

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on the 6th May 2025

Present: Cllrs. D Spittlehouse. M McDaniel. J Elvidge. G Waring.
K Smith. Clerk L Holman.

Also Present: 11 Members of the public

Apologies of absence:

Cllr Fotheringham and Cllr Bailey sent their apologies.

Minutes for approval from meeting held on 7th may 2024

It was agreed to accept the minutes as a true record. Signed and dated by the Chairman Cllr.Spittlehouse.

Chairmans Report

Before reflecting on the council's work this year, it is with great sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Pete Rushton, who died in February. He served on the Parish Council with unwavering dedication, bringing his wisdom, compassion, and deep love for our community to everything he did.

Pete was particularly passionate about the Church, being church warden for many years. He was also involved with many of the local organisations being an active member of the bowls and kurling club.

He was also on the Playing Fields committee and he and Audrey helped raise money for local charities and anyone in need. His contribution to the council and to parish life will be remembered fondly, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

The council held a minute's silence at our March meeting in his memory.

Over the past year, the council has met 6 times to discuss and address issues affecting our parish. We've continued to ensure transparency and accountability by making minutes and agendas available to all residents and encouraging public attendance and participation.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their time, dedication, and support throughout the year.

Thank you to Kevin for his continued help with the Speed Indicator sign every 2 months and with the Christmas tree.

His help along with Jim in dismantling the phone box was invaluable and thanks to Patrick and Jim for their help taking away the old box.

Thanks also go to our parish clerk, Liz for keeping us under control and making sure the council is running smoothly.

Cllr Bailey and Cllr Butroid have been a great help in many projects this year and their input has been invaluable. So many thanks from us all.

Thanks to Organisations

I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the local organisations, groups, and volunteers who have contributed so much to parish life over the past year.

Thank you to Jack and Stuart for maintaining our green spaces, I'm sure you all agree how good our village is looking. Unfortunately there are still some cars that occasionally park on the green, which does make it difficult for Stuart to maintain the way he would like to.

Special thanks go to the Village Hall Committee. It's been no mean feat organising and completing the kitchen and other improvements. Well done!

Also to Paul Mann and the committee of the Playing Field in obtaining a grant and completing the new play park. I'm sure there will be some very happy children this summer.

All these people are volunteers and are always looking for new members to join them.

So if you feel that you could give up a little of your free time, I'm sure it will be welcomed by both the village hall and the playing fields.

Thank you to Bloomers who are like fairies in the night. Looking after the planters and regenerating shrubs and bulbs around the village and for all their efforts in doing litter picks. A total of 28 bags were collected on the last pick. Well done to all the volunteers. Liz and I help by joining them when we can

I would also like to thank our community speed watch volunteers. Len, Angus, Judy and myself.

We've spent some very cold times in our efforts in trying to stop speeding motorists coming through our village. We might not have brought any to justice but hopefully slowed the offending motorist down and made them think. Well done team, we're doing a good job.

I'm sure you all agree how spectacular the church looked for Remembrance Day.

What an achievement. Thank you to Mandy Smith, Jane Spencer and all those that helped in constructing it and last but not least all those knitters. Without them there would be no display.

Also the poppy display on the church wall for VE Day, which I noticed today looks spectacular.

A very big thank you from us all.

You may all have also noticed the Tommy statue near the memorial and the lamppost poppies for Remembrance Day. These were purchased by the Parish Council and hopefully can be added to each year. The proceeds all goes to the Royal British Legion.

I would also like to thank our 3 Community Speed watch volunteers. Len, Angus and Judy.

We've spent some very cold times in our efforts in trying to stop speeding motorists coming through our village. We might not have brought any to justice but hopefully slowed the offending motorists down and made them think! Well done team, were doing a good job.

Key Achievements

Thanks to Kevin, Upton now has a bus route.

His hard work and determination paid off and albeit a minimal service it's still a service. Hopefully if proved successful a more frequent timetable may be added.

Thanks also to Cllr Butroid for pushing this with Lincolnshire County Council.

Phone Box

The council came to the unanimous decision to remove the phone box this year.

It was looking very tired and was not the kind of box that could be repainted.

There were less and less volunteers coming forward to decorate it, so we thought it had come to the end of its purpose.

Thank you to all those that have decorated it over the years, there has been some very funny and artistic displays.

We appreciate that people will miss seeing a different theme every month but we are hoping to replace it with a nice fancy village sign.

This is work in progress at the moment.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, we will continue to focus on the ongoing project of the village sign. We invite all parishioners to get involved—whether through attending meetings, volunteering, or simply sharing ideas to improve our community.

We did ask in the last newsletter if any residents had any ideas for the sign but unfortunately we had no response.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

No member of the public brought up any issues or items for discussion.

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS:

Playpark. By Paul Mann:

The playpark is now complete. Unfortunately due to the work being carried out in wet weather the park got ripped up quite a bit.

The cost of the park was £102,000. A grant for £10,000 was received from West Lindsey District Council, £11,000 from the play park funds and the rest was paid for by the FCC grant funding.

Because of the wet weather another 60 tons of stone had to be laid at a cost of £5,500.

This is still being negotiated with the company that built the playpark.

Any grant that Upton parish Council can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Chapel. By Cllr Elvidge:

The Chapel is running very successfully.

We are on a circuit with Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough. Paul Braidstall is the minister and is proving very popular.

A joint coffee morning with the Church is held every month in the Church. Paul always attends.

There were 18 to 20 people in attendance at last Sunday's worship and around 40 people at the Easter Sunday one.

Bowls. By Cllr Fotheringham:

Upton and Kexby short mat bowls is held at the Village Hall every Thursday evening. 7.30pm-9.30pm.

The club has about 12 members. We like to have a bit of fun, play bowls and have tea and biscuits, all for £3. Newcomers free for the first time to give it a try. We have a supply of bowls for anyone to try. Everyone welcome.

Upton/Kexby Burial Ground. By Cllr Fotheringham:

We have had 2 burials and 3 creations this past year.

It is left very tidy thanks to Jack and Stuart.

Bloomers have got the garden very tidy, many thanks to them and the other volunteers who work hard. It's a huge asset for the village.

The allotments are being well used and also kept very tidy.

There are 3 empty plots to let should anyone require one.

Contact: Geoff Payne. 07531261320. Patrick Fotheringham. 01427838347

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed.....Date.....