

6 May 2009

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Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting
held on 5 May 2009 at the Old School Hall, West Street, Winterton at 7.15 pm

Present: Mayor Councillor Don Johnson
22 members of the public
PC Amanda Barnett

1. Apologies for absence

Allan Smith
Pam Dudson

2. Minutes of the meeting held 6 May 2008

No mention in the minutes concerning an issue raised at the meeting regarding parking on Market Street – no follow-up information has been issued although there was a promise at that meeting that this would be dealt with

3. Matters arising

Item 4 in the minutes – CCTV progress – this to be dealt with in the Mayor's Report at Item 4.
Item 6 in the minutes – Ian Welch meeting with residents; there was a query that residents had not contacted him regarding setting a date for a meeting, but this had, in fact, taken place and monitoring forms from residents returned. Email correspondence confirms this.

4. Mayor's Report

The Council have had a busy year and once again it has been a privilege for me to serve the townspeople of Winterton as their mayor. As the mayor I have represented Winterton at number of functions within North Lincolnshire, though I believe the primary function of mayor is one of ensuring that the council is committed in its aims to ensure that existing facilities are not eroded, to improve and widen those facilities and in doing so enhance the whole community.

This year's achievements were begun before I took office.

- The Newport Drive Playing Field extension has finally been completed and will be handed over to the Playing Field Association during the autumn of this year. Both hedging and trees were planted free of charge by the Intraining Employment Agency and I would like to extend thanks to Bob Dawson and Dave Sanderson of North Lincolnshire Council both of whom were able to arrange this.
- The Marmion Drive Play area has finally come to fruition and has been well received by the young people in the area. Thanks to Biffa for providing a substantial grant towards the cost of this. The council will now proceed to Phase Two of this development in which equipment for the younger children on Grangefield Estate will be provided. This will cost in the region of £50,000, but the council are actively seeking grants towards this.

- In the longer term, another project being pursued by the council is restoration of the arch between the chapels in the cemetery. This had to be removed some years ago as it was in a dangerous condition, but restoration of the arch has, since then, been on the council agenda. This work will be done when and if suitable grants can be obtained.

Contentious planning issues in the town are always fought by the council and there have been several this year. We do look at every set of plans that are before us and, if we believe they are not in the best interests of the development of our community, we put forward objections on behalf of the townspeople. Planning outcomes are however decided ultimately by North Lincolnshire Council's Planning Committee and, in spite of both Town Council and Ward councillor's objections, eventual decisions do not always coincide with our wishes.

The Allotments have undergone a major change this year and what used to be classed as a half plot is now classified as a full plot as this, over the years, had become the size of plot for most allotment holders. The majority of allotments are well kept and holders take pride in their plots. There are 26 allotments which, when they become vacant, are available to Winterton residents at a rent of only £10 a year for a plot of 190 square yards.

Once again the Christmas decorations proved popular and I would like to extend thanks to Richard Fletcher for the new fencing around the Christmas tree which enhanced the area. There has been an idea mooted that the large sycamore tree on island in Market Hill be replaced by a permanent Norway spruce. This would save the council hundreds of pounds each year as Christmas trees are now becoming very expensive. If this option is decided upon it would also make the CCTV camera on Market Hill even more effective.

The CCTV cameras on Grangefield estate have now been ordered and will be in place shortly. Unfortunately delays have occurred as the Planning application was returned by North Lincs for further clarification. The vast majority of people on Grangefield support this initiative. Mobile CCTV cameras are available from the council, subject to certain conditions, for anyone who is experiencing anti-social behaviour.

I would also, on behalf of the Town Council, like to place on record our appreciation of Winterton Town Council staff. The Town Clerk, Pam Dudson, works very hard on behalf of your town and the Park-keeper, Peter Parker, does an excellent job keeping the centre of the town and the parks free of litter. We have a committed programme of training for both staff and councillors. A number of councillors have been on courses to enhance their skills and knowledge and Mrs Dudson is coming to the end of four years study towards achieving her CILCA Certificate. Once she has achieved this, the council can move towards receiving Quality Status.

