

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH held on
WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 2024, 19.00 at THE MEMORIAL HALL**

Councillors: J Lawtey (chairman), G. Kirwan, V Gorbutt, M Jones, D Carnell, S England, T Snell, T Snell, B Clayton

Also, in attendance: Hannah Hepworth (Proper Officer and RFO)

Members of public: 13

2404/1 **Apologies**

Cllr L Spilman,

2404/2 **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous Annual meeting of the Parish were noted

2404/3 **Chairman's report**

I would like to start by thanking everyone for attending tonight's meeting and, although I'm here as Chair of the Parish Council, this isn't a Parish Council meeting. This is a meeting of the parish electors and the items on the agenda have been submitted by members of the public.

The last council year 2023/24 was a new beginning in many varied ways. The village elected 5 new Councillors to the Council, its biggest change of personnel in 15 years, the Council elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair and a new Village Lengthsman was appointed. In October our Parish Clerk for 5 years resigned and was replaced by Hannah Hepworth. With the appointment of a new Clerk the Council took the opportunity to review the clerks terms and conditions which resulted in revised hours of working and office working times. We also agreed to sign up to an accounting system that will streamline and speed up our accounting system.

Earlier this year the village and Councillors were shocked to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of Councillor Mike Gathercole followed shortly afterwards by the death of Mrs Freda Dunkley who had been a Goxhill councillor for 13 years up until May 2023. Both of them worked hard and diligently on behalf of the village and will be missed.

With nearly half the council new to the job it took a while for them to find their feet and gain a working understanding of the Council, but having attended a number of training courses I am pleased to say that they have become steadfast members of the team and we are moving forward with purpose.

The amount of power and ability to make things happen is limited for a Parish Council so often our effectiveness comes as the result of our ability to work with and influence our Ward Councillors at NLC. Our three Ward Councillors attend our meetings, listen to the points we make, feed back information and decisions based on our reports and requests and give valued advice on a number of subjects. This year they have been involved in a review of the parking issues at North End by the school, pushing for pothole repairs and resurfacing in various areas of the village, looking at speed restrictions and street lighting options for Churchside, making changes to the road signs and markings at the Barrow Road/Thornton Road junction, providing a consultation for a bus shelter and, of course, the traffic issues in South End. The problem of HGV traffic through South End has been an issue that has raised its head on numerous occasions. There have been site visits, TV reports, suggestions and many letters and emails written but no decisions or actions taken. As Chairman of the Council I offered to chair a round table discussion between South End residents, the Local Policing Team, NLC Officials and Councillors. From this meeting came suggestions and a positive statement from NLC that they would actively pursue an acceptable solution. A Community Conversation event followed where over 200 members of the public put their points of view to NLC Officials. Ms Lesley Potts, a NLC Director, took away all the information, comments and ideas, now we await her conclusions and hopefully a solution to the problem. I have no idea what it will be but I think that it will not please everyone but sometimes that is the price that must be paid.

The Millennium Green Trust has been a major discussion point within the Council for over a year and we have finally reached a point where the Council, as Sole Trustee, is complying with Local Government legislation, Charity Commission rules and the terms of the original Trust Deed. I won't say more as Mike Jones will be speaking on the subject later.

The land bordering Horsegatefield Road and the rear of Hawthorn Gardens is approaching a necessary start date for development and the Council were asked by Keigar Homes if we and the village had any suggestions for the use of the last parcel of land that had been mentioned as a possible community asset. Keith and Garry Whall attended a Council meeting and we asked the villages for ideas. These have been passed on to Keigar Homes and we await further communication from them.

In the last 12 months your Council have raised a number of issues with our Ward Councillors as I have previously mentioned. The suggestion of a bus shelter resulted in a consultation and the result of that failed to support the idea. We are waiting for an answer to a request for a 30mph speed limit on Thorn Lane and round Churchside and for street lighting on Churchside. Hopefully these will be looked upon favourably. At long last the road signs and markings at the junction of Thornton Road, Barrow Road and Gatehouse Road have been upgraded which we hope will increase safety at this junction.

The grass cutting contracts for the Cemetery, Playing Field and Millennium Green were all renewed this year and in some cases resulted in a hike in costs to the Council. As we award contracts for a four year period to try and smooth the costs an increase at renewal is rather inevitable as any one who has had to renew a mortgage agreement will have found. It has meant that we have had to increase the charges at the Cemetery but again these hadn't been reviewed for a number of years.

Finances are important to everyone and therefore the Council were keen to be as prudent as possible when we met to set the budget for 2024-25. Changes were made to the Clerk's contracted hours, a new fixed contract was agreed with our gas, electric and phone suppliers, alterations have been made to the Parish Room lighting and heating controls all of which have enabled us to reduce the Council's overhead. We also managed to save some money from last year's budget which we used to offset the Precept requirement and the result was a reduction of 19% on last year's precept.

