

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WAS HELD ON MONDAY THE 26TH MARCH 2007 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES, PEPPERCORN WALK, HOLTON LE CLAY UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF COUNCILLOR J. CLARKE.

PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT WERE: COUNCILLORS CLARKE, KAYE, C. LYONS, MRS. NEARY, NEWBY AND READMAN.

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE - P.C. CLARKE, COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICERS DREW AND CAVE OF LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE ATTENDED THE MEETING.

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES - COUNCILLOR MRS. HART AND COUNCILLOR NEWBY ATTENDED THE MEETING.

PUBLIC - TWENTY THREE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDED THE MEETING.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

2. MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2006.

The Minutes of the meeting were proposed as a true record by Mrs. B. Newby of Pinfold Lane, Holton le Clay and then signed by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The object of the Parish Meeting is to acquaint the parishioners of the happenings of the past year.

Councillors have continued to be appointed to various committees and each committee has its own Chairman, which make recommendations to the Full Council. The Parish Council and District Council Elections will be held in May this year and a new Parish Council will be formed. The current Parish Council have confirmed the precept and budgets and these decisions will be retained by the new Parish Council. The plan for the year covers no new projects and I am hopeful that the new Council will retain the Committees to advise and guide the Full Council in their particular field for remedial work and repairs.

PRECEPT

The precept for the forthcoming year will be **£26,342** - a 3% increase on last year. In setting this figure the Council have confirmed a "standstill budget" with no new projects during the forthcoming year. This budget figure is £3,689 short of the estimated requirement of the Council's expenditure but the shortfall will be made up from capital reserves. This amount of money - £30,031 - will cover the continuation of the improvements to the street lighting throughout the village. (The Precept was **£25,575** last year and again monies have been used from capital reserves during the current financial year.) We believe that residents of Holton le Clay will now have to pay the lowest precept in East Lindsey at £21 - North Somercotes will have to pay the highest at £43.92.

ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

In April 2004 the Audit Commission introduced a new audit regime for local councils. Local Councils with annual income or expenditure up to £100,000 are subject to a basic audit comprising a desk-based review by the auditor. The Parish Council are now subject to internal audit together with an annual external audit. The Clerk has liaised with the External Auditor to ensure that the Council has continued to comply with the new Audit Regulations. The Annual Returns Certificate has been received in the office showing that the Parish Council continue to be efficient, economic and effective in managing its business affairs.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

All councillors are obliged to abide by the new National Code of Local Government Conduct and to register their relevant interests with the monitoring officer of the District Council. The sanction for breaking the Code or failing to declare a declarable interest is to be reported to the Standards Board. These bodies have wide powers to investigate complaints about the conduct of councillors and can, as a last resort, suspend or disqualify a Councillor from office. Parish Councillors receive no financial remuneration for their work.

"QUALITY" PARISH COUNCILS

In November 2001, the Department for the Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published a consultation document proposing a system for "Quality" Parish Councils. The aim of the system would be to enable quality parish councils to work in closer partnership with principal authorities and, through their enhanced role, to give their communities a better deal on local services and a stronger voice in local decision taking. Councils seeking quality status would have to meet certain performance indicators and submit these to an external assessor, and the Council's auditor, for accreditation. Parish Councils are able to apply for Quality Council status at any time. Holton le Clay Parish Council has always tried to adhere to the Best Value regulations. Mrs. Hart, our Parish Clerk, has attained the Certificate in Local Council Administration and the Higher Certificate in Local Council Administration and has acquired the recognition of the Board of Assessors should the Parish Council decide to apply for Quality Council status in the future. The award of Quality Council lasts for four years and then a further application has to be made assessing the current position. The new and revised legislation will be available during the summer months.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The Council continues to have its own Health and Safety Policy. Contractors are requested to the Council sign that they have read it and understood it.

PROVISION OF AN APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST FOR THE COUNCIL

The Council continues to have its own approved supplier's list.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 local councils are obliged to adopt a guide for the public on freedom of information. The Parish Council have adopted the model guide on freedom of information.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL - SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE

Under Section 137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the so called "free resource") the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister confirms that the Section 137 Expenditure limit is £5.44 per head of population in individual parishes for consideration of spending under the "free resource". An amendment of the figures may come about later in the year by a percentage increase in the retail price index between September 2006 and September 2007 in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

PARISH GARDENS, NEW PADDOCK AND CEMETERY

The parish gardens are all taken and there are three names on the waiting list. The gardens continue to be let from December to December in order that any changes in tenancy are made prior to the "gardening year". The Cemetery Caretaking Five Year Contract commences its fifth year in May 2007 and the contractor continues to give us a very dedicated service.

WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

The "Wall of Remembrance" has now several more plaques added. The wall was created in the Cemetery on which to fix commemoration plaques at minimal cost to create an everlasting and special memory to those who have strong connections with the village. The Wall was blessed by the Rev. C. Woadden on completion.

THE BURIAL BOARD

The Burial Board have been taking burials in the new part of the Cemetery and a new privacy fence has been erected between the Cemetery and the Parish Gardens.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Two wreaths on behalf of the parishioners of Holton le Clay were laid on Remembrance Sunday when the Rev. Woadden and his assistant conducted services within the village.

PARISH MAGAZINE

The Parish magazine, printed and organised by the Church, continues to be delivered monthly to every home within the village. I would like to propose a vote of thanks to Councillor Readman for writing up the items of news for the magazine on behalf of the Parish Council.

OLD DAY SCHOOL

The Old Day School has now been sold. The monies will be invested and the new Parish Council will seek legal guidance on the best ways in which the monies can be spent to benefit the village.

