

Notes of the Meeting of
Annual Parish Meeting
at The Memorial Hall, Harmston
on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr P Wallace; Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr K Goodwin; Cllr P Chapman and HPC Clerk & RFO Helen Jones

District Councillors: Cllr Sanders; Cllr Pennell; Cllr Cooper

County Councillor Carrington

Representatives from local groups: L Wray (Harmston WI); R Wray (Harmston Young Farmers); C Wright (HMH), R Wheeler (Harmston Church)

Item 1 - APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Harrison.

Item 2 - Police Report

A report was requested, nothing was received.

Item 3 – Minutes of Last Meeting (held in 2021)

The minutes from 2022 were approved by those who were in attendance at that meeting.

Item 4 – County & District Councillors

Cllr Carrington explained the new Wards and where Harmston sits within them.

The £1.3 billion budget for the year is mainly focussed on roads, schools, adult & social care, waste, health scrutiny, environment, economic development and case work. Yet they remain under funded.

This year road works have been carried out in Harmston (including resurfacing and painted signs), and Station Road has been rebuilt – with footpath works to be scheduled.

Continue to look into measures for Church Lane. Weight limit cannot be justified. Archer survey has been completed but needs to be discussed with the HPC. Project once the relief road is open, that Church Lane traffic should drop by 50%.

Cllr Carrington asked for questions:

- i) Road at lights on A607/Church Lane still flooding. Not on a system of drainage. Can this be addressed please. Clerk to send Cllr Carrington photos so this can be investigated
- ii) Drop on left hand side of Station Road as exiting Harmston. Very dangerous. Cllr Carrington will drive to inspect
- iii) Pathway for Station Road scheduled for Nov – could this be brought forward?
- iv) Car parking near pub can be very dangerous. Would double yellow lines be effective? Cllr Carrington will inspect on a Sunday (when at its busiest).

Three new District Councillors – Cllr Sanders, Cllr Pennell and Cllr Cooper. All three introduced themselves.

Item 5 – Village Interests and Activities

9 different groups were invited to share reports. Reports were received from 5 of these groups, with representatives attending the meeting to share them as follows:

- R Wheeler on behalf of Harmston Church * *Appendices 1*
- L Wray on behalf of Harmston WI * *Appendices 2*

- C Wright on behalf of Harmston Memorial Hall (their Chair J Bauer sent her apologies as she was unable to attend) **Appendices 3*
- R Wray on behalf of Harmston Young Farmers **Appendices 4*
- Cllr P Wallace on behalf of Harmston Parish Council **Appendices 5*

These reports have been kept on file, and are attached as appendices.

Item 7 – Residents issues, an open forum

Stile off Vicarage Lane is not very child or disability friendly. Could it be changed for a more inclusive style? Could the HPC look into options and find out who is responsible for the stile please.

Dog access at the stile has been altered, which was appreciated.

With there being no further business, the meeting was brought to a close at 7.42pm.

Appendices 1

Church Report to Parish Meeting

At present we are without a vicar. That does give us the opportunity to consider whether what we are offering meets the needs of those who wish to engage with God but may find certain aspects of how we do things off-putting. If anyone feels that way they are invited to contact us.

The pattern of services continues as before: 11 on the 1st Sunday, 9:30 on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

On the practical side, works are progressing slowly.

Regarding the clock, we are awaiting a quote from our preferred specialist's joinery subcontractor.

Work on the tower roof and its stonework is awaiting the drawing up of a specification by our architect.

But we *have* had the churchyard wall repaired and repointed within the last month.

We are grateful for the continued contribution of the Parish Council towards keeping the burial ground mown. It remains open for interments and the late Margaret Mottram was buried there last week.

Rob Wheeler

Churchwarden

18 May 23

Harmston Women's Institute Annual Report 2023 for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Thursday 18th May 2023.

Good evening to the Chairperson, members of the Parish Council, ladies and gentlemen. This is the report from Harmston Women's Institute for 2023.

Pauline Walker continued as the President for another year following our Annual Meeting in April 2022 and seven committee members stood for another year. We had 33 members.

Thankfully our year returned to face-to-face meetings at the hall. We had a variety of talks including a members personal cancer journey, glass art, Thermomix demonstration and tasting evening, LRSN, reflexology, Bomber Command, games night and Christmas crafts.

