

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

## Held at Hoton Village Hall on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 8:00pm

**In attendance:** Cllr Cassell (Chairman, Hoton Parish Council), Cllr Kennedy (Vice Chairman, Hoton Parish Council), Cllr Isbister, Cllr Parsons-Smith, Cllr Williams and Mrs Blain (Parish Clerk).

### **Agenda Items**

1. **Apologies for Absence** None.

2. **Chairman's report to include annual statement of accounts**

The Chairman read his annual report and the statement of accounts was presented:

Welcome. And thank you for your attendance. I will be brief.

As always, I would like to start with some thanks.

To our county councillor and our borough councillor for their continued support for our efforts to maintain and improve the quality of life in the village, and for placing those efforts in the context of both the wolds and the county.

And thanks, too, to our local beat officers, who are similarly committed to making the area a better and safer place to live in.

Particularly, I'd like to thank my fellow councillors for their work and for their contribution to the well-being of the village. They form a very effective team, if currently a little depleted in numbers, and are a pleasure to work with.

One of the most fatuous comments I've heard this year was someone dismissing the role of parish councillors as "only volunteers". Surely the fact of volunteering is the strength of the whole thing, and a skim through the recent newsletter gives an idea of the time these mere volunteers have put in to help make the village a good place to live. The imagination, commitment and effort that has gone into the projects for the Olympic torch, the Jubilee celebrations, the phone box, the following-up of recent crimes, not to mention the simple fact of maintaining effective communication with residents through this same newsletter, the questionnaire and the email sign-up, is immense and important. (It's also appropriate to note that this work is supported by a tremendously efficient and professional parish clerk.) Everything is aimed at strengthening the community and derives from a clear wish to make a contribution to improving the society of the village. As is the work of the Village Hall committee and the playing field committee.

Apart from the matters outlined in the newsletter, the main concerns this year have included developing a response to the Caravan Club planning application, responding to various other planning applications, pursuing ways of dealing with speeding traffic, environmental improvements, considering ways of improving broadband speed, and maintaining an awareness of the possible implications of the need to build a large number of houses in the area. We will need to develop close liaison with other Wolds councils in this matter.

A continuing disappointment to me is the lack of interest in becoming a councillor. We continue to have vacancies and attempts at co-option do not bear fruit. This is a pity, but I can't end on a negative note, so I shall just repeat my appreciation of my colleagues' hard work on behalf of the village and invite questions from the assembled multitudes.

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

**Held at Hoton Village Hall on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 8:00pm**

3. **Questions from Members of the Public** None.

**The meeting closed at 8:08pm.**

These minutes are a true and accurate record \_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Clr Cassell, Chairman