One more innovation has been the inclusion of the Town Council Newsletter within the excellent quarterly publication, "Out and About in Winterton". I would like to place on record the Council's appreciation of the hard work done by Estelle Mumby and her helpers in producing and publishing such a professional magazine.

The Council continue to provide a bus to Brigg on Thursdays and this is well supported by the townspeople. We have also given financial assistance to Winterton Rangers to improve their facilities and will be in consultation with them shortly on joint ventures to help them raise funds for their club. Rangers committee have not only transformed the football side of the club, but their club house is now one of the best venues in the area to hold large functions and is receiving acclaim from all the organisations who hire it. We also continue to sponsor the Fun Run at

Winterton Show and maintain our support for the annual Garden Festival.

Many organisations have benefited from grants this year; Winterton Rangers, The Old School Hall, Newport Drive Playing Field, Marmion Drive Play Area and others have all attracted outside funding for their further development benefitting all members of our community. Thanks to all members of these various groups who tirelessly work for the benefit of these organisations.

Councillor Bridge and I attend the local NATs meetings, chaired by North Lincs Councillor Alan Smith, where local councils meet the police to discuss local issues. Other members of the Winterton Neighbourhood Watch teams also attend these meetings. We have seen a new Community Police Officer installed for the area following the retirement of PC Geoff Sewell, and Police Officer Amanda Barnett will be using the Police Station on De Lacy Way as her base. We extend our best wishes to Amanda in her new role.

The excellent Town Council Website has information on events in the town. We are indebted to Roger Kimberley-Scott for producing such a fantastic website with links to other Winterton organisations, the names of your town councillors, pictures of Winterton and often pictures of local events, usually within hours of the event taking place.

Overall, I feel that my year as Mayor has been a success and the support of my fellow councillors has been greatly appreciated. Together, we have achieved significant changes for the benefit of the town and the effective running of the council. I wish Mrs Linda Cawsey a successful year as Mayor during her forthcoming term in office.

Finally, if any resident has an issue they wish to raise with the council please contact the Clerk or any of the councillors listed in the Town Council Newsletter. Members of the public are welcome to attend any full Council Meeting. Full Council Meetings are always held on the third Tuesday of each month. If a member of the public attending our meeting wishes to speak they should see the Mayor at the start of the meeting. He or she can then suspend standing orders to allow the person to address the council for up to 5 minutes.

5. Best Kept Town Competition

Winterton won third prize in the Best Kept Town competition in 2008 and are hoping to improve on that place with this year's entry. The Mayor urged all members of the public to be vigilant and careful so that our surroundings look cared for and neat.

6. Policing issues

PC Amanda Barnett introduced herself to the meeting. The police are now stationed at Winterton and so are more readily accessible to the public. Two police community officers are also attached to the town. PC Barnett quoted crime figures for Winterton against figures for Barton as a whole:

Criminal damage (minimal, ie less than £5,000):	Winterton 56	Barton 327
Theft:	Winterton 23	Barton 102
Dwelling burglaries:	Winterton 13	Barton 59
Public order offences:	Winterton 7	Barton 30

She hoped that members of the public had noticed a more visible police presence in the town.

There is currently an on-going police project to get all primary school children to wear the high-visibility vests they have all been issued with – a rewards card has been issued to each child and

this is stamped when they wear the vests – this continues and so far has resulted in a 300% increase in children wearing this safety clothing.

Youths are being encouraged to go to West Street Park to stop them congregating in other areas around the town – this does, however, cause problems – the police do monitor the situation and do confiscate drink if they find under-age children in possession of it. All incidents in the park are formally recorded and/or parents are informed so incidents concerning individuals are accumulated. One member of the public was concerned that these children are moving on to Roxby to the park there. It was asked why Winterton couldn't have a zero tolerance to drinking in public places by-law as Barton has. This has been requested in the past, but no evidence has been forthcoming to suggest that the problem is serious enough to warrant a no drinking policy. Youths do congregate at the church entrance on Churchside especially after dark – one member of the public present had witnessed them trying to break the lamp with a ball and jumping on gravestones – the police do move them on if they catch them there. It was generally concurred that there will always be problems with youths – the police do what they can and deal with what they see.

