' toilets.

The Village Hall now has a new Facebook page, and we are hoping to utilise this as an extra way that Committee members can be contacted, and to advertise the Hall and its facilities. We hope to work on the website over the coming year.

Lastly, the Village Hall could not function without the hard work of the Committee members who constantly give up their precious free time. It is certainly a team effort to ensure the Hall can continue to welcome hirers through the doors. I would like to extend my personal thanks to each and every volunteer who has helped out during the turbulent times we have experienced.