

Notes of the Meeting of
Annual Parish Meeting
at The Memorial Hall, Harmston
on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present:

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

District Councillors: Cllr Pennell; Cllr Cooper

County Councillor Carrington

Representatives from local groups: L Wray (Harmston WI); C Wright (HMH)

There were no members of the public present

Item 1 - APOLOGIES

Apologies were received Gill Dowse and Julien Bridges from HMH, Carol Damen-Willems and Rob Wheeler from Harmston Church, Anna Clifton from WI, District Councillor Sanders and the Chair of the HYF.

Item 2 - Police Report

PC Roberts was unable to attend but has reported that there are no new issues in Harmston, the most prominent being the view point and Church Lane traffic.

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

4/5 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) County Councillor Report Cllr Carrington explained there had been a ministerial statement re accumulative impact of solar panels (Lincoln being listed) – the impact on landscapes, use of high-grade agricultural land and reclassification of good quality land to enable solar farms. This is to try and protect the land. Renewable energy is needed, but this statement is to also help address the sheer volume being suggested.
Budget has been passed at +2.9%, +2% for adult/social care. Budget in rural area has been increased by £18,000,000, which is already being spent on areas such as those which flood - deploying tankers to flush out drains etc. There is an enquiry into flooding, for which Cllr Carrington is working as part of a focus group. There will be a report in September with their findings.
In April 2,500 potholes were reported, 7,000 were fixed.
There will be an election in 2025 for a mayor. This role will have some limited powers. Simply having a mayor brings larger budgets to the area. This will not affect the powers of Parish, County or District Councils.
Planning has been submitted for battery storage sites (with one being planned for Navenby). Cllr Carrington and the Parish Council are monitoring.
- b) District Councillor Reports District Councillor Cooper shared a review of his first year. He has been part of two different committees: Resource Scrutiny and Alcohol & General License, and on a sub-committee for general license appeal. He finds the NKDC to be very professional. He wonders if some members of Harmston Young Farmers may consider thinking about getting involved – bringing some more diversity.
Councillor Pennell reported that the NKDC has been progressing the Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Housing Team were nominated for a low carbon award and won – which was a fabulous achievement. Cllr Pennell is the Chair of Planning and Vice of licensing committees. It has been a busy year for planning. He pointed out that his committee only sees planning brought to the

committee, not ALL planning. They continue to build and expand homes for residences, and building business properties,

Item 5 – Village Interests and Activities

8 different groups were invited to share reports. Reports were received from 6 of these groups, with representatives attending the meeting to share them as follows:

- The Clerk read a report from Rob Wheeler on behalf of Harmston Church * **Appendices 1**
 - *ACTION: Clerk was asked to thank Mr Wheeler for his report and request a time frame for the church clock works, T/D: 30th May 2024*
 - The Clerk read a report from Mrs Ashworth on behalf of Coleby Primary School***Appendices 2**
 - L Wray on behalf of Harmston WI ***Appendices 3**
 - C Wright on behalf of Harmston Memorial Hall (their Chair G Dowse sent her apologies as she was unable to attend) ***Appendices 4**
 - L Wray on behalf of Harmston Young Farmers ***Appendices 5**
 - Cllr P Wallace on behalf of Harmston Parish Council ***Appendices 6**
- The Chair also presented a photo of King Charles for the hall to Christine Wright on behalf of the HMH committee

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

Item 7 – Residents issues, an open forum

None were received ahead of the meeting.

The issue of weeds was raised. The PC have a quote ready to be approved at their meeting (which follows this APM).

Cllr Cooper passed on his thanks to the hall and their catalogue of events. The PC agreed fully with this.

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

All Saints' Church Report

Despite not having a vicar in post, we have been able to continue with our existing pattern of services thanks to the support of two retired priests, Revs Stuart Foster and Susan Williams, and our lay ministers.

We have almost everything in place now for the repairs to the church to take place in late summer. The main task will be the replacement of crumbling stonework on the south face of the tower. That will require scaffolding to the top of the tower and we will take advantage of that to renew the asphalt covering of the tower roof and to replace the clock faces. Our architect has been to a lot of trouble specifying materials for the clock faces which will last as long as possible while reproducing in essence what we have at present. The challenge with the stonework is to ensure that it blends with the old material as well as possible. If you look at the work done on the east face of the tower around 20 years ago, you will see what we are trying to avoid. Fortunately, that work is only visible from way back in the graveyard; I have pointed it out to our architect and to the stonemasons he sees as principal contenders for the contract and all are agreed that the result must not look like that. As for how much stonework will be replaced, the cost of scaffolding is such that it makes sense to do as much as we can afford. We are applying for grants to help us do a little more so that it will be as long as possible before we need to tackle the problem again.

