

NORTH FERRIBY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
26 APRIL 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Hookem (Chairman), J.Abraham, M. Abraham, Black, Blogg, Holborn, Knight, Richardson & Wood

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Jo Haslope and 3 members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – RESOLVED –That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 April 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting the annual Chairman’s Report for 2020/2021.

As we all know, the past year has been a most strange one, and may I start by offering my sincerest condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one during this time. I would also like to offer my thanks to all those who have, and continue to, rally round to help friends and neighbours – a true collection of kindness.

On 23 March 2020, everything seemed to stop. We couldn’t hold our regular Parish Council meetings, although the work of the PC carried on as usual, and to this end I would like to give a hearty thanks to all our Councillors and our Clerk Jo Haslope for their continued help and support. A shout out must also go to all those volunteers who have similarly carried on and helped keep our village tidy with their much appreciated litter picking.

From July we could start our meetings again, but this time remotely and like many others we suddenly had to learn to get to grips with using Zoom. Whilst not ideal, it did mean that those members of the public with internet connections who wished to attend meetings could now do so again. However, at the time of writing, our ability to hold meetings remotely comes to an end on 7 May and so from 17 May, once we are permitted to come together indoors, meetings will revert back to face to face, socially distanced of course, and as such arrangements are still being decided on how this can be best achieved whilst abiding by government guidelines. However details of when and where forthcoming meetings will be held, along with their agendas, will continue to be published as usual on notice boards and our website, and it may be that attendees have to register beforehand to join these meetings.

During this past year we have of course missed out on all the traditional village occasions such as Open Gardens, Remembrance Parade, Christmas Carols round the Lychgate, although we did of course still light up the village Christmas Tree, talented knitters decorated several streets with their festive handiwork and a number of residents helped brighten up the dark evenings by creating advent windows for people to admire whilst walking past.

The proposed celebrations for VE Day also had to be cancelled, nonetheless many of us still managed to dress up in red, white and blue and hold picnics in front of our houses, chatting to neighbours – whilst remaining of course at a safe distance.

The biennial visit from ‘nos amis’ from the Twinning Association in Le Pellerin was yet another event that had to be cancelled and due to current travel restrictions could not be reinstated again for this year. It is not known when we may meet up with our French friends again, but let’s hope it is not too far away.

Daily exercise was recommended, and we are of course lucky enough to have the Riverside Walkway on our doorstep which provided, and continues to provide an excellent open space. Unfortunately, the extra visitors to the walkway has resulted in an increase in litter. We did try to get a new litterbin installed at the Hessele end of the Walkway, but regretfully this was turned down and so I would just like to remind everyone who uses the Walkway to continue to please either use the bins provided at the entrance to the walkway, or preferably if they can to take their litter home with them.

Walkers along the riverside cannot help but notice the recent embankment works carried out most efficiently by Story Contracting, who on completion of their works also very kindly agreed to carry out improvements to the walkway paths, the playing field as well as fencing and surface works at the RDA.

Football in Ferriby started up again for a period and is now on a much more secure footing, the Parish Council having granted a new formal lease to North Ferriby Football Club. Let's hope with the slow releasing of lockdown restrictions it won't be long before their loyal fans can return to show their support once again. I cannot let mention of North Ferriby FC go by without also commending them on their Away Shirt being ranked 20th in the top 100 rundown of the best shirts, being heralded as the very best away shirt in non-league football, and earning a place in an exhibition at the National Football Museum in Manchester!

During the past year, residents have had many concerns about, amongst other things, changes to the train timetables, changes to bus routes, lack of a village Post Office and proposed closure of the Doctors' surgery at the Village Hall, not all as a direct result of Covid restrictions, but I can confirm that in conjunction with our Ward Councillors, we have been actively trying to reinstate as many of these services as possible.

However, as many people will be aware, the concerns uppermost in the minds of residents for the year have been to do with planning applications for major developments on the Melton West Park. Whilst despite many objections on a variety of compelling grounds, we were unable to prevent permission being given by ERYC for the construction of an Amazon last mile delivery distribution centre, (which is already the subject of many complaints during the construction phase) we, along with our Ward Councillors and in conjunction with the Save Ferriby 2020 Action Group are robustly working to prevent the granting of permission by ERYC for a much larger and potentially more damaging warehouse site, which if granted would severely impact on the lives of N Ferriby residents. This has, and continues to, take up many, many hours of hard painstaking work, as can be evidenced by all our objections on the ERYC Planning Portal under reference **20/03555/STPLF**. Our objections are not scaremongering, but based on experts' reports and much research, highlighting the deficiencies in the developer's application, and evidence from people who have had to suffer the consequences of similar operations being given permission near them in other parts of the country. Following a successful application to the Secretary of State, our efforts have been able to ensure that an Environmental Impact Assessment is carried out on the site and have also been able to prove that the area of open space running alongside Plantation Wood is classified as an 'Open Space, and as such nothing can be built upon it.

You can also see objections on the portal from other individuals/organisations who are experts in their field highlighting the dire consequences should this application be given the go ahead and we can only hope that ERYC will take note of this volume of substantiated information when making their decision. At the time of writing we do not know when it is now scheduled to go to ERYC's Planning Committee for a decision.

Unfortunately it is not possible to keep residents fully up to date with events on this front by Newsletter, as by the time it has been printed and distributed, things will inevitably have moved on. However, we do publish developments on this where we can (which will include the date of the Planning Committee Meeting when we have it) via our relatively new and much improved website www.northferribyparishcouncil.gov.uk where you can also find other useful information about events, or how to complain if disturbed by noise or odours.

Speaking of planning issues, ERYC has now concluded refreshing its Local Plan which details proposed areas around the county for such as housing, and this will be available for consultation with residents towards the end of May. Consultation is due to last for 10 weeks, and once we have details as to how this is to be carried out under current Covid guidelines, we will put the details on our website and notice boards.

Please also keep a lookout on our website and notice boards for details of a N Ferriby 'Men in Sheds' type project which we hope to establish in the coming year.

So, as lockdown begins to ease and we all look forward to getting back to some sort of normal, whatever that may be, we must all remember that it is not over yet, we must all still be very careful – so as they say – Stay Safe!

Belinda Hookem (Chairman)

North Ferriby Parish Council

26 April 2021

PUBLIC FORUM

Three members of the public were present at the meeting and raised the following issues.

Concerns over the changes to the Local Plan and the future development of the land nearest the river to the east of Gibson Lane, following its recent sale, were raised. The resident was sent a map of the allocated sites and it was explained that plans for the land were not known. Full consultation of the Local Plan will take place, currently the dates of the consultation period have not yet been published.

The matter of increasing the number of bins on the Riverside Walkway was also raised following the news that ERYC do not wish to extend their collection route. It was proposed that volunteers could be sought from regular walkers to empty a bin and carry the waste back to the entrance area, if there was a new bin installed and a locker to store spare bin bags. It was agreed that the matter would be further reviewed by the Environment Committee.

The poor condition of the verges in various locations around the village was also raised. It was noted that where the damage was due to building work, the home owner is requested to carry out the repairs. It was agreed that the clerk would be provided with the locations where it was particularly bad and this would be raised with the Highways Department at ERYC and during the Village Walkabout which will be held in July.

Finally the condition of the gullies on Swanland Hill was raised, and the clerk confirmed that many of them are not linked to a drain. Regular cleaning is carried out by ERYC.