But it isn't all about saving money, we still have a duty to maintain and improve facilities in the village where we can. Those of you who use the children's play area will have noticed that repairs have been carried out to the Zip Wire, the safety flooring round some of the equipment has been replaced and that Witches Hat has been painted. On Thornton Road the village sign and the cross road sign post have been restored by Mr Paul Weeks and a dedicated group of volunteer helpers, this work was funded by the Council.

And so to our plans for this year. The Council has been awarded a grant to purchase perennial plants for the village which we will use to enhance the existing planters, planted areas and add some additional areas of colour. The aim is to make Goxhill look as good as possible for the Best Kept Village awards. We are looking at raising a Blue Plaque on the Parish Room recognising the fact that Mrs Mary Denness, a Headscarf Revolutionary lived in the village for over 45 years. We have access to some funding a building development in the village that was earmarked for playground equipment and the Council will be looking at the possibilities of adding to or replacing some of the play equipment in the park.

We are looking at how we communicate with the village, by that I mean how we advertise our meeting agendas, distribute the minutes of meetings, advise parishioners of events and important notices as well as how we can improve our interaction with parishioners. This should see increased use of Facebook pages linked

to the Goxhill Grapevine, improved use of the Councils website, better layouts on the noticeboards and possibly additional noticeboards. We are also considering using the Friday Community Cafe at the Memorial Hall on a regular basis for informal “meet your Councillor” sessions with the added benefit of a cup of tea and a piece of cake. Communication is an important part of the Council’s way of working. We are councillors appointed by yourselves, to serve the village and parishioners so it is very important that we know what you are thinking and you know what we are doing. Please take the opportunity to speak to Councillors when you can, come to the meetings and give us feedback, read the minutes and notices and, if we are in the Community Cafe come and have a cup of tea and a natter.

2404/4 **Goxhill Art Group**

The Watercolour Art Group meets in Goxhill during the winter months at the outdoor bowls clubhouse down Manor Lane every Thursday morning between October and the end of March.

Under the gentle guidance of Goxhill artist Stan Short we all do our best to produce watercolour paintings of landscapes and flowers as well as trying our hands at silk paintings that we can make into greetings cards. For the sum of £3 Stan provides all the materials required and the group provides all the good humour, support and laughter.

We currently only have about three or four vacancies as places are limited, the lesson starts at 10am but you do need to be there by about 9,45 to prepare your canvas and gather your materials, If you are interested in joining us then please let Stan know on 01469 530722

2404/5 **Goxhill Short Mat Bowls Group**

This is a form of indoor bowling called Short Mat. Short Mat bowling requires players to bowl on a carpet which is 45 feet long and 6 feet wide whilst avoiding a centre block of wood 15 inches long. As the bowls we use follow a curved line then with skill you can avoid hitting the centre block and hopefully hit the jack at the other end of the carpet. Our club has been running for about ten years now in the Memorial Hall. During the Winter months of September to March we meet on Monday afternoons between 2 and 4pm, Wednesday evenings between 7 and 9pm and also on Friday mornings between 10 and 12noon. Although some members prefer to bowl just on a social basis we also have a full programme of league matches and competitions and several of our members have represented Humberside in inter county games. The winter club is a members only club with annual fees which are currently £15 and club practice sessions £3 and Matches £4.

We do have bowls for new members to start with and only ask that they wear either bowls shoes or flat-soled indoor shoes.

Many of our members bowl outdoors during the summer. In the summer months we therefore run on Friday mornings only from May this year until the end of July. These summer sessions do not require membership but provide an opportunity for new people to try out the sport.

If you are interested then contact Irene Ballam Club secretary ireneballam@gmail.com 01469 531321

2404/6 **Goxhill Bowling Club**

This is not just a club – it is also a charity promoting amateur sport: bowls. Catering for both fun and social as well as completions and leagues.

Currently the club is in the top Grimsby league (3rd last year, 2nd in 2022 and in the top Scunthorpe division (having risen from division 4 in 3 years). It is also in two other leagues for our newer bowlers. Our club has proudly won one cup competition too.

Members pay £40 (full) £20 (social) or you can attend roll-ups for all Tuesdays 2pm-4pm at £2 a time. We can lend your bowls - you just need flat-soled shoes.

To promote bowling we run an open day each year and later in 2024 will be running taster sessions for Baysgarth School Pupils.

Bowling is for all ages; our youngest member is 34 but we'd welcome juniors upwards. Our oldest bowler is 88 and our oldest regular league bowler is 87. Just over half of our 44 members live in Goxhill, the rest from neighbouring villages. Whilst ladies are only a quarter of our total membership they are arguably are more successful players.