Our previous contractor for grass-cutting retired at the end of last year. It is perhaps a little early to judge how our new contractor is performing, as the amount of rainfall and the consequent growth of grass have been quite exceptional. We are grateful to the Parish Council for contributing to the cost of this increasing burden.

Rob Wheeler

Churchwarden



Report to Coleby Parish Council
COLEBY PRIMARY SCHOOL: April-May 2024

School resumed after the Easter Holidays on Tuesday, 16th April. We are now well into Term 5 and our children quickly settled back into usual school routines. There are currently 49 children on roll and the school continues in its attempt to raise the profile of the school in a bid to increase numbers.

Before the Easter break, the children took part in World Book Day on 7th March. Our Literacy Lead teacher organised some activities throughout the day to raise the profile of reading (and reading for enjoyment). This is always a focus for the school and we have recently launched the Lego Reading Incentive to encourage children to read more at home. Children are being challenged to read at least three times a week but if they read five times a week they will collect a Lego piece to put on their named classroom display. Once it is full they receive a prize.

Additionally, on 15th March, whilst the school's fundraising for BBC Red Nose Day was much lower key than in previous years, over £200 was raised through a variety of fund raisers.

Our EYFS children are learning about 'Sunshine and Sunflowers' which is a seasonal project which provides opportunities for lots of outdoor learning. Children learn how to care for plants and animals in their local environment and also how to stay safe in the sun. Our Year 1 and 2s are learning about 'School Days'

Meanwhile, Years 3 and 4 are learning about fractions in the morning as well as having great fun exploring 'Old Possums Practical Cats' and watching excerpts from the musical, 'Cats'. They also join in with the Year 5 and 6 children who are learning about the Shang Dynasty - all about the social hierarchy; daily lives; religion and about how the dynasty expanded and eventually fell.

Over the Easter break, the planned work to repair the 'bowing' stone boundary wall between the school and a neighbouring property did not proceed as all the relevant exploratory works were not completed. The implication of this is the school must continue to use the Blind Lane entrance as the daily means for children to enter and exit the school grounds. Thankfully, the advisory work for fencing to be erected along the school's perimeter on Blind Lane was completed.

During week commencing 29th April, the school received 'the call' from Ofsted and were subject to a two day graded inspection. The school will expect to receive a draft report within 18 days which covers the school's overall performance; the quality of education provided; pupil behaviour and attitudes; staff personal development; the calibre of leadership and management and the effectiveness of safeguarding policies. It was a very intensive two days but gave everyone the opportunity to showcase the wonderful provision available at this school. We were all very grateful for the support of Mrs Boulter our Acting Headteacher who, on the day 'the call' was received, was teaching a class at her own school. She acted swiftly to ensure she was available and on hand for the entirety of the inspection and to make sure our school was ready to receive the inspectors the following day!

Whilst all of the above was taking place, the school still had to find the time to arrange a worthy farewell assembly to Mrs Espin, the school's Headteacher, who officially retired on 30th April after 31 years in education. After a very long week, the children had the opportunity to say their goodbyes to her by way of a whole school assembly. They performed songs, sketches, recounted memories and generally made everyone an emotional mess before Mrs Espin made a final entry into the school's Official Log Book. Everyone then headed down to the village hall for tea and cake - kindly organised by the Friends of Coleby School. There were many pupils, past and present, who attended to say their goodbyes. And, to end Mrs Espin's farewell do, staff, colleagues, friends, former staff and former governors all gathered to share memories with her; reminisce over past times, swap funny stories and shared experiences. There was lots of laughter which was a nice way to end the week and the evening. We wish Mrs Espin all the very best for a well-deserved retirement. She has worked tirelessly for the school and our loss is her family's gain. We look forward to hearing about her future adventures. She will be missed.

1

In the last week our Year 6 children undertook their SATs. As a treat for working so hard with these tests, Mrs Boulter our acting Headteacher, arranged for an ice cream van to stop by the school and she paid for them all to have an ice cream. Needless to say, the children were delighted at the unexpected surprise.

Time passes so quickly when working in a school environment and, in a matter of a few days, we will once again be breaking up for the half term break before we then resume for the final term of this academic year. When we return to school our Year 5 and 6 children will be looking forward to their residential trip which, this year, will be to PGL Caythorpe. The 'resi' trip is always a highlight in the school calendar for our older children.

Kindest regards from us here at Coleby School.

M Ashton
20th May 2024

Harmston Women's Institute Annual Report 2024 for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Tuesday 21st May 2024.