We marked the passing of the Queen with an evening of reflection, chat and stories of members encounters with the Monarch herself.

We also had our annual garden and Christmas parties which were well attended.

We saw trips once again in August to the kinema followed by a meal at the Abbey Lodge and then bowling in November.

We held a Fair in May at the Memorial Hall to raise funds for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Then joined Harmston residents at the weekend jubilee celebrations. We also provided games and ran the sports day on the postponed picnic on the playing field.

Our fundraising efforts saw us donate a cheque for £640. to the Lincoln Blood Bikes charity.

Finally, we have just held our Annual Meeting for 2023 and have an exciting programme ahead for the Tuesday evenings plus many extra outings to include meet and greet the alpacas, kinema, bomber command and afternoon tea.

This concludes the report for Harmston WI.

Appendices 3

HMH Report for 2023 APM

This year, we have returned to some semblance of normality, having emerged from the difficult restrictions imposed by the pandemic and being allowed to use the Hall properly again.

The hall is now being hired out on a regular basis for various groups and organisations. These include Harmston Young Farmers, Harmston Women's Institute, U3A groups, dance and drama groups, Fitness and Pilates classes, glass workshops and a piper's band.

Over the last 12 months we have hosted a number of regular annual events. These have included our annual village produce show (which had 299 entries from 46 entrants!), the popular food and drink fair, the village BBQ, the gin and beer festival and a festive get together. Other events have included a family village trail, a children story trail, afternoon teas, a games night, the big breakfast, 2 'chip and cheerful' evenings, 2 pie nights and a themed disco.

The ever-popular Shep's Quiz takes place on the fourth Tuesday of every month. This is always well attended and is lots of fun, raising an admirable £100 for charity on most occasions.

Over the past year, we have celebrated both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Coronation of King Charles III with a number of related events being led by the Harmston Memorial Hall Committee.

In March this year, we enjoyed a very welcome return to live music at the Hall. The Stand In Blues Band was a 'sold out' event and they gave a brilliant performance which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Following the overwhelming success of this event and due to popular demand, we have arranged several more live music events for later in the year.

In June, we have the eagerly awaited revival of Harmston Open Gardens with the opportunity to explore some hidden gems in and around the village and to enjoy some homemade cakes and refreshments in the Hall.

Later in the month of June, we will host Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Games Hire at the Hall for an evening of traditional games which will be suitable for all ages and should prove to be lots of fun for everyone.

In July, we will see the annual return of the Harmston Food and Drink Fair which will be offering a great selection of locally sourced products to sample and to purchase.

There are many more exciting events to look forward to over the coming months, including live music as well as the popular annual events. Full details for all of them can be found in 'Harmston Matters', the Graffoe Link, the village notice boards and on social media.

We should also mention that Harmston Memorial Hall is available for private bookings at very reasonable rates. We are fortunate to have a licensed bar and a spacious well-equipped kitchen as well as a lovely outdoor space. Please feel free to chat with Kate Stockbridge Sime or any member of the Committee about availability and your requirements.

Harmston Memorial Hall is here for the enjoyment of everyone in the village and the Committee works very hard to run the Charity for this purpose. If you would be interested in volunteering in any capacity or have any suggestions about how we could make things even better, we would love to hear from you.

In the meantime, we thank you all for your valued support.

Appendices 4

HARMSTON, YOUNG FARMERS, Annual Report for APM. '23

Over the past year Harmston Young Farmers has met every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm, with most meetings being held at the Memorial Hall. We have a total of 63 members which means we are one of the largest clubs in Lincolnshire which I'm sure you'd agree is an amazing achievement with Harmston being a small village in comparison to clubs in the larger towns.

Throughout this young farmers year we set out to fundraise, help the community, meet, socialise and compete. All of which we have accomplished.

This year we have raised lots of money for a number of charities that are very close to our hearts. Our annual bonfire night raised money for the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance, our tractor run which made over £2000 for the Lincolnshire rural support network, our Nativity that raised money for Harmston Church, we wore red in feb for the British heart foundation and our Dementia UK Dog Walking Challenge.

