

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE HOLTON LE CLAY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON MONDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2008 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEPPERCORN WALK, HOLTON LE CLAY COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

THOSE PRESENT WERE :- CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR MRS. J. JOHNSON, VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR BLACKLOCK ALSO COUNCILLORS GREETHAM, HEWSON, HILLDRITH, JACKLIN, LYONS, NEARY, WOODCOCK AND WHEELER.

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR BLACKLOCK ATTENDED THE MEETING

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR MRS JOHNSON ATTENDED THE MEETING.

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE – COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICER L. DREW ATTENDED THE MEETING.

1. CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007. Proposed by Councillor Blacklock as a true record and agreed by ex Councillor Clarke.
3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Parish Council’s District Council Elections were held in May 2007. In the case of Holton le Clay this did not happen! Only five sitting members put their names forward for re-election leaving a shortfall of six members. This has meant that the Parish Council on the advice of the Chief Executive of East Lindsey District Council have had to co-opt willing residents of the Parish. They must be aware that Parish Councillors receive no remuneration what so ever for the time and effort they put in for the benefit of the whole of the village.

In July 2007 The Council had confirmation of the Alcohol Ban had been approved by ELDC and is now being enforced by Lincolnshire Police.

On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 the Parish Council and approximately seventy Parishioners attended a meeting with Mr I Trowsdale to discuss an application to erect a 30 metre high Telecommunications Tower with antennas and dishes on Nickerson Way. The applicants were invited but sent their apologies. ELDC did refuse this application at a planning meeting.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007

The Chairman of the Parish attended the Church Service and laid the Parishioners wreath at the Memorial in the Churchyard. Also on the same day attended at the R.A.F.

Memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish. Both the Church and the Memorial were well attended.

## PRESS REPORTS

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs Wheeler for the press reports for which she was most grateful.

## WALTHAM FIRE STATION

Consultation period finished to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. However in conversation with Lincolnshire Chief Officer he has not had a reply from Mr Duffield. The Chairman stated that it could have been possible that may be they could have asked Lincolnshire County Council or Lincs Rescue to help. The Chairman was very disappointed and they should think once again about the closure of Waltham Fire Station

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

Had some flooding in the summer of 2007. There are 1000 empty sand bags now in the office + 3 ton of sand in the compound should we need it. The Chairman would like to expand on that in time in as much as it could be arranged to have a rest centre for people in trouble. The Chairman felt they could have done more but have no facility.

## PRECEPT

3% for the year 2008-2009 £31,910. Parish Clerk estimated £30,980 needed to administer the coming year. Due to increases in gas/electric/water and Parish Clerk's wage increase of Parish Clerk. Also increases in removal of rubbish.

There is lot of anxiety regarding the Police precept. It is possible that all of the rate bills will be called in and start again because if they are capped it will be a different story. The Chairman was not happy with the volume of policing and if it is capped the village will get less policing. The Chairman has spoken to the Police authority that made notes and promised to reply at the next meeting.

Parishioners must be aware the two ELDC members Councillor C Blacklock and Councillor Terry Aldridge have both contributed money's which the District Council have allocated to them. Councillor Blacklock donated to the Junior School a nature pond for the enjoyment of the whole School. Councillor Blacklock has also donated to one of the pre-start groups and the Holton News. Council Aldridge to the Holton Le Clay Burial Board for an up to date register and computerised record of the whole of Holton Le Clay's burial records which is to be installed during the next month when the Clerk and the Chairman and the Chairman of the Burial Board Councillor S. Hilldrith will be trained.

The Chairman said the burial records are in tatters and an old fashioned way of doing. She had a dilemma about where to put ashes and started a new row in the Cemetery. RBS Software Solutions are coming in install the programme and we will be trained so there will not be just one person but three people who will know how to do it.

Councillor Blacklock is also working on a census to define the needs of the village in the coming years. This will emerge as the Village Plan and when completed it will be put to ELDC Planning Dept.

COUNCIL OFFICES: Confirmed by Mrs C Hart, Parish Clerk.