2404/7 Goxhill Singing Group

We are a community group who meet each week at the Methodist Church on Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome to join irrespective of singing ability. With a fee of £2 per weekly sessions with free cakes and refreshments provided it is good value. On average 10 people attend.

We hold 3 public concerts in Goxhill each year and in recent years have also performed outdoors at the Jubilee Celebration and in events for Goxhill Open Gardens and RAF Centenary Event and Barton Musical Reviews.

As a small group our funds are limited to members' fees donations and concert things that are used to hire the Chapel Meeting Room and also help support the chapel by C.£1000 PA. In truth, it is the support from the additional donations from our members that enable us to cover our running costs so we are grateful to the Parish Council for their support and grants that have enabled us to buy much needed equipment and in previous years pay the insurance costs which have enabled the group to continue.

Finally, our next concert is actually next Saturday at the Methodist Chapel at 6.30pm – entry is free with any donations gratefully received. There are refreshments (tea, coffee and cake) in the interval which are also free so please come and join us for our concert "It's A Wonderful World".

Nick Clarke (GSG Treasurer)

2404/8 Goxhill Memorial Hall

This is a charity run by a group of 9 trustees. After several years of extensive repairs and improvements, we can say the Hall building is once again "up to standard" and structurally sound. Future works include repairs to the gutters, building a contemplative garden on the grass area and repainting the inside of the hall.

We have applied for and obtained a premises licence for the sale of alcohol on the premises which means we can offer parties with a bar, and fundraising events with alcohol sales.

We put up prices last year in anticipation of increasing energy costs, but this year are running at a slight profit so are holding off any increases this year. Currently the events at the hall 7 hours of martial arts, 2 hours of Pilates, 1 hours of yoga, 4 hours of short mat bowls, 3 hours of the playgroup, 1 hour messy play, 2.5 hours Taekwondo and dog training, 3 hours Community Café and 8 hours of snooker.

This year will include several events including the Village Show on 20th July, Scarecrow Trail Aug 25th/26th, October online photography competition, Christmas Craft Fair and Weddings and parties.

Next year is the 100th Anniversary Celebration where we plan to have an exhibition of how the hall has changed and a fete with a dance, bar and music.

2404/9 Goxhill WI

Goxhill WI had what a quiet but successful year, with ups and down in our membership numbers, something that concerns our small committee. The start of the new WI programme saw our members learning about first aid from Suzanne Brompton on a collapsed person and how to proceed and if a defibrillator could be used, and other useful first aid treatments.

In May found us all doing chair yoga with Sue Pearson; this was an open meeting and was well attended by non-members. In May we also joined forces with the Memorial Hall and other

organisations to put on a Coronation Lunch, delivering lunches out to older parish members who could not get to the hall.

If you looked for WI members in June you would have seen us following one of Carole Hussey's famous treasure hunts around Goxhill, great fun. Helen Pepper who assists Ann Cleeves with the forensic side of her Vera novels, gave us a fascinating and very funny evening with a talk called "Fun with Fingerprints". This also was an open meeting and we had over 80 people attend this fabulous evening. We raised a lot of money which we donated to the Barton Food bank.

We don't have a formal meeting in August but a large number of met for afternoon tea at Elsham Hall which was very enjoyable.

In September we hold our harvest competition, all good fun and nothing too serious. Wonky veg, flowers, seasonal fruit and veg, crafts and of course Jam, chutneys and cakes are all judged by the members, these are all sold at the end of the meeting for charity. The South Bank Players came and did a hilarious whodunnit in October; again this was an open meeting and again very successful.

November was a crafty month with us all making things for our Christmas Fair stall, lovely cloth wreathes, Christmas boxes and much more. A Craft fair in December again very successful, and our usual Christmas party kept us busy up until Christmas.

In January our booked speaker couldn't come so I stepped up and gave a talk about my career in the operating theatres showing my collection of heart valves hips and knees etc. strange, but people seemed to enjoy it. In February we had a meeting just discussing what we wanted from our WI and how we could try and rally more interest and younger participants.

At the end of March, I, Heather Jaques) became the new president of the Goxhill WI and we are all trying hard to pump new life into Goxhill WI Group, its hard because Jam and Jerusalem is not always the image we want to portray, you don't have to be able to bake cakes, make jams etc.

Our programme is looking exciting for 2024 with more from Helen Pepper; we want Goxhill WI to be a group where people come together in the community, enjoy their time, maybe learn something new and meet new people.

I joined because I realised, I didn't know many people in the village anymore, I wanted to meet new people and feel part of a village organisation again. Please help us spread the word, we are open to suggestions for our programme and would like to cater for all age groups. Help us keep Goxhill Wi going and moving forward. We meet on the first Monday of the month at the Memorial Hall, 7-9pm.