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL AND THE INFANTS SCHOOL

The Parish Council strongly support both the Infants School and the Junior School and the members do attend the schools on several occasions throughout the year. During the year there has been discussions at the Lincolnshire County Council to merge both the schools but a decision has now been reached that both schools will be retained.

VILLAGE PLAYING FIELD (PICKSLEY CRESCENT) AND SPORTING FACILITIES

The Parish Council continue to take legal advice to try to resolve the problems left behind by SARAH within the two and a half acres on the western side of the field. During the last year the Parish Council have continued in their endeavour to bring together numerous formal bodies interested in the future funding for sport and leisure in the village. The Parish Council are continuing to explore all avenues for the future of this part of the playing field.

JUNIOR PLAYING FIELD REPORT

The Council have conformed to the Health and Safety regulations of the R.O.S.P.A. report and regrettably this included the removal of most of the equipment as it did not comply with the British Standard Regulations. Dogs have now been banned from the field.

The grass has been and will be regularly cut, the surrounds severely trimmed back and the bushes pruned. The Parish Council has been successful in obtaining some grant funding from WREN and some new pieces of equipment have now been installed in the play area. The field still attracts an undesirable element of youngsters who are determined to undertake acts of vandalism. The Parish Council have requested the District Council to make the area "an alcohol free zone" and we are waiting to hear if this can be arranged. The main gate is opened first thing in the morning, and closed around teatime to help reduce this problem of vehicles going in to the field for improper purposes. The Council will also be looking at the gate provision at the Louth Road entrance.

INTER VILLAGE/AMENITY GRASS CUTTING

The Parish Council continues to undertake the Inter-Village Grass cutting itself, so that we are in full control of this important service to our village. The Lincolnshire County Council subsidises the cost of the grass cutting by contractors. The contract now includes the two playing fields and this has worked very well. The contract will commence year four of its five year term this coming May.

THE COUNCIL OFFICES

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES

The following inspections have been carried out at the Council Offices:

- (a) Fire Safety and Fire Appliances
- (b) Portable Appliances Inspection
- (c) Central Heating and Boiler Service
- (d) Risk Assessment

The water supply to the Council Offices and the Old Day School share the same "stop cock" and the Parish Council are now arranging to have a separate supply to the Council Offices.

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL FACILITIES DAY

The District Council come to the village on the second Wednesday of each month for the collection of monies and a general information service.

STREET CLEANING

The East Lindsey District Council continues to support us with daily street cleaning. I am sure that the residents would wish me to express my sincere thanks to the team of cleaners who have tried to make our village a much cleaner place to be.

DOG WARDEN SCHEME

The District Council provides a Dog Warden Service for the enforcement of legislation, the collection of stray dogs and education of the public via schools and local organisations. If you loose your dog or find a dog then notify the Dog Warden, or out of hours the local police.

DOG DIRT BINS

The Dogs Fouling of Land Act has helped clean up the streets of the village but there are still some dog owners who are not complying with the law. Dog dirt bins have been placed around the village and the Dog Warden has been requested to make impromptu visits.

FREE BUS PASSES

The passes are available from the District Council for free bus travel. Each card bears a photograph of the pass holder to reduce acts of fraud. If you would like further details please contact the East Lindsey District Council direct at Manby Park.

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

The Community Beat Officers from the Lincolnshire Police endeavour to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings to liaise with the Parish Council. The Parish Council have tried very hard to press for additional Police Officers but to date this has not been possible.

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE COMMUNITY PANELS

Lincolnshire Police continue to undertake the meetings of the Community Panels in all local communities. The panels consist of up to twelve members of the community who are able to represent the variety of public interests and concerns. The panel meet every six months and set objectives for the Community Team, review actions carried out by the team since the previous Panel Meeting, and validate the impact of the team's work on increasing feelings of safety and public confidence. The Community Panel acts as a Strategic Tasking and Co-ordinating Group. The Community Panel have accepted Councillor Kaye as the representative for Holton le Clay and I would like to extend a vote of thanks to him and to the local Police Officers.

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STREET LIGHTING

The Parish Council are continuing the new street lighting upgrading scheme with the County and District Councils. The improvements are already very noticeable. The Council are continuing the programme this year with a further section of Louth Road.

4. HOLTON LE CLAY COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION - REPORT FROM THE H.C.C.A. - FROM MR. N. NEWBY

**5. JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT -
REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CLARKE AND COUNCILLOR LYONS**

Councillor Clarke and Councillor Lyons gave a short resume of the meetings held at the school. They confirmed a full and exciting year for both schools. The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Councillor Lyons for his work on the Joint Management Committee.

**6. OPEN FORUM
ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PEPPERCORN WALK - REQUEST BY LINCOLNSHIRE
POLICE TO INVITE ALL RESIDENTS OF PEPPERCORN WALK TO THE MEETING TO
DISCUSS THE WAY FORWARD TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
BEING EXPERIENCED IN PEPPERCORN WALK**

There followed a lengthy discussion by the members of the public who had experienced anti social behaviour. The Lincolnshire Police suggested forming a group called "Friends of Peppercorn Walk". The Group would meet when required to liaise with Lincolnshire Police on the way forward to tackle the anti social behaviour. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would liaise with the County Council regarding the provision of gates around the Old Day School.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Newby and Councillor Mrs. Hart, our two East Lindsey District Councillors, for their part in representing the village in the District over many years. I understand that they are not seeking re-election in May. If you are interested in becoming a District Councillor please contact East Lindsey District Council at Manby Park. I would also like to thank Councillor Mrs. Johnson, our representative on the Lincolnshire County Council.

Further I would like to extend a special vote of thanks to my Vice-Chairman, Councillor John Readman and all the Parish Councillors for their help and support during the year. The Council has worked well as a team and delivered fair and good value to the village.

.....CHAIRMAN