Good evening to the Chairperson, members of the Parish Council, ladies and gentlemen. This is the report from Harmston Women's Institute for 2024

Pauline Walker has continued as our President for another year. The committee has seen one of our ladies step down due to family commitments but we will hopefully co-opt an extra committee member at some point through the year. We had 32 members last year and our new year has just begun and we already have 27 members signed up again and welcomed some more new faces this month.

We've had some fantastic and varied talks and demonstrations this year organised by our programme secretary Jess as well as lots of great trips organised by Sue.

April started our year with a talk by Alex O'Neill from Anglian Water which was very informative and saw Alex helping several ladies to sign up for a free water saving gardening kit. Everyone loves a freebie.

May had us all totally focused on creating a decoupage coaster guided by Emma Penn with step-by-step instructions. We also had an evening out at Lincoln Bowl which was great fun.

June not only did several ladies get up close and personal with the alpacas at The Alpaca Café but we also learnt all about the Lincoln City Foundation from Alex Bavin with an insight into the support they offer in the community!

July we indulged in some sugar craft which proved a most entertaining evening choosing from all the patterned rolling pins to make our biscuit icing designs. A small number of ladies also visited Bomber Command in July for a tour and talk which had us all a little teary-eyed listening to the bravery of the young men and women.

August was our annual Kinema outing which as always didn't disappoint with the film Mrs Harris Goes to Paris followed by delicious food at The Abbey Lodge Inn. We also got together in Harmston at mine for our garden party with great food, company and garden games.

September gave us the opportunity to go bowling again followed by a meal in their café and our monthly talk was by Lucy from P.E.C.K. who spoke about The Menopause.

October was Members Take Over and proved to be a great evening of fun and laughter organised by two of the members. We met Phil from Lincoln City Foundation

and he brought several games to include armchair hockey, netball and a target game. Our outing for October was afternoon tea at The Hilton Doubletree on Lincoln Brayford Pool which we are repeating in the new programme.

November we put on another successful Fair this one themed Christmas and we had lots of positive feedback. Sorting this is by no means easy so we were really happy to see lots of people from the village attend. We welcomed Ian Morgan for a talk on the Curious World of Old Time Punishments which had us all raising our eyebrows at some of the acceptable penalties of that era!

December saw a trip to Springfield in the awful foggy driving conditions but luckily we had a wonderful bus driver who got us there and back very safely. We got to do lots of Christmas shopping and attend a craft fair. The annual Christmas party also took place with, once again, great company, food and games.

January there was a trip to see the Leadenham Players Panto and a great time was had by all. We also had the most hilarious driving instructor talk with some unbelievable stories from Steven Brown called L on wheels.

February we had a most informative talk about the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance and the fantastic job they do in supporting our NHS 24 hours a day. This has become our charity for this year.

It's been a busy year with members being able to take part in many outings as well as the monthly meetings and competitions. Members have been actively involved making suggestions and we are striving to make our WI even more of a success this year so have started WI Extras and now have a walking group, craft group, book club and coffee club.

We've had a great year of fund raising through fairs and raffles and presented a cheque for £1000.00 to Edan Lincs which stands for End Domestic Abuse Now.

This ends my secretaries report on behalf of Harmston WI for the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.

*Appendices 3

Harmston Memorial Hall Report for Parish Council Annual Meeting – May 2024

Our village hall has now been in operation for over 100 years and continues to thrive thanks to a fabulous group of trustees that make up the management committee together with volunteers. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support. There are many elements to the successful running of the hall which requires a diverse range of skills to manage the bookings, administration, finances, marketing, bar, kitchen and maintenance. This is all done by committee members giving up their own time to provide the community with a wonderful facility to enjoy.

As a result the hall is now in use on almost every day of the week and our regular hirers include the Womens Institute, Young Farmers and Parish Council. In addition we host weekly group classes for Pilates, Yoga, Zumba and Children's Dance. The hall also remains a popular venue for private functions and receptions on an hourly or daily hire basis.

Our committee endeavour to hold one major event each month. These include the Annual Show and the Food & Drink Fair which are always well supported. Live music is offered at regular intervals ranging from a good old disco night to jazz to contemporary local acts. Pub nights are held when the Thorold is closed for staff holidays. Food events for all the family are always very popular including the Big Breakfast, Pie Night, Chip and Cheerful, the Summer BBQ and Bingo Bangers & Mash. Other family events have included Story Trails and a Scarecrow competition.

Over the last year we have invested in new patio doors and a widescreen TV with sound bar to enhance visitors' enjoyment of the facility. A Eurovision watch party was recently organised and a Wimbledon watch event is planned next month

Shep's Quiz continues on the 4th Tuesday of each month with all proceeds going to registered charities. So far £1,700 has been raised!