Anti-social behaviour on the Grangefield estate is improving, though one member of public asked that it be noted that problems with large numbers of youths are occurring late on Friday nights – PC Barnett stated that she and her team are not in the town after 11 pm on a Friday and any incidents after that time are left to the response teams, though their resources are often required elsewhere on a Friday night. It was thought that when CCTV is introduced the problems may be alleviated.

Speeding/parking – this is being treated as a priority within the town and a speed trap is being placed intermittently on Top Road by a motorcycle officer. One member of the public raised the subject of parking on grass verges. North Lincs are responsible for the verges. It is not an offence to park on any footpath/verge unless an obstruction is caused by it or the vehicle is an LGV. New road traffic regulations come into force soon and North Lincs will take over parking offences and issuing of tickets. One member of the public asked about the feasibility of yellow lines on all junctions to prevent unsafe parking – it was thought that this was most unlikely. It was thought that the parking bays on De Lacy Way for the OAP bungalows should be a permit-holders only area.

PC Barnett realised that the length of time it takes people to call in an incident and the details that must be taken as the incident is being logged often puts people calling at all, but they should realise that while the incident is being logged and details taken, a despatcher does command resources to the incident while this is happening. She encouraged people to call in all incidents as without those calls, there is no evidence that problems exist.

A member of the public said that Amanda's presence has made a big difference in the town; she [Amanda] admits the problems, but also admits that there isn't always an answer. The Mayor thanked Amanda for her contribution to the meeting and all present applauded her.

7. Complaints, Suggestions and Matters for the Press

Snicket between Stovin Crescent and Earls Gate has had youths congregating there; they have been urinating and property which backs on to the area has had a lot of graffiti. This will be brought up at the next NATS meeting.

Distribution of "Out and About in Winterton" – delivery areas need to be split further as some elderly distributors are delivering between 90 – 150 copies. Two volunteers came forward.

Winterton Improvement Network – a £5,000 cheque was presented from this organisation to the Town Council for the Marmion Drive Playing Field. This was gratefully accepted by the Mayor.

Will the Council be asking if the HSBC ATM machine will be replaced? We have no information if this facility is to be re-instated. The local MP is currently trying to find someone to contact concerning this. It was commented that ATM people had been seen at the location this week. If the Co-op ATM is empty, cash back can be obtained at both the Co-op tills and at the Post Office. Would it be possible for the Council to write to the Co-op and ask if it is possible their facility could be replenished more than the current once per week?

Roxby Tip – representatives of the Council are currently attending a monthly meeting with BIFFA to monitor the problem and what is being done to resolve it – the local MP is also involved. The smell is still bad at certain times and works continue to eliminate the problem. Members of the public were urged to call BIFFA and the Environment Agency if they notice the smell. The problem seems to have occurred because too large an area has been exposed and this is not being covered quickly enough.

Youths damaging property – this was brought to the attention of the police constable present before the meeting.

Plans for extension and refurbishment of Old School Hall – the Chair of the Old School Hall Committee, John Summerfield, outlined the plans which were displayed on the wall and offered to stay behind after the meeting to answer any questions people may have. There will be separate access for the Playgroup so that other groups may use the Main Hall during the day – this cannot currently occur because of Child Protection rules. There will also be a buggy park. The Committee currently have a £50,000 grant as well as £20,000 from North Lincolnshire – this latter was granted on condition that an outside play space is developed. Funding is in and the works began today – 5 May 2009.

Local Ward Councillor, Linda Cawsey, informed the meeting that Top Road will be closed at certain times during July for much needed refurbishment – closure will mostly be at weekends, Sundays in particular, to cause least disruption. It was commented that July was the month when two of the largest annual events took place, Winterton Show and the Garden Festival.

The Mayor reminded members of the public that any issues they wished to bring to the attention of the Council should be conveyed to the Clerk.

One member of the public thanked the Town Council for all their hard work on behalf of the townspeople of Winterton.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm