

Kirton in Lindsey Annual Town Meeting 2024



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 6.30pm At the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall, Kirton in Lindsey

PRESENT – Councillors: Hazel Fox (Chair); Billy Boyd, Kathy Cooper, Adam Delsignore, Pat Frankish, and Joy Kofoed.
Community Co-Ordinator: Cath Delsignore, Assistant Clerk: Cheri Morton and Town Clerk: Neil Taylor-Matson
Circa 38 Residents of Kirton in Lindsey

Community networking had started at 6pm with a looped PowerPoint presentation, refreshments and leaflets available. At 6:30pm the Community Co-Ordinator introduced the Mayor, Cllr Hazel Fox

MINUTES

ATM2024/01

Welcome by the Town Mayor

Cllr Hazel Fox, Mayor of Kirton in Lindsey welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and carried out the draw for the virtual Easter Egg hunt competition which had appeared on the new kirtoninlindsey.com community website resource. Shani Curtis was announced as the winner of Sunday lunch for Two generously donated by The George Restaurant & Bar.

ATM2024/02

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2023

Copies of the minutes of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting were made available to the meeting and had been published online for a number of months. They were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, Cllr Hazel Fox.

ATM2024/03

Town Mayor's Report – Councillor Hazel Fox

The Mayor, Cllr Hazel Fox reported on the work and challenges faced by the Town Council over the past twelve months.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the work of our Town Council over the past year and to share with you our successes and ongoing challenges.

It was a privilege and honour to be elected Mayor in May last year at our Annual Council meeting, with Cllr Joy Kofoed as Deputy Mayor and I have tried to fulfil the role to the best of my ability. It has been a pleasure to attend functions on behalf of the Town across the counties and support my chosen charities – Kirton in Lindsey Brownies, Guides and Scouts.

Successes:

In April last year:

We restarted the SportsZone sessions at Klassic Park. Our Clerk prepared for and passed our annual internal audit with the expected flying colours and ensured we complied with the Annual Governance and Accounting Statements.

The allotments were officially opened by Phil Gomersall, President of the National Allotment Society alongside our then Mayor, Cllr Joy Kofoed.

The Community Payback Team repainted the benches and gates in the cemetery and cleared and tidied the rear area. Funding was secured for outside gym equipment at Klassic Park and CCTV for the play area on the green.

In May:

We said goodbye to Cllr Jared Priestley who stepped down and we were joined by Cllr Adam Delsignore who stood alongside our other 8 Councillors in the May elections. Cllr David Garritt was also elected as our Ward Cllr joining Cllr Trevor Foster.

We all enjoyed the Coronation celebrations. It was great to see how many joined in the picnic on the green and the marketplace was superbly decorated by the Royal British Legion.

Kirton in Lindsey Annual Town Meeting 2024 Minutes

St Andrew's United Church held celebration of their unification, which I enjoyed attending and our Clerk was nominated by the outgoing P&D Committee for the Star Council Awards Clerk of the Year Award in recognition of his hard work and dedication.

In June:

SportsZone sessions returned to the Green and CCTV was installed in partnership with NLC from the UK Shared Prosperity funding secured in April.

I was invited to attend the Primary School at the opening of their new trim trail and the Town Hall invited me to their City of Lincoln Waites event.

In July:

We had the Summer Gala @ Klassic combined with their 10th Anniversary, and despite the weather it was well attended. Our 5th annual scarecrow trail took place with the theme of sports with winners from Orchard Close and Richdale Avenue. Cllr Joy Kofoed presented a cheque to KLASSIC Park for £1038.68 for money she had raised during her Mayoral term of office. We finalised the cemetery memorial safety works at Grove Street and worked jointly with the with NLC Youth Justice and Youth Engagement Plan to bring sports activities for secondary age children weekly at KLASSIC over summer holidays. The North Lincolnshire Council highways trial one way system in Marketplace also became permanent.

In August:

We had our first Regeneration meeting in sometime between NLC & KLTC which led to a highways site meeting to discuss our concerns. Following on from this, NLC commenced work on improved dropped kerbs across the town at the request of the Town Council.

The CPRE Best Kept Village Competition results were announced – and Kirton in Lindsey received Highly Commended in Large Village category and Best Kept War Memorial, which was a fabulous achievement.

In September:

Our Civic Service was held on 24th September at St Andrew's United Church. All money raised will be donated to the Brownies, Guides and Scouts.

Best Kept Town Centre frontages were judged for the second year of the competition and the winners were announced in November. Town map leaflets were also printed and distributed – printed copies remain available if anyone would like one and are available here tonight.

The Community payback team repainted the library railings, and our Snow Wardens ensured salt bins were full and usable ready for the coming winter months.

The Town Council also marked the passing of former Councillor and Mayor Mr Dennis Hiles.

KLTC were informed of joint reviews by Lincolnshire County Council and North Lincolnshire Council of the crossroads at Grayingham following a further fatal accident in August.

NLC took over the inspection of our play area equipment and the Town Council donated £1,458 to LIVES to part fund an additional responder for the town.

We renewed the office rental agreement with the Town Hall for a further 6 years, and Supernova equipment returned to The Green following successful UK Shared Prosperity Funding secured by our Clerk.

In October:

Clearance work began at Redbourne Mere in preparation for a wildflower area and nature reserve and grass seeding was carried out to the rear of the cemetery.

The Civic Award nominations were also opened.

In November:

Cath Delsignore became our Community Co-Ordinator for one year, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and your Town Council.

A noticeboard and bench were installed at KLASSIC Park following funding raised by the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Joy Kofoed and Kirton in Lindsey Old Timers Footballers.

Councillors and I attended the Remembrance event at the War Memorial, donated £300 to the RBL and laid a wreath at Kirton in Lindsey and Manton on behalf of the Residents.

We had a fantastic Christmas Festival in the Marketplace, which was organised superbly by Cheri, our Assistant Clerk, who also co-ordinated a successful Christmas Window competition.

In December:

The budget and precept were finalised for 2024-25 after detailed costing work by our Clerk and further works took place in the cemetery fitting frost covers to the taps to protect them during freezing weather.

In January:

We announced the winners of the Christmas Window competition and Cath, our Community Co-ordinator successfully completed her probation period.

In February:

A traffic survey was carried out across the town centre to provide data for public consultations for the potential provision of a car park for the town.

We undertook tree survey work for trees on land with Town Council responsibilities and all Councillors and Officers took part in Whole Council training.

Representatives attend a site meeting with NLC at the proposed location for a proposed Halifax Bomber Memorial, which the Town Council agreed to assist with in applying for funding from NLC and adopt for future maintenance upon completion.

Kirton in Lindsey Annual Town Meeting 2024 Minutes

Funding was approved for a community pot application for a Town Hall Live summer garden event and the Assistant Clerk continued to liaise with the Football Foundation regarding continued objections around the outside gym equipment proposals for KLASSIC Park.

The Council raised concerns regarding the proposal for a goods vehicle operator's licence for 30 vehicles to operate out of Manton Quarry.

In March:

The Mayor's Civic Dinner was held on 23rd March in aid of the Mayor's chosen charities at which the 2023 Civic Award was also presented to Elaine Tattersall and an Exceptional Award for Contribution to the Kirton in Lindsey Community was presented to Sharron Harris. The event was well attended, and music was kindly supplied by Nigel and Teri. Alongside all this work, we have also considered 39 planning applications during meetings.

Challenges:

All of your Councillors are unpaid volunteers and, in some cases, hold down employment and are involved in other charities and voluntary Groups in the Town. We all fulfill our roles as Councillors because we are proud of this Town and the residents who live here and the fantastic community spirit we have.

For this reason, work on a Neighbourhood plan is in abeyance until other projects are completed to free up Councillors to be involved.

A Working Group was formed to undertake the planning and address issues relating to a potential car park for the Town to take some pressure off the Town Council. This allowed for non-Councillors to be involved and for progress to be made. Further work needs to be undertaken by the group and this is currently on-going and progressing well.

An Allotment Advisory Committee was also formed to undertake the necessary works involved in the newly opened site. This is now working towards the formation of an Allotment Association.

We are still pressing NLC over various highways and footpath issues around the Town. Neil, our Clerk, is regularly in contact with them chasing resolution and has achieved success around many problems already.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Councillors for their hard work, over the past year, which has at times been challenging. Also, to our Town Clerk, Neil and Assistant Clerk Cheri who have worked tirelessly and efficiently for the Town Council. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Cath for her work as our Community Co-ordinator and for being instrumental in the set up and maintenance of the new website. It is a great addition and I encourage you all to visit and use it.

ATM2024/04

North Lincolnshire Council – Ward Members Report.

Ward Councillor Trevor Foster provided a short report and latest update, with an opportunity for residents to ask questions.

Cllr Foster remarked that he was impressed with the attendance and the community support shown for the Annual Town Meeting and thanked the representatives of groups and organisations who create a better environment for the town due to their work and enthusiasm for the community.

Cllr Foster updated the meeting on the changes to the local electoral wards which took place in May 2023, with Ridge Ward now made up of Kirton in Lindsey, Hibaldstow, Redbourne, Cleatham and Manton. This resulted in a reduction in Ward Councillors from three to two. Ward Cllr John England retired at the last election and Cllr Neil Poole is now a Ward Member for the newly created Messingham Ward. David Garritt was elected alongside Trevor Foster as the two Ridge Ward Councillors in May 2023. The joint working between Cllrs Foster and Garritt has proved to be a success and Cllr Foster noted that Ridge has a real gem with Cllr Garritt.

Cllr Foster advised that North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) like all other local authorities faces increasing financial pressures with less government funding but more services to provide. This is achieved with attempts to be as efficient as possible by working smarter.

NLC's successes were reported as some of the best children's services in the country, with high awards received. The Imagination Library also continues to be high success and residents were signposted to sign up for every child from birth to five years old to receive a free book every month. Although Social Services are also under increased pressures, they recently received an excellent report as well.

NLC problems were noted as head hunting – having outstanding staff leads to head hunting from other local authorities and this has happened recently with the Director of Children's Services who took most of their department with them. This was compounded by a further OFSTED inspection at the same time, but an outstanding report was still received.

Potholes – the golden rule with potholes is for residents to report them – if they are not reported they don't exist in the system to be dealt with. However, repairs are weather dependent and so can take longer to achieve in the winter particularly.

Bin collections were hit with disruption after Christmas due to 18 operatives off sick at the same time and higher skilled drivers also getting head hunted to new employers. The bin lorry mechanisms are not built to standard and starting to fail due to age, the receipt of ordered parts to repair failures can take some time to arrive. It is hoped NLC are now past the worst of this disruption however if bins are not collected Cllr Foster advised to leave them out for collection as the policy is that they will be collected the following Monday when they are missed.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Foster for his update and asked if any residents had any questions.

Kirton in Lindsey Annual Town Meeting 2024 Minutes

A resident asked about the housing developments in the town and why these were continuing to be approved despite objections from residents to them. Ward Cllr Trevor Foster advised that all local authorities have a five-year plan of housing targets to meet and at the beginning of this year NLC did receive confirmation that it had achieved this. Without the five-year plan met, housing developments are often approved on appeal, even though the local authority had listened to residents objections and refused permission initially. NLC did not want to see the former RAF Kirton in Lindsey be left to rot like other former RAF sites across the country and did put in a bid to purchase the site for the benefit of the community. Unfortunately, the MOD sold the site instead to a commercial development company. Cllr Foster noted that NLC do have successes in rejecting some inappropriate housing development.

No other questions were raised.

ATM2024/05

Grant Awards

The Mayor carried out cheque board presentations for the 2024 Budgeted Grants applied for by town groups and organisations.

These were:

- 1st Kirton in Lindsey Brownies & Guides - £500.00
- Nutshell - £400.00
- 1st Kirton in Lindsey Scouts - £700.00
- Evergreens - £800.00
- Diamond Jubilee Town Hall - £3,240.00
- Kirton First -£2,000.00
- In Bloom - £1,000.00
- North Lincolnshire Woodland Trust - £2,000.00

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming to the event and encouraged everyone to take advantage of the networking opportunities available and the information on the local groups and organisations which was made available.