Checks have been completed for the following:

Intruder Alarm Test 23.5.07  
Portable Appliances Test 31.5.07  
Fire Extinguishers: One new extinguisher 5.6.07

The above will have to be checked for 2008

RISK ASSESSMENT – COUNCIL OFFICES  
By ELDC last 2 years 9.8.2006

EMERGENCY LIGHTING/GREENMAN  
Signs all checked annually – done March 2008

INTERNAL AUDIT COMPLETED – All in order.

EXTERNAL AUDIT – To take place in the near future.

In conclusion the Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Councillors Blacklock, Hewson, Lyons and Hilldrith for their time and efforts.

ELDC REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR C BLACKLOCK.

POLICING: This is going to cost a lot of money particularly with the rating rise for council taxes being reissued. Our budget has been restricted for East Lindsey which has become bad for ability to cope and for not getting the finances. Councillor Blacklock is keeping this one to the forefront.

DRAINS: Councillor Blacklock has been going through Holton le Clay's infrastructure of drains, in particular that of its drains both surface and foul, to view its history and has written to Mr Simon Machen, Planning, explaining that in the mid 1970's Councillor Blacklock served on the parish council and could remember several problems that arose over the period up to the 1980's. He wondered what had changed over that time up to the present day. The news is very little. No new or improved drainage in Church Lane or Tetney Lane, just repairs.

He also sent him an extract of the Village plan (1981) drawing attention to item 2 of this. Also he has sent Mr Machen a copy of a letter sent by Mr Jorgensen to a resident in Tetney Lane both saying the drains are inadequate.

Councillor Blacklock is going through the records and letters which form the history of the parish to get the AWA to upgrade the drainage in Holton-le-Clay. This letter was handed to Simon Machen in front of a number of people.

GRANTS: Councillor Blacklock is about to do a questionnaire of the village about the local framework. The future of what is required in the whole of ELDC so it is important that Holton le Clay makes their feelings felt. He has applied for grant aid on this which has been over subscribed. An amount of £877.00 before VAT was applied for and we are going to get £750.00 as grant aid. It is reduced by £127.00 but is good news.

#### STREET SIGNS:

One of the residents in Pelham Road has had his house number and name changed from Pelham Road to The Crescent and back to Pelham Road. This resident opposed to putting a street sign outside his house due to continual vandalism etc. The first two houses were no's 27 and 29 The Crescent. It would cost a fortune to do. Councillor Blacklock has spoken to Street Signs Division and asked them to write to the residents and put a sign on the wall with an arrow The Crescent one way and Pelham Road the other way.

GRANT AID: Is ongoing and will get £2000 for anyone with a good scheme for this coming year.

GRASS CUTTING: Councillor Hildrith mentioned the new system to upkeep the grass will be beneficial.

RATES INCREASE: Ex Councillor J Clarke questioned this year's rate increase. The Chairman suggested they had made a mistake on the Council bills of 20%. In fact this figure is nearer 5%.

The Police have a wide area to cover. Members of the public are not getting a service in the village. The recent incident in the village over a forced entry into a house in Pinfold Lane and restraint of a burglar plus the rest of the gang throwing stones has left the villagers extremely anxious and appalled. Lincolnshire Police could not attend. They had 10 calls waiting and the priority dropped. A member of the public at the meeting wanted questions answered such as how long was the response between making the 999 call and the presence. This incident made national news.

Councillor Blacklock said the Police were understaffed and the parish is under budgeted. Holton le Clay used to have a Police house in the village and one in Tetney. It had Police presence walking about and visual, they were there. The Police have got to try and cope with too many people in an understaffed village.

The Chairman stated that Lincolnshire County Council have put money into policing. Mr Blacklock stated they precept their money every year.

The precept covers the running of the office, the Parish Clerks wages; grass cutting, playing fields etc.

Ex. Councillor J Clarke suggested to the Chair if the Police could be asked to put in plain clothes policemen round the village regarding the problem of under age drinkers.

Community Beat Officer L Drew said they spoke to parents, some of which are positive but they are back on the street again offending. The Councillors are expecting to see a prosecution. Police can issue them with a ticket but this does not seem to be a deterrent.

Councillor Hilldrith suggested writing to Community Beat Officer L Drew's superior.

Ex. Councillor J Clarke reported youths were coming in taxis at 2 and 3am drinking.