As well as this, we have competed in lots of different county, East Midlands area and national competitions. We have taken part in bowling, go karting, sports, auctioneering and so much more! Our ladies rounders team have also gotten through to the national finals. Last weekend we also got awarded Lincolnshires club of the year which Harmston hasn't won since 1994, it is a huge honour and privilege to be crowned this and the club has worked so hard for it.

As much as we love to compete we also love to work alongside the local community building up strong relationships. One of our advisory members helped put up the village Christmas tree, 5 of our members visited a local primary school to teach them all about where their food comes from and myself and Tom are visiting Waddington care home tomorrow with some chicks. We love to be part of the Harmston community and always feel so privileged to help in any way we can whether that be planting trees or helping at village events.

Socialising. As lots of you probably already know, the young farmers like a social! We have also done this very well! We have attended the county ball, organised pub of the month, held our club Christmas meal and last week hosted our very own Harmston YFC Party. It was a huge success and all of the members loved being able to celebrate the club.

Last but definitely not least, our meetings! We have had tours and talks from a range of different industries over this past young farmers year including pumpkin carving at Coleby, Playzone, Branston potatoes talk, lambing live, badminton, British sugar talk and so much more.

I'd just like to finish by saying a big thank you to everyone that has helped support the young farmers and get us to where we are today, we appreciate it and we hope to continue growing our Harmston YFC family.

Appendices 5

Report from Harmston Parish Council for 2022-2023

Play Area

- New contractor who cuts the grass and strims around the equipment
- The play area is regularly checked by a specialist company
- The PC continue to pay for and organise the upkeep of the play area
- Currently looking into a noticeboard near the play area

Playing Field

- Permission was gratefully received from Mr. Sowerby to enable use to lay slabs, and install a commemorative bench (with plaque) in memory of our past Chair, Cllr Frances Mannsåker. The bench is adjacent to the orchard – a peaceful spot to sit and watch village life unfold – a spot we are sure Frances would have enjoyed herself

Communication

- New website updated regularly
- Facebook Page established and in use, and have also introduced a new Facebook Group as per resident request
- Thanks to HMM who ask us to contribute to the newsletter, which we regularly utilise to share information with residents
- Good links with local Police, District Councillor and County Councillors, and Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

Traffic

- SpID device bought and in use on Church Lane (switched with Vicarage Lane when needed)
- The PC remain part of the shared scheme, and have use this device on Vicarage Lane when it is our turn
- We continue to use the SpIDs to help inform and guide decisions made for traffic calming
- PC Working with Councillor Carrington and Highways – reviewing package of measures to help with traffic: new markings on road, new signage etc.
- Created good links with Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership who helped advise on the SpID for example, and on Community Speedwatch
- Community Speedwatch group created from volunteers. Currently awaiting dates for training and gathering necessary equipment – our thanks to our Volunteers

Village Maintenance

- Litter Picker continues to do an excellent job – for which we are very grateful
- Works carried out on the ‘Pump House’
- Two new dog waste bins now in place, one opposite Thorold Way (in the copse), and one on Church Lane.
- Defibrillator has been checked and updated where needed

Events

- Christmas Event was well attended, with the Salvation Army band in attendance
- Nominate a neighbour continued this year, with a gift and card being delivered to those nominated who live alone
- Worked as part of a village group to provide opportunities to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee in Harmston
- As part of aforementioned group, Primary age school children who abide in Harmston and registered were recipients of a commemorative coin paid for by the HPC
- Members of the PC worked with members of HMM to ready the field for the Kings Coronation celebrations, create posters etc.

Financial Contributions

- A contribution has been given to the Church towards grass cutting
- A contribution has been given to the Salvation Army for their part in our Christmas event (for which they do not charge a fee).

Finances

- VAT refunds have been submitted for 2022-2023, which has resulted in money being refunded to the PC
- AGAR has been completed for this year
- Annual audits have been carried out for years ending 2021-2022 and have been passed
- A new auditor has been instructed, which has introduced a mid-year audit, make our annual audits a total of two per year
- Budgets have been set for this year
- Precept has been set – being mindful of the ‘cost of living’ crisis

Councillors

- We have welcomed new members this year and have a new Chair.
- We still have 2 vacancies, please see the Clerk if you would like further details and would like to be involved with decisions being made for our community