2404/10 Goxhill Millennium Green Trust

Goxhill Millennium Green is a registered charity, Charity Number 1077394. A registered charity must have exclusively charitable purposes.

The charitable purpose of the Millennium Green Trust is as follows:

To provide an open space to be known as "Goxhill Millennium Green" for the benefit of the inhabitants and to be used forever as an area for informal recreation play or other leisure-time occupations a meeting area or place for community events and for any other lawful purpose consistent with these trusts and for the general benefit of the community.

The MGT Objectives are as follows:

- Make a substantial contribution to the life of the whole community.
- Be able to be enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities.
- Be open and evident to visitors to the locality as well as inhabitants.
- Be an attractive place for people to take air and exercise, meet others and pursue leisure activities and pastimes constant with enjoyment of the whole land.

- Include an area suitable for community events and celebrations.
- Include significant natural areas where people can enjoy wildlife first hand.
- Make a positive contribution to the local environment and respect the established character of the area.
- Remain safely and conveniently accessible from inhabitants' homes.

Background

- Goxhill Village hold in Trust, the Millennium Green Charity, which was registered as a Charity Trust in 1999. The village held the Trust until 2015, when the Trust was passed to the Parish Council as Sole Trustee.
- From 2015, the Trust became dormant, given the Charitable Objects within the Trust Governing Document were never finalised, and the green was eventually assimilated into the playing fields as a green space.
- At that point, the Millennium Green Trust should have been closed and the green handed back to Trinity House.
- After the Parish elections in 2023, the Council voted to establish the Trust in accordance with Charity Law and the Direction and Guidance of the Charity Commission.
- The Sole Trustee is a cooperate body of Parish Councillors who are not themselves trustees, but collectively have full responsibility managing the trust in accordance with the Trust governing Document.
- The Sole Trustee has established a Millennium Green Trust Committee to manage the Trust and provide the necessary separation required by the Charity Commission.

Current position

- The Millennium Green Trust Committee is required to adhere to the Millennium Green Trust Governing Document and Charity Commission rules and regulations and deliver the Trust Objectives.
- The Trust is a village charity in perpetuity and must raise funds by grants and donations to allow the Committee and Volunteers to complete the necessary work on the green.
- Currently the Parish Council provide grass cutting by donation from the precept, which is only sufficient for limited maintenance.
- The grassed area of the green has been maintained by contract and is a credit to the village. However, the remainder of the green has become overgrown in every aspect and needs considerable work.
- Nearly fifty percent of the green's two acres is covered by thicket and is impenetrable.

Work required to achieve objectives:

- Provide a mobility gate for access. (The tree had to be removed to fit the gate).
- Provide a fence around the green. (To achieve this the thicket must be cleared).
- Provide a new footpath. (Application for a grant will be submitted to NLC).
- Clear the ditch around the green. (The ditch is currently blocked and flooded).
- Fifty percent of the 2-acre green is covered in trees and impenetrable thicket. (The thicket needs clearing to allow the trees to grow and provide everyone with the opportunity to walk under the trees and experience nature first hand).
- Sort out the flooding. (We have asked for specialist advice).

A fete is being organised for 8th June

We provisionally have the following stalls and activities booked:

- Dog Show
- BBQ
- Cake and tea stall
- Tombola
- Millennium Green Raffle
- Hook a Duck
- Throw the Welly
- Fly Past

2404/11 **Public Session**

Mrs C Kirwan: Railway Crossing Gates -Howe Lane

Since the Parish council is going all out for Sustainable Planting, Village in Bloom and generally tidying up the village, would it be possible to also clean the Crossing Gates at Howe Lane? Could the Parish Council BCCC Representative please responsible for the condition of the crossing gates?

In the 20 years I have lived here I have never seen the crossing gates looking so shabby

I do fear that the gates will be the responsibility of Network Rail but if this is the case could some pressure be put on them by the community or is green now the new white?

I'm sure volunteers could be found if they are allowed to clean the gates.

Mrs C Kirwan: Playpark

Much has recently been said in the media about the lack of disabled playground equipment in North Lincolnshire, in fact it has been suggested that only 10 parks in North Lincs have even one piece of equipment. Our village Playpark is a real asset and is well used throughout the year with people coming from as far a field as Immingham to enjoy this space. Yes, it will cost a great deal of money with something like changing the roundabout to be wheelchair friendly costing £20 thousand pounds, but maybe a Bird's Nest Swing or a wider slide to accommodate adults taking children down would be beneficial?

With North Lincolnshire Council spending so much money in Scunthorpe could they please look at spending some of their budget and earn themselves some kudos with the community?

The Chair of the Parish Council closed the meeting by stating that there is a lot happening in the village and it was wonderful to hear such a diverse number of activities and organisations. Looking forward it is about how we can all work together and communicate between the organisations to make them all thrive for the good of the community.

Meeting close: 20:14