However, a resident in Peppercorn Walk complained of only two incidents since Xmas with two children, had trouble with beer cans and bottles and now it is quiet since Xmas.

Councillor Hewson said 7 youths were walking down the main street and lobbed an alcohol bottle in the bin.

**PUB STEPS:** The pub steps are to be taken away to stop youths sitting on them. They are to be replaced with shrubs and blackthorne, that type of plant as it is not a public right of way.

**PLAYING FIELD GATES:** Ex. Councillor J Clarke insisted the gates must be closed on an evening to stop people going in.

**POLICE:** The Head of Constabulary has been asked to attend the meeting at ELDC and declined the invitation. Councillor Woodcock suggested he should be asked why he refused to come to the meeting and this needs to go higher in order to get a reply. Councillor Blacklock suggested we seek legal advice for the Parish Council. All the Councillors agreed. A member of the public then asked why the Police were diverted during the recent incident in the village down Pinfold Lane to which Community Support Officer Drew could give no explanation.

**COMMUNITY HALL:** The Vicar Rev. Christopher Woadden reported that the Council was going to propose a motion that some of the monies from the sale of the old School would be ear marked for a new Community Hall on the old site which needs desperately to be replaced. It is a community facility and the Church does not have any money at all and it is coming to the point that the hall is no longer safe to use and they cannot do anything about it other than starting again. They have applied to the big Lottery Fund and to Rengrant Community Challenge and they are looking at a figure of £310,000 for a new building.

Rev. Woadden's proposal is that the building be replaced for the whole of the community. The Deeds are in the hands of the Dioceses. Anyone wishing to use the Hall

to take part in facilities will be the new Trustees but at the moment if they were to do that they would go in the red and it would cost more to keep it.

Councillor Blacklock replied with the fact that there is always a problem to get an actual grant off the ground but once this came about then other grants would come in.

Rev. Woadden commented that the Lottery grant was a one off scheme and they got down to the last 500 applications but with others in front, it did not emerge. If a new Hall is built, charities such as Age Concern could have a surgery and use it for this type of thing.

A member of the public stated that the new modern design for the Hall would cut down the cost of heating and lighting and meet health and safety design and hopefully there would be a queue of applicants waiting to use the new building.

Councillor Blacklock estimated to expect a minimum of £5000 per year in income. Ex. Councillor J Clarke said there was nothing in the village to use and it needed a community centre as the village is expanding. Councillor Neary said we must have this facility and is 100% behind and supportive of Rev. Woadden who reiterated it would be a Hall for the village and not for the church.

Councillor Blacklock proposed that Holton le Clay Parish Council donate £50,000 from the sale of the old day School towards the building of a new community Hall. This money to be paid from the parish account to the community hall trustees account when and or if they are formed. Its sole purpose for the constructional building of a new facility to benefit the population of this village. That:-

1. An arboreal written agreement exists between the church dioceses, the church and the community hall trust group.
2. A trustee group be in existence for the day to day running and financing of the centre with its own bank account.
3. The parish council, church, its regular users and or any other persons or groups wishing to be part of trustees committee be formed within the near future.
4. Yearly reports are issued in Holton News, in order to ensure all parishioners are kept informed of its condition, profitability, and use to the community.

Seconded by Councillor Greetham.

Grants from other areas will hopefully exceed £30,000. There is a requirement through legislation to be more environmentally friendly and this would cost a lot of money. The Chairman stated that the money remains within the parish council's bank account.

Rev. Woadden said Rengrant were applying for £250,000. It is not that it is that money coming to the Church they do not need the money so the money will not disappear until it happens.

The Chairman proposed the motion and seconded by Councillor Greetham. All in favour.

It was noted that the Committee of the Hall want to start a public campaign to draw in funds for the area i.e. car boot sales, buy a brick, coffee mornings etc.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

STREET LIGHTING: Councillor Blacklock stated that Church Lane and Tetney Lane needed looking at but has been advised by Lincolnshire County Council to hold fire in applying for any further street lights for a few months because there are talks at high levels as to who will be responsible for the implementation and upkeep of street lighting which could affect where the financing comes off.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

.....CHAIRMAN

THESE MINUTES WERE SIGNED ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009