

Minutes of the Old Bolingbroke Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2024 at 6.30pm in Ramsden Village hall

Present: Cllr Pam Powell (Chair)

8 Members of the Public

Also present: Jane Slaymaker - Parish Clerk

1. Welcome and introduction by Old Bolingbroke with Hareby Chair, Councillor Pam Powell

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Cllr Gray and District Cllr Grover.

3. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 18th May 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chair, Councillor Pam Powell

The Chair gave a report a copy of which is attached.

5. To receive reports from Community Organisations

The Friends of St Peter and St Paul report was given by Steve Lumb. This provided an overview of the work the Group does and an update of recent activities. Grant funding will enable the church to cater for a variety of uses. The review from the Friends of Bolingbroke Castle was given by Caroline Wills-Wright which summarised events held over the past year and future plans. The full reports are available on the Council's website <https://old-bolingbroke.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

6. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for its positive work and for raising its profile within the village. They suggested further engagement with residents.

7. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 7.11pm.

Report from the Chair of Old Bolingbroke with Hareby Parish Council May 2024

I would like to offer you a warm welcome to this our Annual Parish meeting of 2024.

I am Pam Powell, Chair of the Parish Council and my fellow Councillors are: David Makins, Isobel Godsell, Charles Routh, Caroline Wills-Wright and Tony Deal who has just joined us at our last meeting. We are pleased to have him on board. Our Clerk is Jane Slaymaker who does sterling work on our and your behalf.

I should make clear this is not a meeting of the Parish Council, but is a meeting where parishioners can meet to hear of the work of the Parish Council, to make comments or suggest ideas and also an opportunity for local issues to be discussed and for local organisations to tell us about their work.

As a reminder the Parish Council is a Sole Charitable Trust for the Ramsden Memorial Hall, the King George V Field and the Play Area. This separates us from our responsibilities as a Parish Council acting on behalf of the local authority.

The field continues to be well used not only by residents but by visitors from far and wide. Dog walkers in particular enjoy this facility. ELDC acknowledged our request for new dog bin and this is now in situ new the carpark entrance to the village hall. Recently fruit trees, donated by the Climate Change and Environment Office at ELDC, have been planted and two benches have been placed in the field; one kindly donated by a resident and another to commemorate the coronation of King Charles. A decision will be made about the fencing around the field during the coming year. The question is whether to replace it or merely remove damaged parts of it.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the support of Marion Brennand, in particular for her work in the wooded area. She did a lot of work here trying to clear it and this still is an ongoing task. Marion also worked on behalf of the residents as a former Councillor. We wish her well in her move to her new home.

The play area is very well used by children and adults from the village and further afield. The Parish Council have installed a seat around the tree in the play area and had a fence erected to more easily designate the picnic area from the play area. We hope to install more picnic benches during the year. New signage will be purchased to ensure it is clear where dogs are allowed to be free under control, where they need to be on a lead and where they are not allowed at all.

The Ramsden Village Hall is regularly used by a variety of organisations including keep fit groups, a dance group, a band and a Quilter's Patch group. Local businesses use the facilities for training and meeting purposes. A recent grant of £24,999 has enabled us to improve a storage area and the installation of doors at the end of the hall will help to ensure heat is not lost when the hall is in use during the winter months. A further storage area and toilet facilities will be built adjoining the kitchen once funds are available. Patio doors will help to increase the capacity of the hall to the west where a patio will be built.

Sadly, the hall was affected by an attempted theft of oil so precious resources had to be spent on repair work and safety guarding measures. Many residents were made anxious by the burglaries and attempted break ins so I would urge us all not to be complacent but continue to help ourselves to try and foil those who would upset our lives in this way. Thanks should go to our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Linda Creedy for her help in liaising with the residents and police throughout the year.

A bench has been placed on Back Lane to commemorate the late Queen's Jubilee and we will replace the old bench at the bottom of Spilsby Hill which had to be removed for safety reasons. Other benches may be purchased in the future. The one near the Gas House needs either repairing if possible or replacing and situated in a more appropriate place.

Other purchases have included a defibrillator for the residents of Hareby and also reusable poppies to fasten to the lampposts in Old Bolingbroke and Hareby during the early part of November.

The War Memorial chain fence has been repainted this week and we are looking into the cleaning of the War Memorial itself. It has been assessed as being in a fair to good condition

but will benefit from a specialist clean. The setts around the memorial have not been as successful as we had hoped but the Highways Officer has assured us work will be carried out to rectify the problem. He was supportive in sorting out the water leak on Back Lane and has met with Councillors and residents to discuss work on Hagnaby Road and Horncastle Hill. The Parish Council will continue to urge residents to use Fixmystreet to communicate problems they see on our roads, especially any potholes.

It was gratifying to see the way residents worked to support each other during the flooding last October. Work has been done to clear some of the ditches to allow for a better flow of water but further work needs to take place on West Keal Road, Hagnaby Road and Horncastle Hill. Residents have met with the Highways Officer to discuss these problems and the District Councillor has also been very supportive of the Parish Council attending meetings to discuss issues raised. A new storage bin could be placed at the Village Hall for sandbag salt as the Gas House is being developed and it can no longer be used for this purpose.

Mill Hill and Hareby Hill are also causing concerns, particularly the latter which is being badly affected by large farm vehicles. Spilsby Hill has a constant stream of water from the springs and is being eroded. Hopefully this will be sorted before the winter months are upon us again. We are continuing to discuss the Old Bolingbroke entrance signs but have deferred the final decision until we feel the village can more easily bear the cost of these. For another year the Parish Council decided to not increase the precept trying to support residents with keeping the precept rates as low as possible. The precept does include support for the planters around the village and we thank the residents who continue to look after these. They certainly add to the attractiveness of our village.

Many of you know of the concerns about the future of the Black Horse Inn and a number of residents joined the Parish Council to discuss the Asset of Community Value application following a meeting at the Inn on Sunday 5th May. It is clear many residents wish for a public house to remain in the village and support the Council in their attempts to keep the Black Horse as an amenity within the village.

The Council is willing and tries hard to work collaboratively with organisations and businesses within the village. By working together, we can continue to enhance the lives of those who are lucky enough to live here and also those who enjoy visiting our special community.

Last but not least I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and their hard work. They have spent their time on behalf of the residents over the last year. This is unpaid work and I feel the residents should be grateful to have such a dedicated group of volunteers willing to help and improve our village. I am also hugely grateful for the encouragement and support of residents who have expressed their support in both words and deeds. Thank you all very much.

Pam Powell
Chair of Old Bolingbroke with Hareby PC