The hall continues to face a number of challenges not least the maintenance of an aging building and escalating utility costs. We are also in the process of modernising the constitution, which is over 80 years old, in conjunction with the Charity Commission and local Solicitors providing the trustees with specialist advice. As part of our due diligence a Safeguarding Policy has now been implemented and we also ensure that this is in place for all regular hall users and contractors together with adequate insurances and risk assessments for their activities where appropriate.

The monthly edition of Harmston Matters continues to be produced by our team, not just on behalf of the Memorial Hall but the whole village, and the work that goes into this is extensive producing a colourful newsletter.

We look forward to the continued support of our village residents and visitors to ensure that the Hall continues to be successful.

Thank you

The Harmston Memorial Hall Committee

Harmston YFC Report as of Tuesday 21st May 2024

Firstly, I would like to send my apologies for not being able to attend this evening.

It's been a really busy and exciting year for Harmston Young Farmers, with plenty still to look forward to! We are a club of 44 members, consisting of 10 juniors, 28 intermediates, and 6 seniors, our youngest being 14 and our oldest being 27.

As a club we continue to meet every Wednesday at 7:30pm, and have recently had a talk from Ed Groves, Area Manager for SOYL Precision Crop Production (as part of Frontier Agriculture), Chris Pacey, District Sales Manager for Omex and local farmer Andrew Ward, also known as 'Wardy's Waffle' on YouTube! We have also been very lucky to have a tour around Cranwell Bloodhounds, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, and showcase our crazy golf skills at Urban Putters in Lincoln.

But that's not all...! We are so proud to be the first Lincolnshire club to have won the Forage Aid Trophy which was presented to us on Sunday 21st April at the National Young Farmers AGM. The trophy is awarded to the club that raises the most money for Forage Aid, a farming charity providing emergency animal feed and bedding to UK farmers hit by extreme weather events or natural disasters. Thank you to our incredible supporters of our Annual Christmas Charity Tractor Run, we raised a grand total of £1,700 for Forage Aid!

In addition to this, we have also raised a further £1,700 for Nunny's Farm, £1,000 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association and another £1,000 for the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance.

Our biggest achievement of the year so far however has to be winning the Lincolnshire Young Farmers Rally on Saturday... I still

can't believe it! We came home with 7 trophies for gaining the highest marks in both the Junior and Senior Exhibition Classes, for winning both the Juniors and Ladies Tug of War, not to mention, Flower Arranging, Senior Rally Classes (joint first place with Louth YFC) and of course the big shiny silver one, for the club with the highest amount of points overall. We also came second in the Club of the Year finals!

Trailer building is now our next project at Harmston YFC, you'll be able to watch us parade around the main ring at the Lincolnshire Show and also laugh at us whilst we take part in a huge Lincs YFC flour and water fight! Our Junior and Ladies TOW teams will also be competing in the next round of Tug of War.

We continue to have weekly meetings up until the beginning of July, where we will have our end of year AGM and our new Club Officers will be elected. Thank you to Harmston Memorial Hall for continuing to allow us to use the facility and for all the support the village has and continues to show.

Best wishes,

Ana Clifton

Club Chairwoman

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Report from Harmston Parish Council for 2023-2024

Traffic

- SpID device bought last year is still in constant use on Church Lane (switched with Vicarage Lane when needed)
- The PC remain part of the shared scheme, and use this device on Vicarage Lane – which is where it currently is
- 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
- Radar and safety equipment purchased for Harmston Community Speedwatch
- Community Speedwatch group created from volunteers – training complete and first Speedwatch completed.
- 30 mph signs acquired via Road Safety Partnership for use around village
- Communications with Waddington Base re traffic cutting through

Communication

- Website and Facebook regularly used – a great way for everyone to keep in touch
- Good links with local Police, District Councillor and County Councillors, and Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

Village Maintenance

- Litter Picker continues to do an excellent job – for which we are very grateful
- Works carried out on the ‘Pump House’
- New lights fitted on School Lane
- Defibrillator has been checked and battery replaced and spare pads added
- Handyman has carried out works on areas such as the play area, pump house, bus shelters, benches...

Events

- Christmas Event was well attended, with the Salvation Army band in attendance

Financial Contributions

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

Finances

- VAT refunds is ready to be submitted for 2023-202, which will result in money being refunded to the PC
- PC applied for a grant towards litter picking and now receive £141.00 towards these costs
- AGAR has been completed for this year
- Annual audit has been carried out for years ending 2023-2024 and have been passed
- Budgets have been set for this year
- Precept has been set - being mindful of the cost of living crisis

Purchases

- Laptop
- New Christmas Lights

Councillors

- 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.